

**Mill Valley Oral History Program**

*A collaboration between the Mill Valley  
Historical Society and the Mill Valley  
Public Library*

**GREG MOORE**

**An Oral History Interview  
Conducted by Michelle Peterson**

TITLE: Greg Moore  
INTERVIEWER: Michelle Peterson  
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Greg Moore retired in 2011 as Mill Valley Fire Chief after 37 years in the Fire Department. Greg moved to Mill Valley from San Francisco at a young age and attended Tamalpais Valley Elementary School, Edna Maguire, and then Tamalpais High School, where he explored his love of automobile mechanics and racing. After high school, Greg got a job working at Marin Auto Body in Mill Valley and married his high school sweetheart, Kathy Reynolds. While working at the auto shop and a couple other odd jobs around Mill Valley, Greg became involved with the volunteer firefighters. His experience fighting fires in Mill Valley as a volunteer inspired him to take on firefighting as a career. In this oral history, Greg uses his time with the Mill Valley Fire Department to provide his perspective on how the Fire Department has changed over the years. Midway through his career, a new and developing mutual aid system in California allowed Greg to participate in fighting large fires in Southern California. Greg also talks about the many projects he participated in to improve safety in Mill Valley as well as his passion for maintaining the town's steps, lanes and paths.

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## Oral History of Greg Moore

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**Oral History of Greg Moore**  
**February 23, 2013**

**Greg Moore:** Hi, I'm Greg Moore. Today's date is February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013. We are over at the Mill Valley Library.

**Michelle Peterson:** Alright, so you grew up in Tam Valley?

**Greg Moore:** Yep, Tam Valley.

**Michelle Peterson:** You were born there?

**Greg Moore:** I was born in San Francisco and my parents moved to Tam Valley when I was young, about four years old. Moved to Marin Avenue, 386 Marin Avenue, in Tamalpais Valley.

**Michelle Peterson:** Where were your parents from?

**Greg Moore:** They were from San Francisco, both born in San Francisco.

**Michelle Peterson:** Okay, and their parents?

**Greg Moore:** Their parents, my mom's side of the family was from Germany and my dad's side of the family was from Ireland. My mom's side of the family, her maiden name, her father's name was Janovitz when he came from Germany and he changed it to Janov when he came over.

**Michelle Peterson:** How do you spell that?

**Greg Moore:** J-A-N-O-V. So my sister and I did a lot of fooling around genealogy, those name changes kind of messed us up.

**Michelle Peterson:** Yeah, that messes you up. I'm glad you gave the address to where you grew up, will you give that again?

**Greg Moore:** Sure, 386 Marin Avenue.

**Michelle Peterson:** Just because you know, maybe your great, great grandkids are going to want to see the house that you grew up in, maybe they will be reading this. Okay, do you know what brought them to Tam Valley?

**Greg Moore:** Well, they always told me that it was my health when I was young. They used to live in Broadmoor, which is Daly City, I think, and it was cold. They moved me to Tamalpais Valley, I never saw the reason for that because Tamalpais Valley is just as cold as anywhere else, yeah. So that was the main reason they moved. My dad worked in the city so it was an easy commute for him.

**Michelle Peterson:** Were you an only child?

**Greg Moore:** I have a sister, Terry, Theresa Anne. She is two years younger than I am.

**Michelle Peterson:** What year were you born?

**Greg Moore:** 1949.

**Michelle Peterson:** Your sister was 1951 then.

**Greg Moore:** Right, right.

**Michelle Peterson:** Do you have any memories of living in San Francisco?

**Greg Moore:** None of San Francisco, they are all of Tamalpais Valley, Mill Valley. I went to Tamalpais Valley School and Maguire and then Tam High of course.

**Michelle Peterson:** Did you go to Mill Valley Middle School?

**Greg Moore:** No, Edna Maguire Middle School, yeah, that was seventh and eighth grade.

**Michelle Peterson:** Okay, and then you went to high school in ninth grade. What is your earliest memory of Tam Valley?

**Greg Moore:** Oh, all great memories. I was raised there when there were very few houses, so all the hillsides are covered with houses now, they were pretty much empty. We would spend a lot of time on the hills, just fooling around, building forts, kid's things, exploring, great times.

**Michelle Peterson:** You and your sister were close?

**Greg Moore:** Very close, still are.

**Michelle Peterson:** Do you remember your very first friend, who your friends were when you were that age?

**Greg Moore:** Um, I would say, my earliest friends that I can remember would be Marvin Webster from the Webster family, they lived up on Marin Drive. The Chris family, Dennis Chris, he was a good friend. Marvin died about five years ago and Dennis lives up in Etna, California, I haven't talked to him in years. Once in a while we will email each other. Those are probably my earliest childhood friends.

**Michelle Peterson:** From Tam Valley.

**Greg Moore:** And there are — I can throw out names but I haven't seen them in years, you know, but those are the ones that I really hung with.

**Michelle Peterson:** Okay, what would you guys do?

**Greg Moore:** Like I said, we spent a lot of time exploring, playing baseball, trying to stay out of trouble, but it was pretty wide open back then. You could run around a lot in the valley, everything was safe. There was a horn on top of City Hall<sup>1</sup>. It went off at noon and it went off at five o'clock every day. When you heard the five o'clock horn, everybody split and you were supposed to go home.

**Michelle Peterson:** You could hear it all the way in Tam Valley?

**Greg Moore:** Sure.

**Michelle Peterson:** How long ago did they get rid of that?

**Greg Moore:** You know, the horn is still there. But there is a siren there now for emergency warning.

**Michelle Peterson:** That's what they use it for now?

**Greg Moore:** That's what they use it for now, but the horn is still there, they never use it anymore. It used to scare quite a few, if you are close, it is very loud. I'm sure the siren is the same thing.

**Michelle Peterson:** I'm sure. What were your parents like?

**Greg Moore:** They were great. Hardworking, my dad worked for PG&E<sup>2</sup> for 35 years. He did the normal, you know, work till retirement, pay off the house. My mom did the same thing. She never drove her entire life. She worked a lot of times working the area, Tam Junction.

**Michelle Peterson:** What did she do?

**Greg Moore:** She worked for cleaners, she worked for a pharmacy, that's mostly what she did, worked in those places. She was friends with owners and spent a lot of time there. She worked at some restaurants here in town with my wife when we were young. We were close, everything was within walking distance or she could take the bus.

**Michelle Peterson:** Do you remember your grandparents from when you were that age?

**Greg Moore:** I do.

**Michelle Peterson:** They lived in San Francisco still?

**Greg Moore:** Yeah, they lived in San Francisco. That part of my family — there were a few divorces in there so I had grandparents all over the place.

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<sup>1</sup> Mill Valley City Hall, 26 Corte Madera Ave, Mill Valley, CA 94941

<sup>2</sup> Pacific Gas and Electric Company

**Michelle Peterson:** Step-grandparents.

**Greg Moore:** Right. So I visited a lot of them. Some lived in Concord, some lived in San Francisco. The one I was closest to lived in San Francisco. His name was Frank Janov, my mom's dad. His wife Leona was my step-grandmother, nice lady. My dad's mom was also born and raised in San Francisco. The rest of the family, the Concord family, they are all up in Washington now. We are still close, I still see them a couple times a year.

**Michelle Peterson:** A lot of cousins then, I guess.

**Greg Moore:** Yeah, yeah. Everybody is getting spread out, but my closest cousin lives up in Eatonville, Washington. I get up there a couple times a year.

**Michelle Peterson:** Nice, that's not too far.

**Greg Moore:** I have another very close cousin that lives in Salt Lake City, her name is Adrienne. Those are the two farthest away family members that I visit.

**Michelle Peterson:** You said that your grandfather, you were very close with. Do you have any memories that you want to share?

**Greg Moore:** We used to fish a lot at the Marin Rod and Gun Club when that pier used to be there. It is dilapidated now, but we used to go out there and fish a lot, my grandfather and my dad and myself.

**Michelle Peterson:** What would you fish for?

**Greg Moore:** Striped bass is usually what we were trying to get, but you get all kinds of stuff going through there.

**Michelle Peterson:** I'll bet.

**Greg Moore:** Mostly sharks and some rays and things that you can't use. Everybody keeps them now for some reason or another, but back then we were trying to get the striped bass, maybe occasionally salmon if they came through.

**Michelle Peterson:** So fishing, anything else?

**Greg Moore:** No, that was the main thing. He was very big into aquariums. He raised tropical fish in his basement and he did stone work, a lot of tumbled stones and made jewelry, so I helped him with a lot of that stuff. I got a couple old books I keep at home that have his name in it for being the only person that could raise a bumblebee catfish or something like that, you know. But that's mostly what I did with him.

**Michelle Peterson:** Cool. How about your mom or dad? Would you say there were any activities that you would do with your dad or your mom?

**Greg Moore:** Yeah, mostly my dad was just — he is a major Sierra Club member, conservationist. We spent years backpacking in the Sierras with burrows and backpacks. Every year, we just had great vacations. We would do family vacations where we — the whole family to climb into the car, we'd do some car camping, but my dad and I did a lot of backpacking. I just loved that, we'd really get up into the Sierras. He was very into weighing everything. Back then, they didn't have a lot of freeze-dried food, you know the fancy food they have now.

**Michelle Peterson:** Yeah, just canned.

**Greg Moore:** He weighed things, wanted the packs to weigh just right so we had the right amount. He planned the trips out, the meals daily. That's how my dad always was. He was an accountant for PG&E for 30 years so was into getting everything just perfect.

**Michelle Peterson:** He's a perfectionist [laughs].

**Greg Moore:** Yeah, absolutely.

**Michelle Peterson:** Okay. So you said that your family is from Germany and where else?

**Greg Moore:** Ireland. You know, the Ireland part of it, as I said, my sister and I have been working on genealogy on and off for a few years. We can trace my mom's parents back quite a ways, probably into the late 1800s. But my dad's part of the family, we're stumped on my great-grandfather. When you're doing genealogy, it is kind of tough. You hit a wall and it is like, what do you do now, you either hire somebody or you keep trying to wing it yourself. That is kind of where we are at with my dad's side, we didn't get very far back.

**Michelle Peterson:** That's the Germany side?

**Greg Moore:** No, that's the Irish side, yeah. My dad always said we came from County Cork, Ireland, but I don't think that he really knew. We haven't found anything that says that. We are kind of, like I said, my great-grandfather went to Alaska. With the census records and things, I have him in San Francisco when he was in his early 30s, I guess, but then after that he went to Alaska and from that point on we lost him, so we have a dead end back there. My dad's mother, we traced back to Nevada and Virginia City and got back that far. But it's more or less fun for us right now. You know, it seems to me at some point you just have to get in there and either hire somebody — it's really hard.

**Michelle Peterson:** Yeah, you have to have access to all those records, it's sometimes not so easy to do online.

**Greg Moore:** Yeah, Ancestry.com is great to get you started.

**Michelle Peterson:** Yeah, I've been on there, it is pretty easy. Okay, I have a question here that is good, how would you describe yourself as a child?



**Greg Moore:** I think, you know, I mean, generally a good kid.

**Michelle Peterson:** It sounds like you were adventurous.

**Greg Moore:** Yeah, I liked to get out, liked to do things. I struggled in school, I always struggled in school. I just didn't like it, I just didn't have fun. I mean, I had fun in my entire school life socially, I loved the kids, being here, doing things, but when it came down to the actual work, I did just the minimum I needed to get done to get through and that was it. It drove my parents nuts. My mom gave me all my report cards years ago and I looked at all these grades and I go oh, you poor thing, because I had to fight with my kids doing the same thing. But I never had any big issues.

**Michelle Peterson:** Weren't a troublemaker?

**Greg Moore:** No, no. I think the worst thing I did in my whole life was when I was a kid, a friend and I tore apart a tractor that was around the corner, they were doing some work on the street or something. We didn't destroy it, we just took it apart, took my dad's tools over there and just took it apart, how much can you take apart. The sheriff brought us home and did the whole you could go to jail thing.

**Michelle Peterson:** He scared you good, huh [laughs].

**Greg Moore:** He did, but it was a story that my dad always liked to tell.

**Michelle Peterson:** When you took the tractor apart.

**Greg Moore:** Yeah, that's the worst thing that I did.

**Michelle Peterson:** That's not bad.

**Greg Moore:** Never broke into any homes or anything like that, just played and had fun.

**Michelle Peterson:** Do you have any teachers that you remember from elementary school? That's a long time ago.

**Greg Moore:** Elementary school, you know, I can remember a number of my teachers. Only I think one had a really big effect on me, a guy named Jack Larson. I kept in touch with him, he just passed away a few years ago. He was just a great guy. He instilled in me, he happened to coach the school baseball team. I never had him for a teacher, I had another teacher named Mr. Lewis who I didn't get along with at all, of no fault of his own, I'm sure, he was just trying to get me to do the work, you know. But Mr. Larson got me to connect that if you do good in school, you get to play baseball.

**Michelle Peterson:** So baseball was your game, you liked to play baseball?

**Greg Moore:** At the time, yeah.

**Michelle Peterson:** Who did you play for?

**Greg Moore:** I played baseball all the way up through the fire department. We played softball at the fire department.

**Michelle Peterson:** Okay, yeah. Did you play in high school?

**Greg Moore:** No, you know, I did track in high school. I only did that for a few years. That was probably — I'm trying to think of the name, the teacher's name was Bruce Grant, my government teacher. When I told him I was quitting track because I wanted to get a job and get a car, he took me aside and said, "I know you want to do this but please don't, you are going to regret it, this is the only time you are going to get to do this in your life." You know, really tried to convince me, but I went ahead and quit track and got my car and did all that.

**Michelle Peterson:** What was your job that you got?

**Greg Moore:** Just working at Shoreline Market in Tam Valley.

**Michelle Peterson:** Is that a grocery store? Shoreline?

**Greg Moore:** Shoreline.

**Michelle Peterson:** Okay.

**Greg Moore:** It's still there, I think it's closed now, may have changed hands a few times. Back then, a guy named Al Santos owned it. He was a nice guy. My future mother-in-law worked there, I worked with her and that's how I met my wife. I bounced around in that store doing all kinds of things, trying to figure out what I wanted to do. But I just wanted to make money, which every time I made it, I immediately put it into my car.

**Michelle Peterson:** Right. What kind of car was it?

**Greg Moore:** It was a, well, the one I started out with was a '53 Ford. I completely tore the thing apart. It was a beautiful stock car I bought off a friend of mine who I am still friends with, Steven Kompf. It was just the perfect car. I tore it apart, put a different motor in it, painted it, different wheels. I just destroyed the car, it looked right to me. I probably put a couple thousand bucks into it and ended up selling it for \$500. It was one of those things. It's the only thing my dad and I ever fought up, because he was a saver, you know.

**Michelle Peterson:** How did you learn how to work on cars?

**Greg Moore:** It's just something I always loved to do, you know. I always liked working on cars, that was my big thing. During high school, that was what I really liked doing. The people that I hung with at Tam, we were all, I guess we were called the "back parking lot crowd", the "car crowd", because we were always, you know, back then it was a couple different groups. We

all got along and everything but we hung out in the back parking lot and smoked cigarettes and messed around with our cars. The others, as it turned out, some of them were the smart ones that hung out at the snack bar and went to college and ended up being my boss when I started working here, which is another guy we can talk about too.

**Michelle Peterson:** Did they have names for these other groups?

**Greg Moore:** No.

**Michelle Peterson:** It wasn't like the jocks or anything like that?

**Greg Moore:** Well, it was kind of like that, yeah. There were the jocks and what we call the snack bar crowd; they called us the back parking lot crowd. I was friends with a lot of people in high school from all the different crowds, you know. I maintained a few of those relationships all through. I ended up working with a few of them here in town.

**Michelle Peterson:** Okay, so Tam High, you drive by it today and it looks completely different. Can you describe how it looked back then when you went to high school there, what differences there were?

**Greg Moore:** I think that the kids were different in the respect of I think it was more middle class families than it is now, I think. I don't know that for sure. But there was definitely more hang outs, there was See's on Miller Avenue and the Cantina behind Tam High, places we used to hang out. It was an interesting place to go.

**Michelle Peterson:** Which place did you like to hang out at?

**Greg Moore:** You know, both of them.

**Michelle Peterson:** Where was See's?

**Greg Moore:** It was right on Miller Avenue where Kentucky Fried Chicken is now.

**Michelle Peterson:** What was it, a See's Candy place?

**Greg Moore:** No, it was See's drive in, it was hamburgers and milkshakes. All the kids used to hang out there. Cars were a big thing back then, everybody had some kind of hot car and was working on their car.

**Michelle Peterson:** You had the Ford all through high school, did you get a different one?

**Greg Moore:** I changed cars. The Ford was through high school and then I bought a Chevy Impala that was faster and gave me more trouble and I spent more time on the side of the road, I spent a lot of time sitting there waiting for a tow truck because I would blow something up on it.

**Michelle Peterson:** This is all coming back to how you took that tractor apart as the beginning.

**Greg Moore:** You know, cars were always something I thought I'd get into.

**Michelle Peterson:** Did you self-teach yourself to work on cars? That's kind of hard.

**Greg Moore:** Mostly, yeah. We didn't have an auto shop in high school, but I was always interested in, you know, I took shop class, the art metal classes, all the classes I could that really interested me. The classes, math and English and all that stuff that I was required to take, I took but like I said, I did the bare minimum to get through.

**Michelle Peterson:** Which class was your favorite?

**Greg Moore:** You know, my favorite class, there was a teacher there named Mr. Griffin that developed a class that was how to, he gave us projects, he'd give us three bricks and an egg and he wanted us to build a container that would hold both of them to drop from one story without breaking the egg. Or he would tell us to make something that could support 200 pounds and only have three legs. It was those types of projects, we really learned a lot but it was a special —

**Michelle Peterson:** Yeah, something you definitely remember.

**Greg Moore:** Yeah, I really do. I remember shop class, the teacher's name was Mr. Blander, he was a great guy. I loved building things but it was always hammers and punches, learning how to use different machines to build the same thing, everybody built the same thing year after year. But Mr. Griffin's class was fun to do something different.

**Michelle Peterson:** Who was your principal, do you remember who the principal was when you were there?

**Greg Moore:** You know, I don't remember who the principal was.

**Michelle Peterson:** Do you remember any of the administration?

**Greg Moore:** Oh, absolutely. The guy that I remember the most that I just loved was a guy named Hank Marshall. He was the dean of boys. He was just an amazing guy. You gave him all the respect in the world and he gave you a lot of respect. He could come down the back parking lot, we'd all be hanging out back there, we were supposed to be in class or we were smoking when we weren't supposed to be. He had a way of coming up and talking to you and as he talked to you, as he talked to you he'd hang onto this part of your bicep and he'd squeeze it as he was talking to you and the pain was —

**Michelle Peterson:** He was squeezing hard?

**Greg Moore:** He'd go, Mr. Moore, what are you doing out here, and he'd squeeze your arm. And he was a big tall black man that I just adored. I think everybody adored him. I think he just passed away a few years ago. I really would have loved to have gone to his memorial, I didn't know that it had happened, but great guy. He is one of those people that you just never forgot.

**Michelle Peterson:** Did you guys have a football team, did you go to football games?

**Greg Moore:** I went to a few but I wasn't really into sports at that point. I mean, again, if it was a social thing I would go, but I definitely wasn't a jock.

**Michelle Peterson:** How about dances, were there school dances?

**Greg Moore:** Yeah, there were school dances. Most of the dances I went to were parties at kids' houses, were the dances I went to. Definitely went the junior prom and senior ball, did all that.

**Michelle Peterson:** Where would they hold those at?

**Greg Moore:** At the school, in the gym. They were always fun. We had the picture, you know, you get your picture taken, all that, that's the way it was at all the other schools, same thing.

**Michelle Peterson:** Did you have a best friend in high school?

**Greg Moore:** Best friend? I had a few really good friends. Steve Kompf is one of my best friends, went to school together, Tom Day is another very good friend of mine from school. You know, my sister, my wife was my best friend.

**Michelle Peterson:** Oh, you went to high school with your wife?

**Greg Moore:** Yeah, we went to high school together.

**Michelle Peterson:** Okay. Were you guys together in high school, was she your girlfriend?

**Greg Moore:** Yep.

**Michelle Peterson:** Okay. How old were you when you met her?

**Greg Moore:** I think I was 16 or 17. It was in 1965.

**Michelle Peterson:** Was she your age, in your grade at school?

**Greg Moore:** No, she was a couple years younger than me.

**Michelle Peterson:** What was her name?

**Greg Moore:** Kathy Reynolds. We are still married.

**Michelle Peterson:** How old were you when you got married?

**Greg Moore:** Boy, she is going to kill me. She just graduated so I guess she was 18 and I was 21.

**Michelle Peterson:** Okay. So back then when you were in high school, you had your high school girlfriend, your friends, you were working on your cars, what were you thinking you were going to be when you grew up, what were your dreams? Were you maybe going to be a car mechanic?

**Greg Moore:** For a time, I wanted to be a jet mechanic; I looked into a lot of schools for that. The Vietnam War was going hot and heavy when I was a senior and you know, I really wasn't looking to the future much right at that point. A number of friends of mine had gotten drafted as seniors. I had three friends that were killed in Vietnam. When I became a senior, they were calling everyone for the induction physical over in Oakland before you even graduated high school so we were going over there.

**Michelle Peterson:** So you went over for that?

**Greg Moore:** Right. And I passed. I really wasn't thinking past that, I was pretty much under the impression that I was going to get drafted. I tried to join the Coast Guard and couldn't, I tried to join the Navy and couldn't, it was just the way it was, you were getting drafted and that was where you were going.

**Michelle Peterson:** Okay. So how did that work? You were drafted into the Army, how come you could not join the Coast Guard?

**Greg Moore:** Well, the problem was, the draft was going hot and heavy and people were trying to get into places where they felt they'd be the safest, the Coast Guard or the Navy. They would take you if you were going to go to officer's candidate school or something like that but the absolute grunt, you just couldn't get in, there were no openings. There were waiting lists to get into both of those services, but not the Marines.

**Michelle Peterson:** When did that time pass when you no longer were going to be drafted?

**Greg Moore:** Well, I passed that and I quit the job I had at the time, which was working at an auto parts store. I was just going to, they said I had 46 weeks before I was going to get drafted so I waited, I was just waiting for that to happen. A friend of mine told me there was a job opening at a body shop on La Goma Avenue here in Mill Valley, a guy named Sam De Pilo. It was called Marin Auto Body. I told him I couldn't do it because I was going to get drafted and he said, well, I think it comes with a drafting firm. At the time, if you've had an apprenticeship of any kind, you get the same deferment, it would be an occupational deferment, like a college deferment, same thing. So I went down there and Sam said he'd try me out for a week and if I was any good at it, he'd keep me and give me the hours I'd need to get that deferment. So that's what I did.

**Michelle Peterson:** So that worked out?

**Greg Moore:** Yeah, it worked out. I served a four-year apprenticeship there. That was a great time too because I was working in a body shop, I loved working on cars and fixing cars. I used to race cars in Petaluma and Antioch and Watsonville, dirt tracks.

**Michelle Peterson:** What kind of cars would you race?

**Greg Moore:** They were Chevys. They were the cut down, open wheel racecars that were a lot of fun. There was a contingent from Mill Valley, the Filippis, who still own Elroy Garage down on Camino Alto and Sycamore, they had a racecar and their son Bob Filippi had a racecar and Marv Webster, the guy I told you I grew up with had a racecar, and I had a racecar. So we had this huge contingent from Mill Valley that would always go to Petaluma or Antioch and watch us race and sit in a certain part of the stands. They had the coats that had the same collar as our cars. It was just a great time.

**Michelle Peterson:** Oh! Was this when you were in high school or right after?

**Greg Moore:** It was right out of high school.

**Michelle Peterson:** What year did you guys graduate high school?

**Greg Moore:** '67. So it would be like '68 through probably '71 or something like that.

**Michelle Peterson:** Now the music scene was pretty big in Mill Valley back then, were you into that at all?

**Greg Moore:** No, not really, I was just, you know, into cars.

**Michelle Peterson:** Into your cars, yeah.

**Greg Moore:** I listened to it, but I listen to music more than I did back then. I love listening to the oldies, '60s and '70s, but back then I didn't listen to it that much.

**Michelle Peterson:** Right. So how long did you work at the auto body place?

**Greg Moore:** I worked there from, I guess, from '68 to '74.

**Michelle Peterson:** Okay. And you got married in —

**Greg Moore:** I got married in '69, in November of '69.

**Michelle Peterson:** Okay, where'd you guys get married?

**Greg Moore:** Here in town at the Methodist Church<sup>3</sup> down on Camino Alto and Sycamore. A reception at the Outdoor Art Club.

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<sup>3</sup> Mt. Tamalpais Methodist Church, 410 Sycamore Ave, Mill Valley

**Michelle Peterson:** It's beautiful.

**Greg Moore:** Yeah, Mill Valley. Went down to San Luis Obispo for our honeymoon. We drove down there, which in hindsight was probably a mistake because we drove down there straight from the reception instead of hanging out somewhere up here first, but it was fun.

**Michelle Peterson:** Good. When did you start getting interested in firefighting?

**Greg Moore:** Well, I was working at the body shop. Again, Steve Kompf, his dad Ivan Kompf, another great guy, one of my baseball coaches in Little League and Steve's dad, I would say I haven't seen another person I really respected and had an effect on me as I grew up.

**Michelle Peterson:** What was his name?

**Greg Moore:** Ivan Kompf. He was just a great guy, you know. He was, you know, just the type of guy, I used to do work for him, odd jobs, he did a lot of gardening and that kind of stuff. The guy had me digging holes in hills and planting plants. I was complaining about how hard the ground was and why do we have to throw all this top soil in and he wanted to me to pull all the weeds off the hill and I just complained about the weeds. He says, you know, weeds won't grow, nothing will grow, so that's why we are planting here. Little things like that. Ivan was a member of the volunteers, I got off track there, as were a few other people that we knew. Steve and I joined the volunteers at the same time. That was in 1974, we joined the volunteers. Then I started getting more and more of an interest in it the more I trained and actually started going to fires.

**Michelle Peterson:** Where was your first fire, do you remember that?

**Greg Moore:** Yeah, my first big fire was at 265 Cascade Drive.

**Michelle Peterson:** Cascade Canyon, I guess.

**Greg Moore:** Yeah, Cascade Canyon. Fully involved big beautiful home up on the side of the hill, stuff rolling down the hill, steep hillside, hard fire to put out. And then two days later we had one at I think 288 Magee Avenue, another fully involved structural fire, just nothing to save but the foundation. It was just, those two fires, I just can't, this is crazy.

**Michelle Peterson:** No, it's exciting!

**Greg Moore:** Oh, it's so much fun, I just loved it. So that's basically how I started getting interested. Then they had kind of a cadet program at the time but it hadn't really started. I came in and they hired me to work one shift every Saturday for 24 hours.

**Michelle Peterson:** That's what you were doing when you first started volunteering, one shift every Saturday?

**Greg Moore:** Well, the volunteers were totally separate. The volunteers had these plectrons, communicators that you kept in your house that would go off in the middle of the night and they



would say where the fire was at and you would jump in your car. Yeah, you are on call. You jump in your car and go to the scene of the fire. Then after I had done that for a few months, I got a job with the fire department working this one shift. They'd work 24-hour shifts, so I'd work one 24-hour shift a week. I'd work Monday through Friday at the body shop and Saturday I'd go to work at the fire house, we only had the only fire house here.

**Michelle Peterson:** The one that's right downtown?

**Greg Moore:** Right, that was the main station. So I'd work there for 24 hours.

**Michelle Peterson:** So it's a 24-hour shift, you guys would sleep, obviously in that 24 hours or did you have to be up the whole time?

**Greg Moore:** You know, it varied. Definitely you get to sleep, but it has gotten busier and busier over the years. Now it is pretty seldom that you get to sleep the whole night. Back then you did. Back then it was a maintenance of the equipment and training and mostly maintenance and training and a few fires. Ten percent of the job was fires, 90 percent of it was making sure you were ready and the equipment was ready. Now it's a lot different. There's just so much more now.

**Michelle Peterson:** So when you were volunteering, how many volunteers were there?

**Greg Moore:** Oh, I'd say there were, they had active and social members. So I'd say there was probably a good 15 active volunteers. But the social organization was huge, I'd say 30 or 40.

**Michelle Peterson:** Do you remember how many paid firefighters there were?

**Greg Moore:** Way back then, I wish I could remember, my memory is a little [laughs] — I don't know how many we had back then, but we only had one station, yeah. You know, probably, 12 or 15 full-time firefighters. We had the chief, assistant chief, three captains, and probably three firefighters a shift.

**Michelle Peterson:** Okay, so those first fires that you went to, and this is kind of just my benefit or for I guess anyone really reading this that doesn't know much about firefighting, I mean, you guys would come fill in on the big fire trucks. Back then they were probably a lot different?

**Greg Moore:** Right, back then, we had two trucks for the hills and two trucks for the flats. So depending on where the fire was at would decide which truck you would take. Because obviously you needed a smaller truck —

**Michelle Peterson:** To get around those bends and the hills and stuff.

**Greg Moore:** Right. As we started refining our trucks, we made them so that they could go anywhere.

**Michelle Peterson:** Now what did a fire truck look like in the '70s?

**Greg Moore:** Back then, they had open cabs, people rode on the tail board, there were nothing more thrilling than being in the back, either in an open cab driving the truck or in the back on the tail board. They made these leather straps that went around your waist. Then you'd hang onto the bar and whenever you went over bumps your feet would come up off the ground. You know, you'd get to see everything and see the smoke that you are coming to on the way to the fire, the sirens blaring, the horns blaring. It was just a great way to make a living.

**Michelle Peterson:** Right. Those first fires that you went to, you said they were house fires. Did you have to go inside the house or were you just fighting it from outside?

**Greg Moore:** Anything that was fully involved like that, you mostly fought from the outside. You call those defensive fires. You are always trying to keep it from going from its point of origin out. When you come up to a fire, the first thing you want to make sure is that it doesn't get to houses on either side or behind or the forest — zero in on the actual structure itself. So your first equipment would come in, the lines that you would lay, some would be attack lines but others would be different types of structures on the side because you don't want to end with three structures burned instead of one. But we went inside if it was in a bedroom or kitchen or something like that. And I have to say, back then versus now, we went inside a lot more homes than we should have. They were fully involved and we were still going through the front door and trying to put them out. As times evolved, you realized that there is no need to risk your life to go into a structure that you can't save anyway. Back then, we did it, we didn't even wear air packs as much as we should have. We took them off too soon.

**Michelle Peterson:** When did you move to full-time firefighting?

**Greg Moore:** In March of 1975 I got hired.

**Michelle Peterson:** Okay, so not shortly after you started.

**Greg Moore:** I did the cadet position for about six months, from about October to March, I guess. That's when I got hired.

**Michelle Peterson:** What were your hours and schedule like?

**Greg Moore:** It changed, you worked 24 on and 24 off. We started out working 24 on and 24 off for four shifts and then had three days off and then it switched to 24 on, 24 off for three shifts and then three days off, and then four days off. Then to shift that we have now, which is two days on and four days off.

**Michelle Peterson:** Where did you live at the time, where did you and your wife live when you guys first got married?

**Greg Moore:** We lived at, when we first got married, we lived down on Pineo Street in Tamalpais Valley in an apartment.

**Michelle Peterson:** Do you know the address?

**Greg Moore:** I think it was — I don't remember the address, it was on the corner of Maple and Pineo Street in Tamalpais Valley. It was a three-story apartment, it is still there. That's where we started out. We got a dog. We were good friends with the people, the person that owned that apartment building was the O'Connors. Marge was her daughter and we were all good friends and they lived downstairs. They had a dog and told us we could get a dog. We got the dog and the woman that owned the apartment said you can't have a dog, you gotta get rid of the dog or leave, so we left and found a house here in Mill Valley. We rented the house in Mill Valley for I guess 10 years, 111 Walnut Avenue, yeah.

**Michelle Peterson:** You were there for 10 years?

**Greg Moore:** Yeah, we were there for 10 years, or about nine years. From about '69 to '78. In '78, we moved up to Novato. We moved up to 771 Clausing Avenue and then that was in '78. Then in '94, we moved to 7 Shon Court, which is also in Novato. Then in 2000 we moved to 587 Fairway Drive, which is also in Novato. We just kept moving up.

**Michelle Peterson:** Yeah, upgrading.

**Greg Moore:** My wife, you know, I always get content, I work on a house, I love doing that kind of work also, I'd work on a house to get it just to where we wanted it and then Kathy would go, "you know —"

**Michelle Peterson:** Oh, then she was ready.

**Greg Moore:** Yeah, then she was ready to move.

**Michelle Peterson:** Well, then you've got a new project.

**Greg Moore:** Exactly, exactly.

**Michelle Peterson:** What kind of work do you do on the houses, do you do everything?

**Greg Moore:** Most everything. You know, decks and fences and remodels to the extent of you know, removing interior walls that aren't supporting walls and things like that. Just trying to make it better, trim work. I never got into heavy construction where I was taking outside walls and adding rooms. The houses that I added rooms to, I always had a contractor do the weathering in, the foundation, and I would finish up and do the sheet rock and everything.

**Michelle Peterson:** Do you have kids?

**Greg Moore:** Two boys.

**Michelle Peterson:** Okay, when were they born?

**Greg Moore:** Let's see. One was born on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1972. That was Keith. He was the first baby born in Marin County.

**Michelle Peterson:** He was the first baby born in Marin County? At the hospital there?

**Greg Moore:** Marin General.

**Michelle Peterson:** Marin General. How cool is that.

**Greg Moore:** I'm sorry, it wasn't Marin General, it was Kaiser in San Francisco.

**Michelle Peterson:** Okay.

**Greg Moore:** Both my kids were born at Kaiser in San Francisco. So our first baby born, we got a bunch of little gifts and all that stuff.

**Michelle Peterson:** His name is Keith.

**Greg Moore:** Yeah Keith, that's Keith.

**Michelle Peterson:** What's his birthday?

**Greg Moore:** January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1972.

**Michelle Peterson:** Oh, okay. The first baby of the year?

**Greg Moore:** Yeah, the first baby of the year. My second son was born on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 1986, 15 years later. Like having two single kids. Kathy and I, we both worked hard and woke up one day, I was working two jobs, sometimes three jobs. So we said, this is what we got married for, let's change some things around. So she quit working and we decided to have another baby, which we did. That was it.

**Michelle Peterson:** Okay. So she did work when you were in the fire department?

**Greg Moore:** Yeah, the majority of her career has been at the Marin Humane Society. She retired from there in April of 2011. She had worked there for 21 years doing different things for them. Mostly she worked in development. She was going out and getting the money. She enjoyed it, really had a great career there. She retired in April of 2011, I retired in October of 2011.

**Michelle Peterson:** Oh, very nice.

**Greg Moore:** She kind of drove me to it.

**Michelle Peterson:** So back then, '75 was when you really started full time with the fire department. You were working 24 on, 24 off. So she was working too. Did that just work out with your schedules with the little one?

**Greg Moore:** Yeah. I think in the early years, I was gone a lot. My first son, he was born in '72 and I didn't start at the fire department until '75. But I was working at the fire department and I was also working on side jobs.

**Michelle Peterson:** What were you doing?

**Greg Moore:** I worked at the Mill Valley Lumber Company. Actually, I stayed working at the body shop that I was working at when I quit to become a fireman. I stayed working there on my off days and then I worked at the Mill Valley Lumber Yard delivering lumber. In fact, a number of firemen worked there, three or four of us there. Another good friend of mine worked there named Jim McClure who was a person I grew up with in the fire department. We all worked there. The person that owned it was named Jim Merchant, Jim and Doris Merchant. They sold the lumberyard quite a few years ago and moved up to Roseville. Anyhow, those are the jobs, the body shop and the lumberyard. I did some odd jobs working on people's houses and things like that, but mostly those two jobs.

**Michelle Peterson:** Yeah, that schedule, I guess, would accommodate doing stuff like that.

**Greg Moore:** It would. But it's funny, that got to be a hindrance to me after a while because I didn't want to work that much. I missed a lot with my first son because I was doing that, that was the issue. My second son reaped the benefits of that because I had figured it out.

**Michelle Peterson:** Right, that you wanted some free time finally.

**Greg Moore:** I spent a lot of time with him being Mr. Mom, I did all the school functions, the field trips, all the things that I didn't do with my first son that I wish I had the time to do, but it worked out.

**Michelle Peterson:** Right. You said, I think it's pretty interesting, that when you first started volunteering you had two fires right in a row, was that common, were there that many fires?

**Greg Moore:** There seemed to be a lot more fires back then than there are now. You know, the buildings weren't sprinklered back then, we didn't have fire-safe roofing, we didn't have all the enabling ordinances we have now to keep fire from spreading from structure to structure. So back then, there were more fires and they did have a tendency to grow bigger faster and extend into the wildlands.

**Michelle Peterson:** So was it mostly house fires?

**Greg Moore:** Mostly house fires, yeah. House fires and wildland fires but they were all relatively small. We had some big ones here and there but nothing in Mill Valley that was, the '29 fire was really the biggest one we had here.

**Michelle Peterson:** Which one?

**Greg Moore:** 1929.

**Michelle Peterson:** 1929, okay.

**Greg Moore:** We've had a few big fires on the mountain and in the county since then, of course, many, but not at that —

**Michelle Peterson:** Would you guys stay in Mill Valley, or if there was a fire in the Marin Headlands or Mt. Tam, would you ever go outside Mill Valley?

**Greg Moore:** It's funny. Back then, there was a whole ego thing and the boundary lines were very, very strict. I mean, there were some places where our stations were closer to, Homestead Valley, for instance, but we wouldn't respond to Homestead Valley because they had their station. So you had to memorize all the addresses and when a call came in, you had to know if it was in the city limits or out of the city limits. That was huge, what was in Marin County or Mill Valley or Tam Valley. Those boundaries all eventually got dropped and everybody just responds to everybody's fire.

**Michelle Peterson:** Do you remember when those boundaries dropped?

**Greg Moore:** Oh, it's been, you know, it hasn't been that long, probably 10 years ago when we really got serious. There were a few holdouts that said they were going to drop them and then — it's very difficult to get into, they changed all the sort orders of the equipment, they dropped all the boundaries, the Civic Center started dispatching equipment based on the closest equipment to the emergency versus whose jurisdiction it was in. So even though the jurisdiction for Mill Valley might go to it, the other jurisdiction would get there first.

**Michelle Peterson:** Because they were closer.

**Greg Moore:** Yeah, because they were closer. It would be dispatched that way. It took a lot of time. You give up a lot of — you perceive that you give up a lot of control when you start letting other firefighters put your fires out because they can get there sooner. But that's kind of all gone by the wayside now. Now the big push is to consolidate all the fire departments.

**Michelle Peterson:** Have you ever had to go into a house that is on fire, have you ever had to go in to for example, save a child that's stuck in a bedroom or anything like that?

**Greg Moore:** You know, I've never had the opportunity to save someone. They were always out of the building or it was too late. I've been on a number of fires where we were doing recovery of a person who was in that home but never was in a fire where I could go in and actually carry a baby out or carry somebody down a ladder, never had that opportunity. The people were always out or they didn't get out.

**Michelle Peterson:** So you really didn't need to rush into the house at that point.

**Greg Moore:** I went into a lot of structure fires.

**Michelle Peterson:** You did.

**Greg Moore:** Oh yeah. I mean, we just loved it. It was the whole, somebody goes in, kicks the front door down, somebody cuts a hole in the roof, that's what firefighters live for. I mean, it's fun, it really is fun.

**Michelle Peterson:** Can you describe that for me, what that's like, running into a burning building?

**Greg Moore:** It's just, you know, you are excited that you are going there because you are hearing different reports, you know you are going to a fully involved structural fire. You don't know what you are going to have when you get there, you get there and you throw on your air pack. Again, the rules have changed over the years. Now you can get two people or a three-man company going in through the front door but you have to have three men backing them up before they can go through. There are a lot of safety things plugged into firefighting now that weren't in there before. Before, two guys would show up, pull a line off, and they'd just run into the building and when the other people got there, they got there. So it's all changed, you know. For the better in respect of fire safety. But you'd go in and a lot of times, you are on your hands and knees. The smoke and the heat level are down to the floor and you can't see your hands in front of your face. You are just on your hands and knees crawling through the house looking for the origin of the fire to start putting it out. As they get a hole punched in the roof, the smoke lifts or if you get the fire. A lot of times when you put a nozzle on the fire, it banks down. It's really hot, the steam gets really hot. It's all part of it.

**Michelle Peterson:** So that's the idea, to find the origin of the fire.

**Greg Moore:** Yeah, find the origin of the fire and knock it down. The idea is if the fire is in the back bedroom or the kitchen, you don't want to run around the back of the house and stick the nozzle in the window and blow the fire into the rest of the house. You want to come in through part of the house that isn't involved in the fire and blow the fire out through the part that's already involved so you don't do more damage to the house. The whole idea is to lessen the amount of damage to the house. You already do enough damage because most of the time you are punching a hole through the roof to ventilate the fire and the smoke. If you're breaking windows to get in or doors to get in —

**Michelle Peterson:** And blowing water all over.

**Greg Moore:** Oh yeah. We've got, as the people arrive on the scene, we have initial attack, we have people that are doing salvage to take tarps and cover everything up downstairs. You do the best you can to protect things that aren't involved. So you are trying to lessen the damage but sometimes it's just not possible.

**Michelle Peterson:** Okay. How'd you get trained to do this, is this something that you just learned on the job when you were volunteering and then started working?

**Greg Moore:** In the beginning, yes. In the beginning, it was all self-taught. Everybody was taught mostly the same way but each department had their own protocols and the ways they did things. As time went on, there was more state training offered, more college classes offered.

**Michelle Peterson:** Did you do any of those?

**Greg Moore:** I did quite a few. I went to College of Marin and got an associate's degree in fire science.

**Michelle Peterson:** Oh, okay.

**Greg Moore:** And then the state offers courses where they certify you at different levels, just about any level you want. So I got a firefighter level certification. You could go into fire mechanic, you could go into fire chief, there were a bunch of different ways that you could go through the California State training system. But our academy was at Asilomar down in Monterey. So for each certification, it usually took eight to 10 one-week cases at Asilomar to get a specific certification. So it was, it's good training. Everything you could think of, wildlands certifications, high-rise certifications, everything you needed.

**Michelle Peterson:** Did you have to do a lot of wildland fires?

**Greg Moore:** You know, the wildland fires didn't really — as the state of California developed a mutual aid system that worked out the same way, our mutual aid system is just second to none. It starts out county-wide with our own sort order. We have a big fire in Mill Valley, let's say we have a fire that's starting to head towards Mt. Tam. It automatically, through our com center, goes in and starts calling engines from other cities down to Mill Valley. Then the outlying cities start moving to fill in those stations so they are not understaffed. That just keeps going until they start bringing in management teams and they start bringing in strike teams from other counties. It'll just keep on moving all the way up. Most of, I'd say all of my experience in wildland firefighting came from responding out of the city of Mill Valley. A lot of my training came from the classes that I took, but the actual hands-on experience was going to significant fires up and down the state. Eventually I was certified as a strike team leader. A strike team is five fire engines and one strike team leader. That group, and there are other groups too, I'm just giving you the most basic one — so I would leave Marin County and have an engine from Novato Fire, from County Fire, from Fairfax, from Larkspur, to get the five engines out the county. We'd travel to wherever we were told or dispatched. We'd go to Los Angeles or anywhere that they had a big fire. The bigger the fire, the ones you read about in papers that get bigger and bigger, when you hear about all those thousands of firefighters, especially in LA, that's where they are all coming from, all over the state. It's just an outstanding system, it's just amazing how well it works. It's hard to turn it off once you get it going.

**Michelle Peterson:** Do you know how old that system is, how long you guys were doing that?



**Greg Moore:** It's been building upon itself for probably 20 years to where it's at now, you know. Marin County has also had a great, always had a pretty good mutual aid system. Once we got past all the boundaries and all that.

**Michelle Peterson:** Now Los Angeles is so dry, that's why they have all those crazy wildfires, and Mill Valley is so wet, is that a good thing for us that we are so wet?

**Greg Moore:** Absolutely. It's good and it's bad. Mill Valley is, you know, that was one of the main things I worked on in this city, evacuation and vegetation management and trying to build our infrastructure up to be prepared for fires like that. We have a marine influence which keeps the fuel moisture higher which means that for the most part, most of the year, the fires that do start here will travel slow enough where we can through everything at it and knock it down, whereas in LA, the fuel moisture is down to nothing, the humidity is down, they have the Santa Ana winds, they have these huge fires. However, in October, you know, when you start looking at the Oakland Hills, the fire they had there, and the fire out of Point Reyes —

**Michelle Peterson:** What year was that, the Point Reyes fire, do you remember?

**Greg Moore:** '95, 1995.

**Michelle Peterson:** Okay.

**Greg Moore:** The Oakland Hills fire was just before that. When you start looking at fires like that, they can happen here too. Oakland and Mill Valley all have this marine influence relative to the fog, we all get the cold air. But if you get the right time, September, October, usually, everything is dried out, you will get major fire then. This city is going to have one at some point. It's like an earthquake, and it's very difficult to convince people of that who live here because they love the privacy, they love the trees. We are living in an unmanaged forest.

**Michelle Peterson:** Right. You said that vegetation, that's something that you worked on. Are there plants in Mill Valley that are more flammable than others, is that —

**Greg Moore:** Oh, there are. I think that Mill Valley —

**Michelle Peterson:** The redwoods, are they pretty —

**Greg Moore:** No, the redwoods aren't bad. It's a lot of the non-natives, the pines, the broom, but a lot of the natives, you know, the chemise, manzanita, those are all highly flammable, they are like gasoline. If you look at that vegetation if you are out hiking around here, you will see that most of it is dead underneath and it greens on top. Some days, you can go up there and smell it in the air, it smells like paraffin wax, there's a smell of the plants up there. They are highly volatile. But again, we've done a lot in that respect. After those, if you want me to get into that now, after the Point Reyes fire, mostly, the city put together a safety task force and through that, the city manager at the time, Doug Dawson, asked the fire department to come up with a vegetation management plan. We came up with a plan, I was in charge of vegetation

management, if you wanted to call it that in 1995, I took over for that. My budget for the year was \$1,500 a year. What I did with that \$1,500 was I usually transferred it to public works and they cleared the weeds around our fire road gates and did some other little things for us. After we got this vegetation management program up and running, we started out with about \$95,000 a year and we came up with a plan to clear all the paved roads in town, open up the canopy so everything wasn't growing together to improve access and egress, to get us in and get the people out. We cleared all the fire roads around the city, made what we call a ring around the city to stop, to compartmentalize fires. If a fire did start in Mill Valley, we could keep it from going to Corte Madera and vice versa. If a fire started in Mt. Tam, we could keep it from coming down to Mill Valley. We cut those ridge top fire roads to use so we could use aircraft on them, so we could dump the fire retardant on the ridge tops to slow the fire down. We put together a chipper program so everyone could move their own stuff off their property and we would chip it for free. Increased our public awareness tenfold, education. Bought a wildland fire engine specifically for that. And along with that, we came up with a designated parking program so people had to work in those white stripes and gave the fire department the ability to give tickets if people were parked outside of those white stripes. We replaced probably over 100,000 feet of water line to improve all our fire hydrants, our water supply. That was all funded through Measure L, which was a water district plan that citizens paid for.

**Michelle Peterson:** That we voted on and paid for?

**Greg Moore:** Right. And then another big thing that I just loved getting into was working on the steps, lanes, and paths. There is a lady named Victoria Talkington that knows every step, lane, and path in this town. She's just an amazing woman. She's got a volunteer group together. We started working with her, we number all the paths, we have a map that has the number of the path. So most people in town who find a path that's close to their house, they can use it as a second way out. The reason I'm bringing all of this up is this is something that Mill Valley has done that I'm really proud of, the City Council has been behind us, they are the ones that forced it, and they've always been a huge backing. When I retired, my vegetation management budget was over \$300,000 a year. It went from \$1,500 to \$300,000 and all pushed by the City Council. They are just so supportive.

**Michelle Peterson:** Yeah, the more you described it, it just makes so much sense.

**Greg Moore:** It does.

**Michelle Peterson:** And then it sounds like a lot of that takes a lot of money.

**Greg Moore:** It does. And it grows back, it all grows back.

**Michelle Peterson:** Exactly, go back out there.

**Greg Moore:** I've always said, the big push to get people in the city of Mill Valley to clear vegetation, the next step is going to be to get them to cut it off their own properties.

**Michelle Peterson:** On their private properties.

**Greg Moore:** Yeah. The city has down everything they can with their own property and the city-owned property and the streets.

**Michelle Peterson:** Right. Are there any laws there as far as —

**Greg Moore:** Oh, there are. We could go house to house and make them clear, I keep saying “we”, they could —

**Michelle Peterson:** You can say “we”, we’ll pretend you aren’t retired [laughs].

**Greg Moore:** I mean, they have the enabling ordinances to do that. A lot of times, they come up when you do a major remodel and try to build a home.

**Michelle Peterson:** That’s when they are actually looking into it?

**Greg Moore:** The fire department, they do what they call weed abatement inspections once a year. They go around and look. If you have major things happening, if you have a bunch of limbs growing over your chimney, your gutters are full, your address can’t be seen from the street, you have dead brush growing underneath your deck, they’ll make you clear that. But even with all that cleared, unless you really have good, hard barriers between your home and your vegetation, if a hot-enough fire comes through, it is going to take out the house. Our plan is to put the fire out at the house, of course, but our contingency is to keep it to the area of origin. If it’s a couple of houses or any house in Blithedale Canyon, we are going to try to get that out. And if we can’t, we are going to keep it from escaping Blithedale Canyon, and if we can’t do that, we are going to keep it from escaping Mill Valley. It’s just, that’s the way it works. We haven’t had it here yet, so everything you see around here is 60, 70 years of growth.

**Michelle Peterson:** I didn’t realize that you guys were so involved with the steps and paths, is that something you guys helped — I know they just recently, the last five or 10 years, fixing them and making them a lot more accessible?

**Greg Moore:** We are heavily involved with that.

**Michelle Peterson:** So what’s the deal with some of them not being accessible, they are on private property now, how does that work, how are some and some aren’t?

**Greg Moore:** That’s an issue. There are many paths in this town that people have just taken over. They’ve built their fences on the other side of the path and incorporated the path into their backyard. There are paths that people claim the right to ownership to that they don’t own. This is all controversial. There are paths running alongside people’s property that they don’t want people, the public walking by their property. You run into those issues all over town. Our focus, when we got into it, we never really paid any attention to steps and paths until the Oakland Hills fire. When you saw people jammed up, they can’t get out, cars are stopped, the only way out is to get down one of those paths and get out of town. If you go onto the city website, you will see an evacuation map. It will show you which roads go where, where the paths are, how to connect

up to drop down. But you are going to run into the people that are against that, those pathways. When I was there, we ran into a number of people that were threatening lawsuits and came up with alternative paths that they felt would be better. I always disagreed with that. I always felt that if the city owned a path, it's our path if we want to put it in. I definitely bumped heads with a few residents in town over that type of thing.

**Michelle Peterson:** Yeah, that seems common sense.

**Greg Moore:** It is, but it's like everything else. People have the mistaken belief, I think, that if you put a path in next to their house, you are just going to get hoards of people using that path. What you are really going to get is your neighbor using that path. They are going to go get coffee in the morning, their dog and stuff, yeah. You know, you are not going to get hoards of people coming from Oakland to come over and walk on the paths. Oakland's a bad example, but you aren't going to get a bunch of people that don't live in the city using the paths alongside your house. They are going to use the fire roads and things like that.

**Michelle Peterson:** Hikers come into the city and aren't going to use those paths, they don't even know they exist.

**Greg Moore:** They can get a map and they could figure it out, but it's mostly for the people that live here.

**Michelle Peterson:** So I've seen some, you say people will actually fence over the paths, is that something that you would then tell them, this is an evacuation, this is an emergency thing, you have to remove your fence?

**Greg Moore:** We did that in a number of places. We said, "We are going to put in a path in here." Actually, we are going to take the path back and put a path in here. In a number of cases, as soon as I could prove to them that this path did belong to the city and that your fence had to be moved.

**Michelle Peterson:** It's easy to do.

**Greg Moore:** Yeah, it's very easy to do. But a couple of people fought really hard on it. In fact, some people actually tried to legally take possession of the pathways without telling the city what they were doing. Then once we found out and we tried to take it back, it turned into a big extensive legal issue. Other people understood it and said okay, that's fine, but what can I do about my privacy, you know. That's where we'd say okay, you can put a fence here, you can plant here, the path will come down. We'll put some signs at the bottom and at the top. There are many paths where you walk up through the brush and find the old stone steps, you can find the collapsed stairways, they are there.

**Michelle Peterson:** They are there. I've seen and been following the old maps and I've seen signs where people say this is not a public path. Actually, the sign is probably a lot better than a fence because if it is needed in an emergency in a fire, then you can still use it, so I think that would make a little bit more sense.

**Greg Moore:** Sure. As you can tell, I'm pretty passionate about the paths, you know. It was one of my, I'd say the last 15 years of my career, my main objective was vegetation management and evacuation, those were my two main things. That's what I worked out, lived it and breathed it and slept on it. Those are the main things. But the city has done so much more, I mean, built another station, put paramedic life support ambulances into service.

**Michelle Peterson:** When did you guys do that, do you remember what year that came into play?

**Greg Moore:** I wish I could remember, those are the kind of dates that just go away, I'm thinking right around the same time, around '95, '96. We started out with a paramedic unit at the main station down on Hamilton Drive. That was called Rescue 30. Then each entity around Southern Marin had an ambulance. So whenever there was a call somewhere — oh, and all the entities supplied paramedics — so we had people from Tiburon working in Mill Valley, people in Mill Valley working there. Whenever there was a call that required a paramedic, that paramedic would leave station seven and meet them. Then the ambulance would take the paramedic on, take the patient to the hospital. They would get advanced life support all the way to the hospital. As that system evolved, Southern Marin Emergency Paramedic System, SMEPS for short, as that system evolved, all the entities wanted paramedics on their own equipment. That piece of equipment went out of service and each entity has their own ambulance now with paramedics. In fact, a lot of them have paramedics on their engines. Mill Valley has paramedics on their engines, have officers that are paramedics, battalion chiefs that are paramedics. I mean, they have all come up through the paramedic system now. So when something happens to you, you can get advanced life support within five or seven minutes from the time it happens. They stabilize you here instead of rushing you to the hospital and stabilizing you at the hospital, it's just huge.

**Michelle Peterson:** Which station were you at?

**Greg Moore:** I started at this one downtown because that was the only station. Then as the other station, that was built in 1976, I think, that became our administrative station. I didn't go down there until I was promoted to battalion chief in 1991. I spent most of my time — we were consolidating with Tam Valley Fire Department for a while, so I worked at this station as a captain of an engine company and I worked at the station in Tam Valley as a captain of an engine company. From 1986 I became a captain, so from '86 to '91 I was a captain. It was a great job, being on an engine and having your own guys, it's just fun. Then in 1991 I became battalion chief and then went down to that station and I was there from 1991 to 2011.

**Michelle Peterson:** Which station? Sorry.

**Greg Moore:** The main station, the public safety building, that's where all our —

**Michelle Peterson:** What's the address there?

**Greg Moore:** One Hamilton Drive. That has the fire chief and battalion chiefs and then the

captains and all those things. This is really a sub-station now that has a captain and an engine and the ambulance, the ambulance is stationed out here.

**Michelle Peterson:** Okay. You said captain was a really fun job.

**Greg Moore:** It was my favorite.

**Michelle Peterson:** I was going to say, was that your favorite?

**Greg Moore:** Yeah, it was my favorite position.

**Michelle Peterson:** How come? Was it, sometimes if there's too much responsibility, it's a little more stressful. But you were also the head of the engine, is that what you said?

**Greg Moore:** Yeah, you know, when you are a captain on an engine company, it's just you and your engine company. So I mean, in the middle of the night, no matter what the call, whether it was a medical aid call or a structure fire of a vehicle accident or a hazmat spill, whatever it is, it's just you and that engine. You are the first responders, you are the first ones there. So you are in charge, you are running it. As you decide what resources you need, you start calling in other people or if it's a big enough fire to begin with, that stuff is coming automatically. It can be done with the people that you have on your engine, it's your area. This is station six, zone six, this is your area to take care of. You do all of the inspections here, you do all the medical aids, all the firefighting, and you get resources in to help you, of course, but it's your area.

**Michelle Peterson:** So what's the difference between the captain and the chief battalion?

**Greg Moore:** Well, the battalion chief, if it requires more than one engine to do it, or anything the battalion chief wants to respond on, he can. But the battalion chief will come in and take command of the whole emergency. He'll start running it. If you have a structure fire and the captain and his engine company get there first, while they are starting to work up on that fire, you have the battalion chief and the other engine company coming in and then when the battalion chief gets on scene, he assumes command of the entire operation and starts calling in equipment from other jurisdictions. When it gets big enough, they start calling in other battalion chiefs and they become battalion chiefs that are working for him. When it gets, you know, big enough, then the chief would come in and he would take over.

**Michelle Peterson:** The fire gets big enough?

**Greg Moore:** Yeah. Or any emergency, it doesn't matter, hazmat or fire, these are all things that we never really dealt with much before, the hazardous materials weren't a big thing. In the old days when they used to dump something in the street, they used to hose it down. Now they have a whole hazmat cleanup, it's all picked up.

**Michelle Peterson:** Okay. So you guys are mostly involved with that? I thought there were hazmat teams.

**Greg Moore:** There are, but they are all fire personnel, yeah, they are all paid for by all the jurisdictions. Mill Valley has three hazmat techs, so if there is a hazmat spill in San Rafael, then they will respond. There is one hazmat tech on duty per day in Mill Valley, as in most jurisdictions, so whenever they have a big hazmat spill, they will respond and take the equipment that is needed and start working up the hazmat spill. So it's all, the fire department never says no, you know.

**Michelle Peterson:** Yeah, if it's an emergency, you are there.

**Greg Moore:** It's not only that. You know, do you want to do paramedic advanced life support? Yeah, we'll do it. Okay, now you have to figure out how you are going to pay for the ambulance, how you are going to get everybody trained. Do you want to do hazardous materials response? Yep, we'll do it. Then you have to get everybody trained, buy the equipment. You know what I mean, it just evolves into this huge thing where you are looking at it and watching your budget go up and try to figure out how to do it. I paid attention to it, when I was battalion chief, Mill Valley was under a director of police and fire for over 30 years. We had a fire chief and then back in I think 1978, he retired. His name was Chief Joe Regalia. When he retired, they decided instead of filling his position, they were just going to put the fire department under the police department and they changed the police chief, they changed him from police chief to director of police and fire. And it was like that for over 30 years until my boss, who was Bob Ritter, the director of police and fire. The city manager, Anne Montgomery, said you know what, the fire department and the police department, they are so complicated now, their workloads are so big now, we want to separate it again and have a separate police chief and separate fire chief. So they promoted me to fire chief and then Angel Bernal to police chief, we split it. So I was the first fire chief that they had had since 1978.

**Michelle Peterson:** Oh, how cool! What year was that?

**Greg Moore:** Well, 2009 was when I started as interim fire chief. The city manager Anne Montgomery had retired at the same time and they were in the process of looking for a new city manager. So they asked me if I'd take the job on an interim basis until a new city manager came in and then I could decide with him what I wanted to do, whether I wanted to stay. Because I wasn't ready to retire at that time. When the new city manager came along, he asked me if I'd stay and I told him I'd stay for six months. Then six months later, he said, can you stay for another six months and I said sure. They said can you stay till the end of the year and I finally said you know, I needed to retire.

**Michelle Peterson:** Yeah. How old were you when you retired? 61?

**Greg Moore:** I was, let's see, I was 62 when I retired.

**Michelle Peterson:** Yeah, that's not bad.

**Greg Moore:** I was 37 years in. I loved the job, but the fire chief's job, working a 40-hour week and doing staff reports.

**Michelle Peterson:** Yeah, you are probably not doing the fun stuff, not fighting the fires.

**Greg Moore:** Not anymore, no.

**Michelle Peterson:** Do you have any emergencies, I'm going to use emergencies now that I know you are doing a lot more than fighting fires, are there any emergencies that stick out over those 37 years that are you know, probably maybe the most memorable, any big fires that you remember?

**Greg Moore:** Yeah, a few. I think probably the biggest, outside of Mill Valley; I'd say going down to Southern California in 2003 was huge to me. I mean, we got dispatched to that fire as a strike team. Everything was burning so fast and it was getting so large so fast. We passed miles of fire heading towards the place that we were supposed to rendezvous. Normally when you pull into these places, you check in at a base, they make sure all your guys are there and you have to go check in and tell them who is there, what engines, all that. When we pulled into Southern California fires, we pulled into a CDF station down in Ventura County. We didn't even get out of our engines. A guy walked up and handed us a piece of paper with an address on it and said, go to this area that was in Simi Valley and just do whatever you can do. There was no camp set up, there was nothing. We went out there and just started fighting fire and protecting structure wherever we could. We'd protect a structure and move on to another structure. We just did that for three days without any help from anybody else. We were taking turns going into town and getting food and getting gasoline.

Usually when you are working these big fires, you work either a 12-hour shift or a 24-hour shift and then you are off and then you go in and fuel up and get fed and get your lunches and stuff for the next day. This wasn't like that, we were completely on our own for three days before they even sent anything out. We were bouncing from place to place to place. It was pretty amazing. As the days went on and they were getting a handle on it and started setting up fire camps, you know, then things got better. It was an amazing fire to be on, it was huge.

Another fire that I went on that I enjoyed was up, I went up as a strike team leader by myself to Oregon to work with the forest service. I'm used to working in California where everybody is wearing yellow, the equipment is the same, the type III wildland engines are all spec'ed the same, we are all trained the same way. When I worked with the forest service, I just went up as a single resource. When I got there I checked in. It was out there in this place called the Ochoco National Forest, it was way out in the middle of nowhere. They gave me a map and they said, we haven't gotten anybody to work for you yet, just familiarize yourself with the area and drive around and try to make a plan. I'm driving around, there are a lot of things burning. I've got a GPS so I'm putting waypoints in at all the intersections because there are no signs or anything. Then they started giving me equipment. Their equipment was — people that are contracted with the forest service, they would have a pickup truck with a pump chained in the back and it would say Montana Horse Training on the side. Normally I had five pieces of equipment. I had probably 15 of those types of pieces of equipment and then five water tenders or water tankers with them. Then that would be my group. Then I'd have hand crews, 20 people each. These hand crews were from all over the United States that came in. It was just completely different than what I was used to, completely different.

It was fun. I stayed up there for two weeks. It dwindled down to where the fire was out and then they had me doing rehab, putting burn piles together so that they could get ready for the



winter to put everything up when they were clearing the roads and stuff. It was an interesting fire. In Mill Valley, I'd say probably the things that stand out to me, I mean, we've had big fires, you know, we had Dowd's way back in the '90s or maybe late '80s. We had some big fires.

**Michelle Peterson:** What is that, Dowd's?

**Greg Moore:** Oh, Dowd's was this building right down the street where there was a foundation that burned down.

**Michelle Peterson:** Which street?

**Greg Moore:** On Throckmorton. On the right hand side of the road, there is a big empty space between two buildings. There used to be a Dowd's Moving Store there. That burned down years ago. We've had some big fires in Mill Valley but I think the ones that stand out the most for me are floods, the floods were huge in 2005. We just got creamed here.

**Michelle Peterson:** What happened?

**Greg Moore:** We had landslides, we lost a lot of roads, we had houses hit by landslides, just a lot of flooding, all of Sycamore flooded.

**Michelle Peterson:** Was it flooding from rain, was there a lot of rain?

**Greg Moore:** Yeah, huge amounts of rain. The water just backed up through the storm drains. We had a landslide up on Cascade Drive. When we got there, the water was coming down Cascade Drive and it was probably a foot deep. As we walked up, we found two cars stuffed underneath the bridge all jammed in. You are walking up there trying to figure out what's going on, you know. We get up there and start checking the houses up there. You can see where the slide had come down and got up the other bank, you can see the red mark 20 feet up the tree. Then it came down and took the cars out and took them down Cascade and stuffed them in this little creek and that's why the water was overflowing. You finally just put it all together. But the floods were big. And I think probably the biggest one for me was on Bolsa Avenue. We had a slide on Bolsa Avenue where a gentleman named Walter Guthrie was, his house was built over a drainage and there was a culvert that went under his house and that — there had been a slide there a few days before up above up on Hillside Avenue. It had slid part way down. He was outside on a heavy rainy night cleaning that culvert and the slide came down and smashed up against the back of his house and buried him. We spent 24 hours trying to rescue him and then it became a recovery. It was a big deal for a few days. We got the body recovered.

**Michelle Peterson:** How'd you find out that that happened, that he had been buried?

**Greg Moore:** The thing that happened was the, he had gone outside and his wife had been on the back deck. They had called the fire department for assistance and the fire department was on their way up there to help them. They got jammed up between two parked cars. When the house got hit, the trees and everything came to the house so she ran out and we met her out, the engine company met her outside. That's how we ended up coming. Originally it was to assist him and

had they not been stopped by traffic, they would have been out there assisting him and probably would have been there with him. I mean, it was a real dangerous situation.

**Michelle Peterson:** How does that work? I mean, there's cars parked on those narrow roads like that all the time. Is that against the law, do you go door to door asking people to move their cars?

**Greg Moore:** That's why we came up with this designated parking. For the most part of the city, if you are not parked inside one of those white parking areas or you don't have eleven feet of clearance, you can get ticketed or towed. So the police and fire, everybody carries ticket books. I've given out a lot of tickets to people who were outside of those. In fact, I gave a ticket to one guy that was parked at the entrance of a fire road for three days in a row. I was working a vegetation management project and every time I drove up there, his car was parked there so I gave him a ticket.

**Michelle Peterson:** The ticket was gone and you just replaced it with a new one?

**Greg Moore:** He finally got a hold of me and said what's going on, I've been hiking here for years. I explained to him the whole thing. He says, "How many of these tickets are you going to give me?" I said, "I can keep giving them or I'll have your car towed, what would you rather have?"

**Michelle Peterson:** Until you stop parking there buddy [laughs].

**Greg Moore:** It was just funny that there's, you know, some people that had been doing things for years and the changes in the city are that you can't park where you want to.

**Michelle Peterson:** No, you can't. Some people are just oblivious, but there are some unique challenges for the fire department in Mill Valley with those streets.

**Greg Moore:** There are. It's the only way we can get the engines down. When I say 11 feet clearance, I mean, the engines are always eight feet wide, so 11 feet if you are going in a straight line is great, but it depends where the car is parking, if it parked on the edge of the road, whether it's not enough to support the engine. The city has really changed in respect of being prepared. The grand jury recognized us in 2010 as an example to be set for the rest of the county because we have an emergency preparedness committee, we had get ready classes, we have people that — our emergency preparedness committee is just fantastic. We have a special courtroom for people that just are so involved in this city that, you know, there are many of them, we have Maggie Lang that has done so much to promote public safety in this city, it's unbelievable. Tiana Wimmer has been head of, I don't think she is now, but was head of the emergency preparedness committee for quite a while. She has done a great job. These people are passionate about what they do. Victoria Talkington who I mentioned before, the steps, lanes, and paths. It's those people in the city that just really —

**Michelle Peterson:** They make things happen.

**Greg Moore:** They do. They just do, you know. We couldn't do it without them.

**Michelle Peterson:** I see your sign over Blithedale all the time, the sign about clearing your property and the fire safety, it's a good spot to have it.

**Greg Moore:** Yeah, "do it or fire does it for you". You know, I find myself really lucky that I could work here for 37 years and never have a major wildland fires in the city.

**Michelle Peterson:** Yeah, absolutely.

**Greg Moore:** A lot of that goes to the person who is chief now, his name is Jeff Davidson. He had been a prevention officer before he became chief for quite a few years, he's done a lot of the things most people don't pay attention to, but the building ordinances, the construction ordinances, the sprinkler systems, the fire safe roofing, you know, he has put a lot of that stuff together. Those are all the behind the scenes things that when people go to build a house they just can't stand it. I mean, it just costs them so much more money and they can't understand why they have to do it and the guy next door to them doesn't. It's just, that's what, you don't see the changes when you just drive down the streets because you are used to it, but if you drove down Cascade Drive ten years ago or fifteen years ago, it was like a tunnel. Now you can actually see the sky in some places.

**Michelle Peterson:** Oh, because of the tree coverage.

**Greg Moore:** Yeah, because of cutting the trees. We moved so many trees and trimmed so many trees. It took a while for people to get used to just how much we were pulling out. We've taken out hundreds of tons of vegetation in this town. When we did it, a lot of people were upset about it, but by the next spring, you couldn't see the trunk and everything was grown, it looked fine. But now two cars can pass at the same time where they couldn't pass before. Everybody is involved with it. Interesting dynamic. A little town like Mill Valley but the infrastructure to improving the water system and cutting the vegetation and not allowing wood shingles, just all the things you need to do to keep the town safe, a lot of people don't really understand that.

**Michelle Peterson:** You don't allow wood shingles, huh?

**Greg Moore:** Well, on roofs.

**Michelle Peterson:** Okay, on roofs.

**Greg Moore:** In this town, to put wood shingles on the side of your house and on the top of your house, I mean, I can't imagine why anybody would want to do that because the house won't be there when you come back [laughs]. It's just something to think about. They make so many composites now that look that wood shingles but are made out of cement and things like that. There's just no reason to put cedar siding on the side of a house or on a roof anymore. They don't even allow it in Mill Valley. I hope you don't have that on your house!

**Michelle Peterson:** I don't, nope [laughs]. No, but there are a lot of them.

**Greg Moore:** Yeah, everywhere. The way the ordinances are built, if you try to replace your roof, you can't replace it with a shingle roof. If you add an addition onto your house and what you are adding on is equal to or above 50 percent of your existing square footage, then you have to put a sprinkler system in your house. Those are the types of things where eventually these will be built out and then it will be much safer, but it's going to take years to do that.

**Michelle Peterson:** Okay. Is there anything else that you can think of? You said hazmat, what kinds of hazmat emergencies have we had?

**Greg Moore:** We haven't had anything major in Mill Valley.

**Michelle Peterson:** That's good.

**Greg Moore:** Most of the stuff has been on the freeways, in other jurisdictions. We've definitely lost, you know, a few chlorine bottles off the backs of trucks and things like that, but nothing big. We have the potential for things down at the sewer treatment plant. We have the potential for things coming down the freeway. Luckily a lot of that stuff isn't allowed across the Golden Gate Bridge so we don't get a lot of it here. You know, there are hazardous materials in nurseries, ammonium nitrate fertilizer, gas stations have fuels, there is a potential for hazmat everywhere. The potential besides life safety is nature. There are lots of people that still, I can't tell you how many times I've gone out and found people washing paint brushes in the gutter on the sidewalk and it goes down to the creek, those are all hazardous. Those are all the things —

**Michelle Peterson:** So it sounds like that's rare. What would you say would be your typical day, we'll go with when you were captain, your favorite time, what was your typical 24-hour shift?

**Greg Moore:** A typical 24-hour shift was, you get there in the morning, check your equipment, then you work out. We usually have an hour to work out. That varies depending on what day it is, what you have going that day. You'd be ready to hit the street by 10 o'clock in the morning and at 10 o'clock, you are either going to be doing business inspections or home inspections if people have asked, but mostly we have a lot of businesses to inspect.

Then the afternoons are usually training of some sort, either engine company training or a lot of emergency medical technician, a lot of medical training, now that's huge. That would be a typical day as just a single engine company. You meet with that engine company. Now our volunteer program, it's funny because our volunteer program went from us responding to fires from our homes to being just mostly a social program because it was becoming such a highly trained program, the volunteers needed certifications. It wasn't like the old days where everybody would just respond from their homes that weren't firefighters. You couldn't do that anymore. Now they've started a new volunteer program where they are doing joint training with all the other departments, joint academies where they put people through academies from five different departments. They will all get together from one academy. Our volunteers now actually spend shifts here now like we used to do in the old days, you know, and work with the firefighters on the engine company. They actually augment the engine company. So it's changed back to that kind of the way it used to be in a respect.

That's a typical life in the day of a fireman just about anywhere. At the end of the day, usually five or six o'clock at night, you are on your own. It's your house. You go shopping, grocery shop and get your dinner and go back and cook. Most guys are studying at night. I know a lot of people think the firemen sit around and watch TV, but most of them are working through some sort of certification where they just don't have time to sit around and watch TV, they are working, all the paramedics are constantly trying to keep up their protocols, they are going through their probation.

**Michelle Peterson:** If it makes you feel better, I didn't think that [laughs]. I always saw you guys working out. I see them when I walk by the fire station working out in the gym.

**Greg Moore:** It's funny, there's a picture floating around that shows a big fat fireman standing next to his engine. It's, you are looking at it, I think the question is, what's the most important piece of equipment here? It's you, you have to take care of yourself.

**Michelle Peterson:** Yeah, it's a tough job, you have to be very active.

**Greg Moore:** You do. It's very hard to institute that type of training as a mandatory process because there are just too many things against it, but most of the people on the fire service nowadays don't smoke, don't eat a lot of red meat, don't do what the common firemen—I think, people think they cook these big huge meals and stuff and they do, don't get me wrong, but I guarantee, those meals are a lot more healthy than they used to be. They are not sitting down to these big monster meat meals and stuff.

**Michelle Peterson:** Okay. So you weren't out rescuing cats from trees?

**Greg Moore:** Nope, never allowed that. We always used to say, have you ever seen a cat skeleton in a tree. If we really thought there was an issue, we'd get there. We've done many animal rescues.

**Michelle Peterson:** Have you?

**Greg Moore:** But cats in trees, not normally. We've done dogs in basements at Tam High School, we've down ducks in culverts. They fall, the mom and all the babies falling down in a culvert. Cats in between walls, we've done that.

**Michelle Peterson:** Any of the big scary wildlife? Coyotes or mountain lions? Don't have to deal with that?

**Greg Moore:** No, no problems with those. Clint was one of our coyotes who hung around the main station, he has a collar on and we named him Clint. He was always cruising around out there and walking amongst the dogs. Most people didn't realize what they were looking at. He went from being behind the station to the railroad right up into the hills. He was back and forth all the time. No, those are really the significant fires I can think of. Bolsa was the last one.

**Michelle Peterson:** We can probably kind of wrap up, is there anything else that you want to talk about as far Mill Valley?

**Greg Moore:** I don't think so.

**Michelle Peterson:** I'll wrap it up with one question. What do you think, what lessons has your work life taught you, the fire department taught you, life lessons?

**Greg Moore:** [Laughs] Oh, I think it's taught me to be flexible, you know, to not be concrete on everything. That includes my decisions on emergencies to decisions with employees, you know. I think always listen is huge. I used to make the mistake of formulating my answer to somebody's comments while they were talking to me and it took me a long time but now I absolutely listen to what they are saying first before I start answering. I think being flexible and listening are two of the main things that helped through my life outside of the fire department too, you know, family.

**Michelle Peterson:** Yeah, that's good advice. Alright, well thanks Greg, you did a good job!