Mill Valley Oral History Program

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CAROL WILSON

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In this oral history, Mill Valley native and fifth-generation Californian Carol Wilson recounts her life in Mill Valley and her family's history in Marin. Carol tells the story of her great-grandfather who bought land in Larkspur around 1850, and of her maternal grandparents who moved to Mill Valley as refugees from San Francisco after the 1906 earthquake. Born in 1931, Carol was baptized at Mount Carmel, attended Park School and Tamalpais High School, and then continued on to College of Marin and U.C. Berkeley. She describes the terrifying air raid drills at Park School during World War II, and the wonderful time she had at Tam High, where she wrote for the student newspaper. Carol nostalgically recalls the Mill Valley of her youth, which had "everything, everything": grocery, clothing, and hardware stores, pharmacies, bakeries, lunch counters, dime stores, gas stations, a movie theater, and much else besides. She recounts the enthusiasm for golf she developed as a teenager and which continued unabated at the time this oral history interview was conducted. And she discusses her deceased husband Frank Wilson, the three children they raised together, and her several grandchildren.

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Oral History of Carol Wilson September 12th and 23rd, 2013

Editor's note: This transcript has been reviewed by Carol Wilson, who made minor corrections and clarifications.

Stella Perone: This is Stella Perone interviewing Carol Wilson on the morning of

September 12th.

Carol Wilson: Hi Stella, good to be with you.

Stella Perone: Please, go ahead and —

Carol Wilson: Okay, I'll tell you just a bit. I was born in October, 1931. I was born in San Francisco even though my mother and dad lived in Mill Valley. My mother actually had to take the ferry to the doctor who was at St. Francis Hospital. She went early and stayed with an aunt who lived in the city so that she wouldn't have that on the train and ferry. I am a fifth-generation Californian. I go back to an ancestor was born in San Diego in 17-something; I'll dig that up. I was born before the Golden Gate Bridge was built. My mother was Alice Bickerstaff Cavali and she was born in San Francisco. My dad was Hugh Cavali. He was born in Olema. My brother Glen was also born in the city, same hospital.

We lived at the family home at 11 Hill Street in Mill Valley. The schools I went to — I went from K through 8 to Park School. My mother went to Park School also. Then I went to Tamalpais High School; my mother went there also, as did my three children. Then I went to College of Marin and transferred to U.C. Berkeley after two years. I was going to talk about Mill Valley in my youth, things I remember about old Mill Valley. The Northwestern Pacific train came into town from Sausalito. Actually, my dad took the train and then ferry to San Francisco where he worked. Mill Valley had everything, everything. Grocery stores, department store, hardware stores, pharmacies. Let's see, the department store was Albert's Department Store. It later became Mayer's. They had everything from bedding, glasses, clothing, menswear, women's wear, everything.

Stella Perone: Where was it?

Carol Wilson: It was right at the corner of Miller and Throckmorton where there is a coffee shop now. It later became Mayer's Department Store, I think it was the same family that owned it. Let's see now — grocery stores, Mill Valley Market, of course, was there. Safeway came into Mill Valley, I understand, in 1931. There were small grocery stores. There was a small grocery store up Throckmorton across the street from the Old Mill Park. There was a grocery store and meat market down in the Locust district. I remember my mother going there to buy meat — it was Lindsey's meat, I'm trying to think of the store's name. They had produce there also.

Stella Perone: When you said Locust district, can you be more specific?

Carol Wilson: Well, down Miller, near Locust Avenue, I'm trying to think, across the street from the 2am Club, everybody knows the 2am Club.

Stella Perone: So on Miller?

Carol Wilson: On Miller, across the street from the 2am Club.

Stella Perone: Okay, got it.

Carol Wilson: I remember going there with my mother shopping.

Stella Perone: Do you remember the Homestead grocery store that was a block down from the 2am Club?

Carol Wilson: I vaguely remember it. I don't think we ever went there; my mother didn't go there. We had plenty of different grocery stores. There were hardware stores — there were two hardware stores. Tamalpais Hardware was owned by Mr. Dukes and Ralph Tieman.

Stella Perone: Where was that?

Carol Wilson: That was down on Miller — it was, let's see, across from the lot there, the park there, down on Miller, down from the — is that the Wells Fargo? — yeah, right down south from the Wells Fargo. Then there was the other hardware store, Varney's Hardware. That was general hardware, Varney's Hardware. It was down from the Sequoia theater. That was there for many years. We had three pharmacies in town, three pharmacies. Lawson and Dyer and Rutherford pharmacy; maybe it was just two pharmacies. Bakeries, sweet shops or lunching places. Two dime stores, I remember there was a dime store up on Throckmorton, up where the Sweetwater used to be, facing that — I'm not sure. Anyway, the other dime store was just across from the Outdoor Club. One was Bennett's; I can't remember which. And lots of gas stations. There was a gas station on almost every corner, I mean, there were many gas stations. We even had a car agency, there was a Ford car agency on East Blithedale right now by the general services stationary store there, right next to it. In fact, there's a little deli there, that's where the Ford agency was. Oh, there was a grocery store there too, next to — there's now a furniture store and that was — that could have been Mill Valley Market — no it wasn't. Anyway, it was a market there and they had a fine butcher department in there. Memories come back. Then down on Miller, we always called it the Quonset Hut. It's there now and it is Whole Foods. That was there, I guess I was more of a teenager, but they had a fine meat market in there also. Okay let's see now. As I said, I'm sure there was a car agency down on Miller but I don't recall right now.

We had jewelers. We had doctors in town. I remember three doctors. There was a Dr. Fowler, Dr. Landrock, and I think the Goddards — there were two Goddards, they were

brothers. They had an office on East Blithedale — let me think — probably near Hill Street, East Blithedale and Hill, south of that. Our Lady of Mount Carmel, when I was very young, was at the corner of Buena Vista and West Blithedale. It was a very small, I thought, charming church. They had two big palm trees, I remember those out in front. I was baptized at Our Lady of Mount Carmel; I'm not sure what priest was there then. I also remember the Sequoia theater — oh my gosh, my grandmother used to take me to movies when I was little, to Sequoia. She would take me to scary movies, I remember. Old Mill School was there for the students north of town. I went to Park, I lived on Hill Street, that was sort of considered south of town. At Park, I went to K through 8. Did I say that? I think I did. It was a wonderful school. I do remember my kindergarten teacher was Ms. Olney. The principal was Edna Maguire. As I said, I went from kindergarten. In fact, I still have some friends today that I went from the fourth grade on with, still around.

Stella Perone: Who are they?

Carol Wilson: There was Pat Kavanagh, she is now Pat Kavanagh-Fuller and she lives in Petaluma. Another one, oh, Stanley Aitchison was in my kindergarten class, and I just read last week that Stanley died.

Stella Perone: Was he living in Mill Valley?

Carol Wilson: He was in Mill Valley. He lived on Buena Vista.

Stella Perone: Who else from your grammar school is still around living in Mill

Valley?

Carol Wilson: Oh, living in Mill Valley, nobody, but I have friends. When I went to Tamalpais High — I'm just skipping around here — I had friends from all over: Fairfax, Sausalito, San Anselmo, Belvedere, Tiburon. Tamalpais High School had all the students, all the high school-aged children went to Tamalpais High School in Marin County except for Tomales. It was the only high school except for San Rafael High School. The students that lived in San Rafael went to San Rafael High School. We had a bus system that picked up kids from all over the county. So I had friends therefore from many towns around, not only just Mill Valley, but good friends from all over. So that was really nice, it was great, we were a very democratic school, we felt.

Stella Perone: Can I ask you a question?

Carol Wilson: Sure.

Stella Perone: If you had a friend from San Anselmo, a high school friend, and you wanted to visit them on a weekend, you took the train?

Carol Wilson: The train wasn't going then.

Stella Perone: Oh okay, so you took the bus?

Carol Wilson: It was the bus system, Greyhound bus, transfer at Marin City.

Stella Perone: So you'd have to go to Marin City if you wanted to go to San Anselmo.

Carol Wilson: Yeah, Marin City was the hub.

Stella Perone: What was Marin City like, then?

Carol Wilson: Well, Marin City was developed during the wartime years for the shipyard, Marinship. They built those temporary houses and people from Midwestern states — Oklahoma — came to Marin County. Before that, I don't think we had any negroes living in Marin County, or maybe so, but then I didn't know about it. They came and lived in what was supposed to be temporary housing built for the ship workers. They stayed. It was a great influx of people. Let's see, I started high school in 1945. The war started in, I think, it was '41, mostly in '42; then they built the Marinship. It was going 24 hours a day and many people worked there.

Stella Perone: What was in Marin City before?

Carol Wilson: I think it was a ranch.

Stella Perone: Okay, so did the bus hub just come to Marin City after all the housing?

Carol Wilson: I guess after the railroad, the train left, after the Golden Gate Bridge was built, they disbanded the train, the train from Mill Valley to Sausalito, and they put in the Greyhound bus service. They had the commuter bus in the morning that went from Mill Valley to San Francisco, but midday, you had to go to Marin City and transfer for San Francisco or any place other San Anselmo or whatever. They had the bus system. They had the train system going all the way up to, well, I know to Manor. In fact, I just talked to someone who said, "I took the train to high school." I was really amazed. She is older than I am, she lived in San Anselmo, I believe, and she took the train to high school. So it must have been around '42 when they got the Greyhound bus system in. It'd be something you'd have to look up. And they disbanded the train.

What else was there — okay, I went to Park School, and as I said before; my mother went there also. It was a wonderful school, I just loved it. Oh, I did mention the teachers that I remember, a few of them. Oh, Mr. Teasel was our principal, I remember that. We did lots of things. I do remember having a tennis tournament at the courts across the street from the Park School. Oh, we had plays. I do remember the dances we had. Mrs. Kavanagh and Mrs. Ederston hosted, they were the chaperones, at dances we had when I was at Park School, at the Old Mill School. We went to Friday night dances and they played records.

Stella Perone: Was this just eighth graders?

Carol Wilson: No, I guess it was open to anyone, but mostly eighth graders. Those were fun, we really had fun. Let's see, I'm struggling —

Stella Perone: Classes, how many classes were there? Like how many eighth grade classes?

Carol Wilson: There were two, I think there were two, high and low. One, say high first grade would start in September, and low first grade would start just after the first of the year. So there were two, all the way through, high first and high second.

Stella Perone: How was it determined who got into the high or the low?

Carol Wilson: Age, birthday, yeah — I'm drawing a blank.

Stella Perone: Did you have a victory garden there?

Carol Wilson: Oh, right, that was one of the things we had in grammar school. During the war, they promoted children to start a garden, a vegetable garden. It was on East Blithedale by Lawson and Dyer, by Sycamore, the cross street of Sycamore and East Blithedale. They had hoses for us and we had to till the soil and plant our seeds and then water. Every day we would go up to water — maybe every other day — to water our garden. Even then I was not a very good gardener. I remember I planted carrots and I didn't have a lot of success. But we had fun as children doing that.

The other thing I remember at Park was [that] we would have an hour of listening to classical music, which was very interesting. I can barely remember that. We would have this classical music hour, they would pipe it over the loudspeaker. Also, I do remember during the wartime, we had drills, air raid drills. We would have to line up and go down into the basement of Park School. I remember I was always terrified and thinking, "Oh no, are we going to be bombed?" And during that time — and this is aside from Park School — my dad was a warden. I remember he had certain nights that he went up to the Headlands and looked for enemy planes.

Stella Perone: What do you mean he was a warden?

Carol Wilson: An air raid warden.

Stella Perone: That was a civilian job?

Carol Wilson: Oh yeah, it was a voluntary job. It was actually very frightening. This is when I was in high school because I didn't go to high school until '45, but still there was the threat. Now I have to backtrack. I guess this is more when I was at Park School, because the war started in '41, '42, and that's when he did it. So high school, I had a wonderful time. I loved high school. My friends were from all over the county, as I said. Tamalpais was such a wonderful school. There were so many opportunities there. They had the art classes, the leather classes; I remember being in the leather class. They had a

print shop, they printed our Tamalpais High School newspaper. I have forgotten the name, but we had a newspaper every Friday. I was a reporter, I took journalism and I was a reporter, I reported on local things that happened around the school. There was sports in there, and very interesting articles.

Stella Perone: Were there any girls' sports teams?

Carol Wilson: There was GAA¹, they had their team — it was just within the school, I think it was. I was always interested in golf. At that point, my family had moved from 11 Hill to Montecita which is now Del Casa Drive. They built a house — I was in the first or second grade at Park School — and they built a house. It was at 137 Montecita. We were really out away from other houses on this one little street that we lived on which connected to Del Casa; there were three houses.

So I had to walk everywhere. I walked to Park School, walked to, I guess, Blithedale to pick up the bus to Tam High. But my mother and dad and brother got interested — we would take walks after dinner, we would walk to the golf course, which was very close down the road, and then up to the ninth hole there; and we would walk in the evenings after dinner. Then we found some golf balls and then got some golf clubs and would swing those, and then my mother and dad took up golf. I took up golf, they gave me lessons when I was 13. So I was more interested in golf than I was in any other sport. I would come home from high school, take the bus home with my girlfriends who went up to the bakery after school and sat and chatted and had sodas and whatever. But I would leave them and go home and I'd change my clothes, get my golf clubs, and head for the golf course, where I played every afternoon, played with the guys. I always had fun. I started golf when I was 13 and I just loved it. I'm still playing, believe it or not, still playing. In fact, I'm going to be in a tournament tomorrow. But that was so good for me, all of the walking. If I wanted to go into downtown Mill Valley, I had to walk. My folks made me walk everywhere within reason. That attributes to my good health today, it was all that walking that I did.

So what else can we talk about now? Okay, I'll talk about my mother and dad. My mother was Alice Bickerstaff, she became Cavali. She moved to Mill Valley with the family — grandfather Joseph Bickerstaff and his wife Minnie, my grandmother Minnie Bickerstaff — they moved to Mill Valley in 1906 after the earthquake. They were living in San Francisco and after the San Francisco earthquake, they came to Mill Valley with the family. There were seven brothers and sisters. Initially, they set up a tent in West Blithedale.

Stella Perone: Can I ask you why they left? Did their house in San Francisco get destroyed in the earthquake?

Carol Wilson: You know, I don't know. So they set up a tent and lived in a tent for some time along with many other people did the same thing. They had to, there was no housing. They eventually built a house at 11 Hill Street, which was the family house

¹ Most likely referring to Gaelic Athletic Association in Northern California.—Ed.

where my mother lived with various aunts. My mother was the youngest of seven children, so by the time she came along, three other aunts were out of the house married. So she lived there with, I guess, my Aunt Francis and her brothers, I'm kind of vague on that. So she grew up in Mill Valley and as I said she went to Park Elementary and then Tamalpais High School.

My dad, Hugh Cavali, lived in Mill Valley. My grandmother was Maude Cavali, and Joseph Cavali was my grandfather. My grandfather, Joseph Cavali, worked in Mill Valley, I'm not sure where. I thought at first it was a hotel, but I looked it up and I couldn't find any reference to that hotel, but he worked in Mill Valley. They built a home — I think they were there during the earthquake — they built a home at 91 East Blithedale, which is still there today. So my dad grew up there. I don't have any knowledge of where my dad went to school, except grammar school. I know he went to school in San Francisco. He went to Conress, which is no longer there, but he had to take the train and ferry to go to school in San Francisco. I don't know why he went there, but that is what he did. Let's see, I'll talk about my grandparents later, that's a whole different subject.

Stella Perone: So if your mother grew up at 11 Hill Street — that's where you grew up too, so she inherited the family home?

Carol Wilson: Well, it was still a family home; the uncle, I think he owned it.

Stella Perone: Doesn't matter who owned it, but, yeah, that's what she got to raise her family in?

Carol Wilson: No, actually, my mother and dad married and they lived at 11 Hill, which was the family home, I don't know what the arrangement was, and my aunt lived there also. In 19 — let's say, '37, I'm guessing, I think I was around six or seven years old, they built a house by the golf course.

Stella Perone: By Montecita that you talked about.

Carol Wilson: 137 Montecita.

Stella Perone: So when you were born, you lived there with your parents and your

aunt.

Carol Wilson: And my brother, yes.

Stella Perone: How long did 11 Hill stay in the family?

Carol Wilson: That I honestly don't know.

Stella Perone: Don't remember, okay.

Carol Wilson: My aunt married and she moved out. I don't have any recollection of that. But I do remember living at that house. We had a little cottage in back. And my grandfather — he lived in Muir Woods, I'll go into that later.

Stella Perone: You lived in Muir Woods?

Carol Wilson: No, my grandfather did. He would come into Mill Valley and stay at that house when he came into town to buy groceries or whatever. But that's a whole other faction, Muir Woods, that's very big in the family — you don't want me to go on that one right now. I do remember living at 11 Hill and we had a well in the backyard that was covered in boards. I was always cautioned, "Don't know near that well." That's one of the memories I have.

Stella Perone: You got your drinking water from there?

Carol Wilson: No, it was not in use. It had been in use. I remember the basement very thoroughly, very completely. Then we moved to — I'm kind of rambling here —over to by the golf course. I'm kind of losing it here. Okay, after I graduated from Tamalpais High School in 1949 — no, 1945, I went on to Tamalpais High School.

Stella Perone: You went on to College of Marin.

Carol Wilson: College of Marin, I'm sorry. I went with friends; I got rides with friends. We would meet down, I'd meet them down on East Blithedale to get a ride to school. Dave Coleman was one of the drivers and Joe Morello, whose father owned the Mill Valley Market, and other friends would take us to College of Marin. I loved the College of Marin, I went there for two years. I met my husband, Frank Wilson, whose name was Francois Wilson, I met him at College of Marin. We went out, we dated a bit. Then after the College of Marin, he went to the University of Oregon, graduated, and then went into the Marine Corps. I'll tell you a little about Frank. He was the first lieutenant and he served in Japan, various places, but I think Japan was his last post. Then he got out of the Marine Corps, and he came home. Everyone was gone except Carol Cavali, so he looked me up. I was living in the city with Pat Kavanagh, my friend from fourth grade, and two other girls, and I was working for Bechtel Corporation. We started going out again after years of not seeing each other. We were married in 1957. I didn't say much about College of Marin.

Stella Perone: That's okay.

Carol Wilson: We were married. When I was married Our Lady of Mount Carmel had just built the new school next to it on Buena Vista. The old church was there but they were not using it, and I did not want to be married in an auditorium with folding chairs, so we got permission to be married at St. Hilary's. The priest who was stationed at Mill Valley was Father Lucid. I believe it was Father O'Brian was the priest in charge of the church. So we were married at St. Hilary's and we had our reception at the Outdoor Art

Club. Oh, it was great. I remember it poured buckets. This was February 22nd. It was a bad omen, but it wasn't really, because we had a lovely marriage, I have to say.

Stella Perone: Did Frank die?

Carol Wilson: Frank died in 2008, sadly. So Frank and I had three children. My daughter was born in 1958, Anne-Marie Wilson, she still goes by that name. She lives in Ukiah. She is a second grade school teacher. She has been a school teacher for quite some time. She has a daughter, Aimée Rose Johnson, who is a beautiful young girl. Aimée right now is going to Hampshire College at Amherst. She just started her second year at Amherst, Hampshire College at Amherst. My son, Alan Joseph Wilson, he was born in '61, no, '60. He lives in San Diego. He has one son, Nicholas Joseph Wilson. Nicholas is 14 years old now and he just started high school in San Diego in the Claremont area. Alan is a mechanical engineer and he has his own firm. My third child, Colin Hugh Wilson, he was born in 1961 at Marin General Hospital, as Alan was. He lives just outside of Boulder, Colorado, in Superior, Colorado. He and Debbie, my daughter-in-law, have two daughters: Sarah Michelle, who is 19 now — no, she is going to be 19 next month — and Natalie, who is 16. Natalie goes to high school near Superior and Sarah is starting Stanford next week as a freshmen. So we are quite proud of our grandchildren, they are all wonderful, they are all great. Okay, after Frank got out of the Marine Corps

Stella Perone: This is your husband?

Carol Wilson: My husband, yeah. He went to work for Industrial Indemnity insurance company where he was stationed in downtown San Francisco. Actually, just before we married, he was transferred to the Sacramento office, so when we were married, we moved to Sacramento; that's where Anne-Marie was born. Then we moved back to Mill Valley when he was transferred back to the San Francisco office of Industrial Indemnity. Industrial was eventually sold to Crum and Forster. Frank worked there until he was 57 years old, at which time he retired.

Stella Perone: What did he do for them?

Carol Wilson: Oh, he was inland marine manager. At the time he retired, Frank's mother and father, Joseph, I never did mention them, let's stop —

[September 12th interview ends here; September 23rd interview begins]

Stella Perone: This is Stella Perone with Carol Wilson on September 23rd. Good morning Carol, go ahead.

Carol Wilson: Well, I thought I'd tell you today, going back on my mother's side of the family, the maternal side of my family. I'm going to start with Jonathan Bickerstaff, who is my great-grandfather. He crossed the plains with a cavalry regiment after the Mexican war. Then he became a prospector and I guess he did pretty well.

Stella Perone: What kind of name is Bickerstaff?

Carol Wilson: It's English. Let's see. He was prospecting in Virginia City in Sacramento and he got enough money to send for his sweetheart Anna Murphy in Dublin, Ireland. I have no idea how he met her, I have no background on Jonathan. But he set for her and she came and they were married in Sacramento. Then Jonathan and his wife —

Stella Perone: Any idea what year they were married, roughly?

Carol Wilson: Well, it was after 1852 — or before, let me see. They purchased land in Larkspur, they purchased 160 acres of government land for a dollar and a quarter an acre. They had built a small frame house there on the property, which was in downtown Larkspur. They built a house there and became one of Marin's first families. The house was destroyed in a fire in 1852. Then Jonathan, who was a guard at San Quentin prison, built an adobe house in Larkspur with the help of prison labor. The house was built on a knoll that was said to be an ancient Indian shell mound. The family had four children: William, Josephine, Joseph, and Edmund. They were very prosperous. They had 50 head of dairy cows and 10 to 12 horses. Joseph, my grandfather, recalled his mother taking a 100 pound pat of butter to San Rafael in exchange for clothing and supplies. The land, as I said, had been purchased from the government for a dollar and a quarter an acre. Well, in 1871, after they had been on the land for almost 20 years, the heirs of John Reed claimed that that was part of their land grant that they had received. Let's see, they filed claim that that land should be theirs. In 1865, they started the suit in the US circuit court against squatters, they said, even though my great grandfather had purchased the land. Well, the case dragged on in the circuit court until, let's see when that was, I'm sorry, but it dragged on and finally a decision was made to grant the heirs a sum of \$1500 and the land. The people that lived on the land for 18 to 20 years had to get off the land.

Stella Perone: Sorry, can I interrupt you?

Carol Wilson: Yeah.

Stella Perone: The decision was to give the \$1,500 to the Reed family?

Carol Wilson: Well, that plus all the land.

Stella Perone: Okay, so the Reeds won the judgment.

Carol Wilson: They won the suit and the land that my great grandfather lived on, 160 acres that he thought he purchased, had to be turned over to them. So they lost all that, they lost everything on the land.

Stella Perone: How could that be, since he bought it from the government?

Carol Wilson: He did. But the Reeds claimed that the government didn't have the power to sell that land.

Stella Perone: Wow. And he couldn't get some reimbursement from the government?

Carol Wilson: No. They departed and had to leave everything behind. The names of the people who had owned that property — well, Jonathan also owned land in Redwood Valley, which is Muir Woods, outside of Redwood Valley. He had a small cabin. I don't know what happened to Jonathan after leaving the land in 1871, I think he had to leave the land. My grandfather, Joseph, Jonathan's son, was born in 1860 in Larkspur in the family home. Well, they owned this little cabin in Redwood Valley, Muir Woods. My grandfather, when he was older, he developed a refreshment stop called Joe's Place. It was right outside the entrance to Muir Woods. The building is still there today. He had a cabin and he was a trapper. He trapped bobcats and skunks and raccoons and he sold their skins, some of them, to Lebus's department store in San Francisco; I don't think it's there anymore. He got \$3 for a skunk skin and \$8 for a good raccoon skin. He had the distinction — I don't know if it's a distinction or not — of shooting the last black bear in Marin County. He shot that in Muir Woods.

After World War I, my grandfather Joseph, Jonathan's son, he built and operated Joe's place in Muir Woods. It was a popular place for hikers. It was a refreshment stand and dance hall. There are many pictures — not many — I have a picture of it. It was located just outside the entrance to the Muir Woods monument. It was popular for 40 years. He served hamburgers and hotdogs and coffee and made lemonade. I remember that my mother worked there as a child; I don't remember it, but I remember hearing that my mother worked there as a child and my aunts and uncles all worked there. They would have to hike over to Muir Woods and work. I remember as a child going to Joe's Place and seeing my grandfather there. He lived there. It would go on to Joseph, the son. Let's see. Okay, Joe's Place went out of business before 1940, I'm sure. The building is still there. It has been remodeled and probably enlarged. It is now part of the National Park Service, Muir Woods National Monument. They use that building as a maintenance building.