

Mill Valley Oral History Program

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BETSY ANDRESEN

**An Oral History Interview
Conducted by Carol Staiger on June 12, 2003**

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Betsy Andresen, nee Betsy Anne Brown, begins her oral history with the story of her parents meeting and recounts her family uprooting and sailing from Seattle to San Francisco in 1918, one year after her birth. Betsy describes a move in 1924 to San Anselmo, and fondly recalls how during the family's three-year stint in Marin they would take the electric train from San Anselmo's Lansdale Station to Sausalito, and then the ferry from Sausalito into "The City." The family moved back to San Francisco in 1927, and Betsy later graduated with an elementary teaching credential from San Francisco State College. Betty describes meeting her future husband, Bob Andresen, while he was at Hasting Law School. The two were married in 1940. After living in San Francisco, the Andresens moved to Seattle, where Bob was in Army Intelligence for the duration of World War II. They moved to Mill Valley after the war ended, finding a lot on Magee Avenue where they built a house. Betty describes the process of finding the builders and materials for the house, and then the work they themselves did on it. She also discusses their subsequent move to a house "in the flats," and later to another house in the Strawberry area. She recalls neighbors that lived around them in all three locations, and then goes on to discuss a busy life in Mill Valley with her husband and two children. Betsy became active in the PTA, Tennis Club, Outdoor Art Club (as president in 1977), Community Church and Rotary Auxiliary, and once again became a teacher. Finally, Betty discusses the changes she has seen over the years since she moved to Mill Valley in 1946.

Oral History of Betsy Andresen

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Oral History of Betsy Andresen
June 12, 2003

Carol Staiger: Today is June 12th, 2003, and I am at the home of Betsy and Bob Andresen at Villa Marin, the lovely retirement complex high in the hills overlooking Northgate Shopping Center in San Rafael, California. Good morning, Betsy. What is your full name?

Betsy Andresen: Betsy Anne Brown Andresen.

Carol Staiger: Before we get into Mill Valley matters, let's talk a few minutes about your parents and grandparents, where they were born and grew up and that sort of thing. So you talk about them.

Betsy Andresen: Well, my mother was Gertrude Macdonald Brown, Macdonald spelled with a little D. She was born St. Paul, Minnesota. Her father was Edward Macdonald, spelled with a little D. He was born in England, came over to Canada and then came down to Minnesota where my mother was born and eventually came out to Seattle with his daughters in about the late 1890s. My father, who was I. W. W. Brown, that means Isaac William White Brown. He was born in San Francisco in 1873. His father was I. W. W. Brown, the first. He was born in Marietta.

Carol Staiger: Marietta where?

Betsy Andresen: Marietta, Ohio. He came over from Marietta, Ohio, in 1850 with his father and some brothers. They came over the Isthmus of Nicaragua for the Gold Rush.

Carol Staiger: Now what age was he at that time?

Betsy Andresen: He was about 20. His brothers were twin brothers and they were about 21 or 22. My grandfather I. W. W. Brown stayed in California in San Francisco and was a grocer and he married Betsy Hallans and Betsy Hallans was from New Bedford, Massachusetts. Her parents came around the Horn with their little baby to make their name for themselves, to seek their fortune in San Francisco.

Carol Staiger: What year would that have been?

Betsy Andresen: That was about 1860, I'm not sure.

Carol Staiger: So during the Civil War days.

Betsy Andresen: Yeah. This young man was a carpenter and he thought he had something to offer in California, which he did.

Carol Staiger: Now, but you were not born in California. Where were you born?

Betsy Andresen: No, I was born in Seattle.

Carol Staiger: Tell us how your family got from San Francisco to Seattle.

Betsy Andresen: Well, my mother, as I said before, was brought to Seattle by her father and she was living up there.

Carol Staiger: But she was born in San Francisco.

Betsy Andresen: My mother was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, and that was in 1885. She was Gertrude Macdonald. She was the oldest of nine children. Her mother died when she was 18 and so she was not going to get married and have a big family. That was her, so she became a career woman and she worked for a food broker in Seattle and she was a very successful career woman.

With friends she took a trip in 1915 to the San Francisco Fair and to the San Diego Fair that was celebrating the opening of the Panama Pacific, of the Panama Canal. She attended the fair and when this party took a side trip or a tour, she went up to Mt. Tamalpais on the Crookedest Railroad in the World and then down in a gravity car. And I have some old pictures that I could show you. My father was I. W. W. Brown, Jr. and his vocation was in maritime shipping. He became a purser on the coastal ship, schooners they called them. He went up to Alaska and down to Mexico and had made a career of that. In 1915, he was a purser on the ship from San Francisco to San Diego from Seattle and he met Gertrude Macdonald who was introduced to him by a friend. He said, "Take care of Miss Macdonald."

After a brief courtship, they were married on March 7th, 1916, and Betsy Anne Brown, called Betty, was born on January 27th, 1917, in Seattle, Washington. After several months Betsy and Gertrude Macdonald Brown sailed to San Francisco, California. The story of a baby buggy nearly going off the deck due to the swells and waves entering the Golden Gate is part of our family history. They lived in a hotel on Bush Street and then a cottage in Oakland. Gertrude's sister Ruth Strickland and husband Art and son Dick lived there. Later Will Brown, I. W.W. and family moved to Glendale, California, and son Robert Wesley Brown was born on August 10th, 1918. The family moved to Seattle about 1919, '20. The family moved back to San Francisco and bought a little arts and crafts house out in the Parkside District of San Francisco.

Carol Staiger: Do you know the address of that?

Betsy Andresen: Yes, the address was 2457 31st Avenue. It was a small cottage, a cute little shingled cottage and it was the only house on the block at the time.

Carol Staiger: Is it still there?

Betsy Andresen: Uh-huh, it's still there but it has been remodeled and it looks like all the other houses. It's too bad. In 1917, the Twin Peaks Tunnel had been built and that was what caused the development out in Parkside. The house is located on 31st Avenue between Taraval and Ulloa streets. I. W. W. Brown's sister Alice Purdy lived under the hill because the street didn't go through. There were large sand dunes and her place had been established right after the earthquake and there was number of little settlements down under the hill as my mother used to say.

Carol Staiger: I don't understand what you mean by "under the hill."

Betsy Andresen: Well, under the hill, there was the hill of the sand.

Carol Staiger: Are you relating to the Twin Peaks, or out further?

Betsy Andresen: No, I'm relating to 31st Avenue. And the streets had all been laid out. Some of the streets weren't paved as yet and they weren't cut through, but there was a big hill where we lived. We lived on the top of the hill and then down beyond Ulloa the hill went down.

Carol Staiger: Oh, I see. That's was under the hill. I thought you meant under.

Betsy Andresen: And so my mother called it "under the hill."

Carol Staiger: I see. That was kind of misleading at first, I guess.

Betsy Andresen: And then we lived in Parkside until 1924 when we moved to Lansdale in Marin County. In 1924, we moved to Marin County as brother Bob was prone to asthma attacks because of the foggy weather. We moved in the fall to a Marin cottage in Lansdale and then to Knoll Avenue. It was a summer cottage and so we could live in it through the winter. It was pretty cold over there. Our neighbors were Roy Smith and his family, the grandpa and Shirley and two sons and a Scottish family on San Anselmo Avenue who were very dear to the two little new neighbors. Later in the summer we moved up to the hill above Lansdale at 55 Forest Avenue. Mother's friends were Mrs. Mergatroyd, who was famous in Marin County then, and the Mordakais and others whom I can't recall.

Carol Staiger: How old were you at this time?

Betsy Andresen: I was about 7.

Carol Staiger: So you went to school.

Betsy Andresen: I went to the Yolansdale School. That was between, half between Lansdale and Yolanda, so they called it Yolansdale School.

Carol Staiger: Is that still there?

Betsy Andresen: No, the school has been torn down. Then Primsley, who was in the Department of Health in Marin County, was one of my classmates. He since passed away. We all went to The City, San Francisco—"The City", with capital letters. We took the electric train at the Lansdale Station to Sausalito and took the ferry to San Francisco. My favorite stop was at Mill Valley at the Tamalpais High School. I longed to be a big kid going to Tam and later on in the '60s or '70s my children, Eric and Meg, were students there. Many ships, sailing ships, were anchored in Richardson Bay. I was led to believe they were left over from the Gold Rush in the 1850s but later I heard that they were part of the Alaska 15 Fleet. We returned to San Francisco

in 1927 to the fog. My father had changed his position and couldn't live in Marin anymore but we did return to Marin in the summers.

Carol Staiger: So in 1927, what school did you go to in San Francisco?

Betsy Andresen: I went to Parkside School.

Carol Staiger: Now where's that?

Betsy Andresen: Parkside's on 24th Avenue between Ulloa and Vincente.

Carol Staiger: Is it still there?

Betsy Andresen: The Parkside School building is still there as far as I remember. It is used for administration purposes. It was a very used school at the time having a small shop, cooking classes, sewing classes. It was from 1 to 8 and then the next year, I was the first class to enter and the first 1 to 8 class that graduated. And then the next year they opened a kindergarten and my brother was in the first kindergarten and then he graduated from Parkside. We went to the little community church there at 24th or 23rd Avenue on Ulloa and they were very kind people who were welcoming to little kids from the neighborhood. I think they were Seventh Day Adventists.

Carol Staiger: You mean this community was Seventh Day Adventists?

Betsy Andresen: Yes, I think it was. It's something I really don't know but I learned all my Bible studies, my Bible stories in that school. Then in 1934, I graduated from Polytechnic High School.

Carol Staiger: Now where is that?

Betsy Andresen: Polytechnic High School is in the Haight-Ashbury district nearby. Nearby Kezar Stadium.

Carol Staiger: And the Polytechnic, is that still there?

Betsy Andresen: Polytechnic has been torn down.

Carol Staiger: That sounds like that's your life.

Betsy Andresen: It's now a senior citizen complex. And it was near Kezar Stadium and Golden Gate Park and we were so close to the games all the time and could run in the park. Then in 1939 I graduated from San Francisco State College.

Carol Staiger: Now that is not where it is now so tell us where it was.

Betsy Andresen: San Francisco State was at Haight and Buchanan I think, near Market Street.

Carol Staiger: What is there now?

Betsy Andresen: It's right adjacent to the Mint.

Carol Staiger: Near the Mint. What's on those grounds now?

Betsy Andresen: I think it's an extension college.

Carol Staiger: Yeah, that's what I think so, too. Okay, so you never got out to the new campus. I mean it was long afterward.

Betsy Andresen: No, later on it was the new campus and I went to many theater productions and to reunions and all. And of course from 1930 to 1941 was what became the Great Depression and those were hard times.

Carol Staiger: Okay, now tell us about your meeting Bob. Well, first of all to get back to your college, what was your degree in?

Betsy Andresen: Oh, my degree was general elementary teaching credential with an A. B. degree. So during high school, maybe I should get back to that. Well, during high school I went hiking with Mrs. Smith who was a teacher at Poly High in natural science and we went in a group to Muir Woods and Big Lagoon in West Marin. We would meet at the Ferry Building by the florist shop and take the ferry and electric train to Mill Valley. The cars were packed with hikers. Regina Brimer was one in the group, too. Regina lives in Mill Valley. We walked up Throckmorton Street to the Old Mill and up the stairs to the top of the hill along the pipeline.

Carol Staiger: Now year are you talking about now?

Betsy Andresen: I'm talking about 1932, '32, '33, '34. Sometimes we went up to Mountain Home Inn and reached up there by more stairs and trails. Many of the trails are still there but I can't identify them anymore. Sometimes we'd drop down another way and we got to Muir Woods and Big Lagoon and on the way we could stop at a cafe. There was Jack's and Joe's and —

Carol Staiger: In Mill Valley.

Betsy Andresen: No, those were up on the hiking trails.

Carol Staiger: Say them again.

Betsy Andresen: There were Jack's or Joe's.

Carol Staiger: What was Jack's?

Betsy Andresen: Jack's was a little cafe where people stopped and bought coffee and hot dogs and —

Carol Staiger: And Joe's you say?

Betsy Andresen: Joe's, they were there.

Carol Staiger: I don't remember them.

Betsy Andresen: I vaguely remember them but there was always a group of rollicking hikers there. On the street from the Depot up Throckmorton, there were a lot of little kiosks that offered food and drink, little shacks built with boards and sort of improvised, and they sold hot dogs and popcorn on the way up. And there were little tree houses up in the redwoods. Some of the redwoods are still there. My friend, girlfriend in high school who I met in 1931 and I used to —

Carol Staiger: What's her name?

Betsy Andresen: Her name is Aubra Semsen and her name is an odd spelling. A-U-B-R-A Semsen, S-E-M-S-E-N. Her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Reimer, spelled R-E-I-M-E-R, were residents of Mill Valley. Mr. Reimer was a barber and I'm told his shop was about where the McDonald's Jewelry is located. I would come over and visit Aubra who was staying with her grandparents for the summer. What a happy time it was for me out of the fog, and we two little young girls who would go hiking through the paths, trails without a worry.

Carol Staiger: Yeah, things were nicer in those days.

Betsy Andresen: The hills were covered with wildflowers and squirrels and all sorts of little animals and we could identify many of the flowers. Of course having experience with Mr. Smith going before, it was quite enlightening.

Carol Staiger: Was there anything romantic between him and the girls?

Betsy Andresen: Oh, no. He brought his own family along and his daughters, although his daughter had her boyfriend and we used to snicker at the antics of the boyfriend and the daughter. The daughter and her "la-dee-da," we called him. In 1937, I met Bob Andresen, Robert Henry Andresen, who was a law student at Hastings College of the Law, which was down on Van Ness Avenue near the Civic Center. And he would come to visit me. It was a time they thought he was a student at San Francisco State because he was there so often. So as a date we'd go hiking in Marin, which we both loved. We both knew Marin from our past mutual experiences, his having been a Boy Scout, and so we enjoyed renewing and enlarging our knowledge of Marin and the outside world. Also it was a great place to be alone together.

Virginia Stolte, a transfer from Marin Junior College, entered San Francisco State in about 1933 and we became good friends. Virginia was about 5 foot 8 or 9 and I was 5 feet tall but we were still good friends and we had lots of good fun together at State. We became very good friends later on when we came over to live in Marin. She lived in Homestead Valley at the end of Montford. The present site is the Stolte Grove. She bought Daphne flowers, Daphne blossoms, from the sweet-smelling bushes for us to wear and enjoy and as I had never smelled Daphne before and was really intrigued. After a while small groups would be invited to Mill

Valley to Virginia's for picnicking and swimming. Swimming in the Homestead Creek, it was very cold.

Carol Staiger: Tell us about how you met Bob.

Betsy Andresen: Well, Bob and I had mutual friends, Bea Zisser, and Bea is Beatrice or B-E-A Z-I-S-S-E-R, and Bea Zisser was a musician and she used to come with her family to the Mountain Plays. In fact they participated in the Mountain Plays. That's just an aside. But Bea was Bob's neighbor's girlfriend, and she went to San Francisco State, and so Bob wanted a date to go to the St. Francis Hotel for a New Year's party. Bob at that time was going to San Mateo Junior College where Bea went, too. So he wanted a date to go to a New Year's Eve party with lobster and steak, and Bea said, "Well, I have a good friend that's a cute little redhead that would be just great for you." He calls me and I said, "Well, my mother won't let me go because I haven't met you." Imagine, I was 19 at the time. But anyway, so I said I couldn't, I wouldn't be able to go but I'd be happy to meet him sometime. So on January 7th he came and met me and we haven't been separated for 65 years.

Carol Staiger: Well, Bob was interested in talking about how you met but he never mentioned anything about the wedding itself so tell about the wedding.

Betsy Andresen: My wedding.

Carol Staiger: Where was it held?

Betsy Andresen: Well, my wedding was held at the St. Emydius Church.

Carol Staiger: The St. what?

Betsy Andresen: St. Emydius.

Carol Staiger: How do you spell that?

Betsy Andresen: Oh, I don't know. St. Emydius was a Catholic Church, the patron saint of earthquakes I understand. But it's E-U —

Carol Staiger: You don't have to go into —

Betsy Andresen: EU, EU, it has a Y in it.

Carol Staiger: And that's in San Francisco.

Betsy Andresen: That's in San Francisco.

Carol Staiger: In what area? On what street?

Betsy Andresen: Well, it's near the Ocean Avenue, it's off Ocean Avenue. I don't know the name. I've forgotten it's been so long.

Carol Staiger: It's not important.

Betsy Andresen: So anyway, I graduated from San Francisco State in 1939 and Bob graduated from Hastings in 1939 and I went to teach school in Tulare —

Carol Staiger: In Tulare County. Now you mentioned that and I thought how did you happen to go way down there?

Betsy Andresen: Well, that's where there was a job.

Carol Staiger: Okay, well, okay. And what grade did you teach?

Betsy Andresen: And I taught the 5th grade.

Carol Staiger: For a full year or —

Betsy Andresen: No, I taught it for a half a year.

Carol Staiger: One half a year. 'Cause I saw that in your notes and I thought, that's strange to go way down there.

Betsy Andresen: Well, jobs were hard to find.

Carol Staiger: They certainly were.

Betsy Andresen: We applied and that was the job.

Carol Staiger: And that was before you got married.

Betsy Andresen: That was before I got married.

Carol Staiger: Then you got married.

Betsy Andresen: No, well, first of all before we got married I taught school and then Bob studied for the Bar and he passed the Bar in December and then we decided we would get married in February. So then —

Carol Staiger: This was February of what?

Betsy Andresen: February 1940. And we got married and we lived in an apartment on the Great Highway in San Francisco at 2400 and it was a big apartment and it's still there.

Carol Staiger: Okay, we can go on.

Betsy Andresen: The building is still there and they said it was brought over from the Fair.

Carol Staiger: Which fair?

Betsy Andresen: The 1915 Fair and it's still there. It was a fun place to live for a young couple, and one morning, or afternoon, we went out and Tait's at the Beach was on fire.

Carol Staiger: What was on fire?

Betsy Andresen: Tait's at the Beach.

Carol Staiger: And what was Tait's?

Betsy Andresen: Tait's was an old house, a roadhouse.

Carol Staiger: A roadhouse.

Betsy Andresen: Um-hm, it was up overlooking the ocean.

Carol Staiger: By the Cliff House.

Betsy Andresen: No, it was down by where the Fleishhacker Pool is.

Carol Staiger: Oh, down in that neck of the woods.

Betsy Andresen: Close to Fleishhacker, in that area. For fun we'd go walking up and down the beach and down to Fleishhacker Zoo and I think it didn't cost anything to get into Fleishhacker Zoo at that time.

Carol Staiger: Okay, so you got married, so you lived there for a while and then how did you ever get to Mill Valley, Marin County?

Betsy Andresen: Well, then we wanted a better place. That was really raunchy and then we moved to the Richmond District on 36th Avenue and Fulton near the park. We were always living in unusual places, near parks or beaches and all. After that, we bought a house in Parkside on 2444 44th Avenue. It was built by a contractor, Mr. Costello, and we paid \$5,500 for it. And Mr. Costello was a relative of one of our Villa Marin residents, Barbara Costello.

Carol Staiger: And then I know pretty soon the war comes along.

Betsy Andresen: Then the war came and Bob decided he must enlist. He was not drafted but he enlisted because he thought it was very important. We had no children and he went, so then I went back to teaching. I did substitute teaching in San Francisco and I taught, I went all over the city teaching. I went to Chinatown, I went to North Beach, I went to way out in Butchertown out to Parkside, out to Richmond.

Carol Staiger: When you say Butchertown, lots of people don't know what you mean by Butchertown.

Betsy Andresen: Butchertown.

Carol Staiger: Is that Hunter's Point area now?

Betsy Andresen: Hunter's Point, yes.

Carol Staiger: But I mean it was called Butchertown then.

Betsy Andresen: Well, I'm not sure but it was way out.

Carol Staiger: It's just a word I'm not familiar with, Butchertown.

Betsy Andresen: Yeah, I think that's what it is. And I went to the Mission and I had lots of fun with the children because I was young and they all — that was a good time. And I didn't have to make an impression.

Carol Staiger: And then Bob told how he was based at the Presidio and pretty soon he was moved up to Seattle or somewhere.

Betsy Andresen: Yeah, Bob was in military intelligence, the Provost Marshall's department of intelligence, and he moved there up to Seattle and we lived in Seattle all through the war, three years.

Carol Staiger: And then after the war —

Betsy Andresen: Well, we lived in Seattle, we lived on Beach Drive, in West Beach Drive, 173 Beach Drive. That's another beautiful location. And we had a sailboat and all the time we were there, Bob was in civilian clothes, which was unusual.

Carol Staiger: End of the war, you came back.

Betsy Andresen: Then the war ended and in the meantime we had sold our house in San Francisco and we put our money in the bank and decided we would build a house when we would go to Marin when we came back. So we looked for lots. We went to Lansdale, which I knew, and then we went and we looked through lots in Ross and we were always coming back to Mill Valley and we decided, well, Mill Valley is the place. Mill Valley beckons us so we started looking more seriously in Mill Valley, and Will Falley was one of our real estate people.

Carol Staiger: What's the name?

Betsy Andresen: Will Falley. W-I —

Carol Staiger: I thought you said Mill Valley.

Betsy Andresen: No, Will. Will Falley. F-A-L-L-E-Y. They used to call him Will Falley of Mill Valley.

Carol Staiger: It rhymes, both of them rhyme so —

Betsy Andresen: And he was quite a character. Everybody knew Will Falley.

Carol Staiger: And he was the real estate agent that sold you the lot?

Betsy Andresen: No, he didn't sell us the lot but he was [unintelligible] Jack McCallum and his wife Thea McCallum, T-H-E-A, Thea McCallum. And they lived up on the road to Tamalpais I think and others that I can't recall. But the real estate was Will Falley's business so we looked and we couldn't find what we wanted but we were introduced to a man called Montey Motet, M-O-N-T-E-Y, Motet, M-O-T-E-T. Monet, M-O-N-E-T, and he had a piece of property. He and his wife Jane were speculating and they would buy a lot and build a house and build and sell it, and Montey's slogan was, "Get a lot on a hill and slice it off as flat as a pancake and build a house." Which became outlawed later on but anyway he had this property up on Magee and he had a large piece of property and a good-sized spot next door, next to it, so he offered us a 60-foot parcel of his lot running along Magee. It was a large lot as far as we were concerned because we had lived in San Francisco where there were 25-foot lots, and so 60 feet — but in Mill Valley it was really needed. But the lot went all the way down to Corte Madera Avenue, so we started building a house. We engaged a draftsman to draw up the plans. He lived on La Goma and I can't remember his name, and then we engaged Archie Pierce, P-I-E-R-C-E, and his crew to build the house on time and material plan, and we paid at the end of each week for whatever. I was the one who did all the procuring for the materials.

Materials were very, very hard to get and we went all over and bought nails by the pound. We were able to get lumber from the Shess Lumber Company, S-H-E-S-S, Lumber Company in San Rafael and sometimes from the Mill Valley Lumber Company, and the work started and the foundation was dug and we have pictures. In fact I have a book here that I made a scrapbook of the proceedings. John Barleycorn got the better of the work crew and we had to engage another set of workers. A Mr. Walker and his partner proved to be very successful for us. Bob was commuting to the city, commuting on the Greyhound bus. He was working for the mortgage loan as an assistant resident attorney for Prudential Insurance Company. While we were building, we were living in a shared house arrangement with Ralph and I can't remember her name. Ralph was an old Marin County resident. His home was on Miller Avenue right above the paint shop. I just can't remember his last name. As soon as the house became livable, the roof was on and the interior nearly finished and so we moved in. That was about 1945, '46, '46, '47. I should have gotten these dates but —

Carol Staiger: That's all right.

Betsy Andresen: And then we moved in on some cold October day with little or no furniture. We did have heat but we still didn't have walls. We did much of the knotty pine work and all of the painting and we filled in all the nails in the living room's knotty pine walls.

Carol Staiger: So that was your house.

Betsy Andresen: That was our house.

Carol Staiger: Then you later moved to 89 Walnut. Am I skipping around too much?

Betsy Andresen: Can you hold it for —

Carol Staiger: Okay. Okay, now what did you want to say?

Betsy Andresen: Our house on Magee was 181 Magee and at 185 was Elsie Ing, I-N-G, Elsie Ing. Her home, as well as her brothers' and sisters', who lived at 190, was burned in the 1929 fire. This whole area where we lived had been burned, the houses had been burned.

Carol Staiger: So you had a fresh area there.

Betsy Andresen: So we had a fresh area.

Carol Staiger: The trees weren't too big then.

Betsy Andresen: The trees that were there were acacia trees. They had been planted to make a quick growth and believe me they were quick. They were just a menace.

Carol Staiger: Oh, a menace. Okay. Yeah, I knew they're —

Betsy Andresen: Vern and Lou Whitney lived across the street. Lou and Vern had bought the Smith house. The Smiths and Elsie Ing had lived in Mill Valley since the fire. They had come over after the fire and earthquake to build in Mill Valley.

Carol Staiger: When you say the fire, you mean the Mill Valley fire or the 1906 fire?

Betsy Andresen: I mean, yeah, at this point it was the 1906 fire so they were very old Mill Valley residents and they built the house at 190 above Magee, and Elsie and her mother built the other house for her. She was a little maiden lady. She was just a little bug. Vern and Lou Whitney lived in the house above and now six Spotwoods lived in that house so it was a sort of an English-style house. And then in the meantime Margaret and Ex Larraby lived in that house and their children, Sara and Meg and they had eventually about six children. They went back to Durham, North Carolina, but Ex had worked for the *Chronicle* and they had many happy parties up there with Paul Smith, the editor of the *Chronicle* and other *Chronicle* reporters, and we were all included. Guy and Martha Pease lived at the turn of the road.

Carol Staiger: How do you spell Pease?

Betsy Andresen: P-E-A-S-E. And Guy and Martha built the home by themselves. There is a steep concrete drive that goes all the way up to their house on the side of the hill and he and

Martha mixed all of the cement in their hand-turned mixer. And then Pearl Hildebrand lived a little further up.

Carol Staiger: I knew her.

Betsy Andresen: And she was a teacher in Mill Valley. And then around the turn on the other side coming up from Corte Madera Avenue there was a large Victorian house and I can't remember the people who owned that house, but eventually Onslow Ford, the artist, lived in that place.

Carol Staiger: How do you spell Onslow?

Betsy Andresen: O-N

Carol Staiger: Say that again. A-

Betsy Andresen: O-N-S-L-O-W hyphen Ford. And I watched his career. He recently passed away. I think he lived over in Inverness or some place. And below on Corte Madera lived Lee and Blanche Parker and they had bought the house from a Mrs. Cole, C-O-L-E. It was a very rustic building that had been added on, added sun porches all the time with screened-in porches. It was sort of jerrybuilt but it was arty. Mrs. Cole was very artistic and a so-called intellectual. According to Elsie Ing, she gave tea parties and people would come and talk intellectually. She served no food, just tea and talk. She had a Japanese house boy and a gardener and beautiful hydrangeas and chrysanthemums, among other things. And later that house was bought by Itsie Orlando, O-R-L-, Orlando, and Orlando is a speculator in Mill Valley. He buys and sells houses. I don't know whether he's still living or not. But ironically, this Mrs. Cole was a friend of one of our relatives so we had some ties with that. Okay, then son Eric arrived in 1952, Eric Peter. Is this all you want? All these —

Carol Staiger: Well, you want to tell anything more how he arrived or —

Betsy Andresen: Yeah. And Prudential wanted to send Bob to Seattle and we didn't want to leave California. He was employed by another real estate construction company on the Peninsula who wanted to come over to Marin County and build thousands of houses but was rebuffed and we contemplated moving to Palo Alto. After a year he left Odstead, O-D-Stead, and decided to open his law practice in Mill Valley. It was 1952. We sold our house at 181 Magee. The house was bought by the Frankfurters.

Carol Staiger: The one that was on Magee.

Betsy Andresen: The house was on Magee and they lived there for maybe 20 years, and eventually the house was later bought by the Garegases. She's a sculptor. Garegas. They moved over to Stinson Beach. It has been remodeled and redesigned by Harvey Klyce's company and has sold for over a million dollars. We rented a lovely cottage at 89 Walnut from George and Myrtle Watson. It had a beautiful garden backing on Catalpa with birch trees in the front on Walnut and birch trees in the back along the creek side with rhododendrons, azaleas, camellias,

pear, apple, apricot trees. The garage was on Catalpa. It had been remodeled by Watson. He raised the roof and brought in three little bedrooms on the top floor. And then we remodeled it and loved the —

Carol Staiger: How could you remodel it when you were renting it?

Betsy Andresen: Oh, then we bought the house.

Carol Staiger: Oh, I see. You eventually —

Betsy Andresen: Yeah, I forgot that. We eventually bought the house because we liked the location. Having lived in the hills, which people considered the real Mill Valley, we discovered that the south, the lower land, was just as nice to live in. And it was close to the schools and our children didn't have to be driven to school. So then in 1954, our daughter Margaret Rose, Margrete Rose, and you spell it M-A-R-G-R-E-T-E Rose — and we called her “Meg” — arrived. Our neighbors were Paul and Ruth Brint, their son Steve and daughter Susan. Susan is now living in Guatemala, with a successful family, and Jack and Mary Clausen were neighbors across the street.

Carol Staiger: How do you spell Clausen?

Betsy Andresen: C-L-A-U-S-E-N. They had a beautiful garden. Then we lived on Walnut for a while and the house on Catalpa was for sale. It was owned by Thomas McWaters. The McWaters' had lived in Mill Valley from the beginning. Originally they lived on Miller and then they bought a house—they built a house—on Catalpa. Mr. McWaters and Mr. Weissich, Bill Weissich's father, built two houses at the corner of Walnut and Fern. Mr. McWaters had 89 Walnut and the Weissiches lived next door. Eventually the Weissiches moved and the house was bought by the Loceys.

Carol Staiger: How do you spell Locey?

Betsy Andresen: L-O-C-E-Y. The Loceys were refugees from Hawaii after Pearl Harbor. They came over and bought a house up in the canyon, up in the Cascade Canyon up above Lovell. Big house up there, still there, and lived for a while and then they moved down to Catalpa. Mrs. McWaters became widowed, Mr. McWaters' wife died, and so Mr. and Mrs. Locey married. Mrs. Locey and Mr. McWaters married and we bought their house. They moved to Strawberry and we bought their house and we lived in this house for about —

Carol Staiger: Do you remember what year that was?

Betsy Andresen: That was in 19-, about —

Carol Staiger: How old was Meg at the time?

Betsy Andresen: Meg was 2.

Carol Staiger: So that would have been about '56.

Betsy Andresen: Yeah, about '56. And Meg entered Tamalpais Nursery School.

Carol Staiger: Where was that?

Betsy Andresen: And Tamalpais Nursery School was in the Baptist Church on Miller Avenue.

Carol Staiger: I know that 'cause that's the one my son went to.

Betsy Andresen: And in fact I was one of the founding board members. Beverly Bastian —

Carol Staiger: I remember her. She was a bigwig.

Betsy Andresen: Yeah, she was, and then Eric had gone and then Meg went there and I became very active in the Park School PTA and the Tamalpais Nursery School and Children's Home Society and became president of the Auxiliary at Peter Pan and then Sunny Hills group and AAUW, the Mill Valley branch, and Triple C.

Carol Staiger: Explain what Triple C is 'cause I know what it is.

Betsy Andresen: Triple C is the Community Church group.

Carol Staiger: The ladies auxiliary. Okay.

Betsy Andresen: Community Church Club. And then I belonged to Lawyers' Wives.

Carol Staiger: Oh, I remember that. I don't think that's in existence —

Betsy Andresen: No, that's gone.

Carol Staiger: Back in those days, Lawyers' Wives — it's quite different. I remember that.

Betsy Andresen: And we had parties and dances and fundraisers and we did docent at the courthouse. We also joined the Mill Valley Tennis Club and I became the first women's chairman in charge of social activities. I took piano lessons from Don Ludlow up in his little house up on the steps off of Cascade and I became treasurer of the North Wood Open Space Program.

Carol Staiger: That was later, though, wasn't it?

Betsy Andresen: Yeah, that was in —

Carol Staiger: Yeah, I remember, that was more recent.

Betsy Andresen: And Bob joined Rotary International and I became a Rotary Ann and we —

Carol Staiger: What do you call it?

Betsy Andresen: A Rotary Ann¹.

Carol Staiger: A-N-N.

Betsy Andresen: A-N-N, yeah, Rotary Ann.

Carol Staiger: Is it two words?

Betsy Andresen: I think it sort of goes —

Carol Staiger: All one, okay.

Betsy Andresen: But anyway, they don't have Rotary Anns anymore.

Carol Staiger: No, because they have women members now.

Betsy Andresen: Yeah. But anyway it was a fun time and I later volunteered in the schools and I didn't want to be a volunteer in the classroom because I had been a teacher and I didn't want to cloud anybody's program.

Carol Staiger: Okay, now let's see. Let's talk for a minute now. You're a 50-year member of the Outdoor Art Club and a past president. What can you tell about the club that's changed now between when you joined in the '50s and today? Do you think you remember some of the changes?

Betsy Andresen: Well —

Carol Staiger: You dress differently for one thing.

Betsy Andresen: Well, yeah, we don't wear gloves. That's right, we wore gloves and hats and we always dressed.

Carol Staiger: High heels.

Betsy Andresen: Well, just in the style. We always would dress well. At one time we always had teas, we met twice a month. On the first and the third Thursday and in between we had other things going like bridge parties or well-baby clinics and other things. But we met on the first and the third. Well, it got so that people weren't coming to the programs because they didn't, so we decided and I was instigating it but maybe if we made a little sandwich people would come for lunch and they wouldn't have to get all dressed up. They could wear what we call a house dress and a house dress was a nice-looking cotton dress or whatever you wanted and you just — but

¹ Prior to 1987 Rotary was a men's organization and in many clubs the wives of Rotary members were known as "Rotary Anns".

nowadays people wear slacks but they didn't then. And so we had a sandwich, a very simple lunch, and we had our meeting at 12 o'clock and had our program and everybody got to go home early. So eventually it got so the next person that gave it wanted it a little better and a little better.

Carol Staiger: Well, I remember, and I was president about five or six years before you, and I remember when I was president was the first year that we actually had tables to have the lunch on and the one who was in charge of the lunch said let's get tables out. They were just card tables at first before we got our banquet table. Things have changed.

Betsy Andresen: Yes, they have.

Carol Staiger: Well, let's see. You were president in 1977. We think every president has a lot of joys and some problems. Did you have any problems? Like when I had the hippies when I was president. I had the hippies living in the basement. What did you have? Anything or —

Betsy Andresen: Well, we painted the kitchen and papered it. It all sort of blends in. I don't know, but one of the things I wanted to do was be sure that the stone wall was finished in the back in the wedding garden. Scotty was a tremendous help in getting, keeping the garden in order. We had to water, do our own watering. We had a committee that watered the garden.

Carol Staiger: No automatic watering?

Betsy Andresen: Thank you, Carol. That's right, I got the water whether I did it as president or on the Garden Committee, we had the sprinkling system, which I understand has been redone. So those are a lot of things, and now the bushes are all grown up so we're encased in shrubs and we don't see the movie theater anymore when we go to weddings.

Carol Staiger: Well, let's see now. Anything else you want to say about the Outdoor Art Club before I go onto something else?

Betsy Andresen: I love the Outdoor Art Club.

Carol Staiger: What?

Betsy Andresen: I love the Outdoor Art Club and all the people who are friendly, wonderful, and I can find that we had very little cantankerous incidents.

Carol Staiger: That's what I agree, too.

Betsy Andresen: As long as through all my life I have never seen a group of women that could work so.

Carol Staiger: I think I see that you say that 'cause I think it's great, too.

Betsy Andresen: And sometimes we have somebody who comes in and wants to blow us apart.

Carol Staiger: Okay, I want to tell you one thing. This is just sort of when I was just a few years back, I was in charge of the archive and a part of that, we had stuff in back of the stage and in the library and in the file cabinets. I don't know, sun porch, everywhere. We finally got a room downstairs and I wanted some furniture for it so I asked for furniture and you folks volunteered a desk and I went with a moving van over there. They had a terrible time taking it down the stairs, your winding stairs at Catalpa. But tell me something about the desk. I always wish that that desk could talk.

Betsy Andresen: Well, I'm not sure about the desk. Bob would know.

Carol Staiger: Was it in his office on —

Betsy Andresen: In 1953, Bob opened his law practice in '52, '53, and he had bought the practice from Paul Thorne. Paul Thorne had a great office and he bought all of his books and his shelves, which he eventually changed a lot of things, but I think that desk was part of it. I'm not sure. But we did, the desk, we had it in our home on 181 Catalpa and it was a hard thing to get it up.

Carol Staiger: Well, it was getting it down. I remember it was heavy and then of course when they got it to the club, they had to wheel it around and the gravel, the paths are gravel and trying to wheel something on little wheels, they really earned their money. See, I want to just change the subject completely now. It says your husband was very busy in community affairs. Now a wife usually plays a backseat driver in those affairs but is most valuable. So what do you remember about Bob being on — what was your role when Bob was on the City Council? Do you remember? Do you remember any incidents or anything?

Betsy Andresen: Well, I remember that sometimes the newspaper wasn't always very kind. They always tried to pick on the worst part of what the person did and they thought and it's very hard on the family and I can see why poor Mrs. McGovern went bananas because you get all these people after you and they don't really know that the whole thing that goes on and it's discouraging for people to have to face that. You never knew when you got the papers what it was going to say and it was ridiculous.

Carol Staiger: And do you remember anything about Bob being on the School Board? He was president. Do you remember anything, interesting items about him being on the School Board?

Betsy Andresen: School Board. Oh, yes, he was on the School Board and he started, Edna Maguire and then the school up on the hill, the one that's now the French school I think up on the hill above Homestead.

Carol Staiger: Oh, yes. Marin Terrace.

Betsy Andresen: Marin Terrace.

Carol Staiger: Well, okay, and he was also on the Rotary Club. You said you were a Rotary Ann. They had a lot of parties and things, they included the women, huh?

Betsy Andresen: Yeah. Yes, we did, we went on conventions with the Rotary Club and they were always trying to meet Rotarians from all over the state and all over the country, too. And having Rotary, we had a Rotary exchange student that stayed with us, Roberto Schroder.

Carol Staiger: From what country?

Betsy Andresen: Roberto was from Mexico, Mexico City. His father was Gustavo and he was a Rotarian and so we arranged this through individual private means 'cause they had no system in Rotary at that time for exchange. So we found a Rotarian down in Mexico, wrote letters and Gustavo came to live with us, and our daughter Meg went down to live with —

Carol Staiger: Now how long a period?

Betsy Andresen: Well, Meg was down there for about a month and Gustavo was with us for about three weeks. I mean Roberto.

Carol Staiger: It wasn't a full semester or anything.

Betsy Andresen: No, it was just like a visit and it was sort of difficult because our children were gone. Eric was at camp and Meg was on her own and so we were alone with Roberto, so we had to entertain him, took him to the tennis club, and different places and hiking. He couldn't get over the fact that we had a hummingbird feeder and that we didn't shoot the birds. And then his father called him on the telephone and was talking to him in English and his father said, "Berto, do you realize you've been speaking in English all this time?" Because his father spoke English. He had been educated in America. And then years later, oh, maybe 10, 15 years later, the doorbell rang and here was this handsome young Latin man standing at the door and he said, "You don't remember me but I'm Berto." And he said, "I have my wife and family here because I want them to meet you." So they came in and here was this beautiful young woman with this darling little baby with earrings and she said, "Berto talks about you all the time."

Carol Staiger: What business had he gotten into?

Betsy Andresen: Actually he lives partly in Mexico and partly in San Diego. We never contacted him since. And he said, "See the hardwood floors!" He kept talking [about them].

Carol Staiger: It's funny in a different culture what stands out.

Betsy Andresen: And then we had a boy from Mazatlán come and a boy from Puerto Rico. That was through the AFS². But they didn't stay with us long. They only stayed —

Carol Staiger: 'Cause we had Carl for a whole year.

² The American Field Service, a nonprofit offering international exchange programs.

Betsy Andresen: No, we couldn't.

Carol Staiger: Well, okay, now to get onto the tennis club. That played a pretty important role in your life. I remember Bob played a lot of tennis and you played tennis, too, huh?

Betsy Andresen: Yes.

Carol Staiger: And he was president of it and you, what were you?

Betsy Andresen: I was chairman of the women's.

Carol Staiger: Yeah, right.

Betsy Andresen: And then I was asked, always asked even 'til new people came in and I was doing other things. I never was a good tennis player but I was always a willing one.

Carol Staiger: Well, I guess it made a nice social life.

Betsy Andresen: It was, yeah.

Carol Staiger: Okay, now what do you remember about Bob being on the Family Service Agency?

Betsy Andresen: Well, the Family Service Agency started out to be a traveler's aid society, which was in Marin City and it was to help people as they came out during the war and then didn't know where to go and Mrs. Larsen was in charge.

Carol Staiger: What was her first name?

Betsy Andresen: I can't remember.

Carol Staiger: It's not Adele or —

Betsy Andresen: No, I don't. Bob would know. And she ran — she had a secretary and they ran that office and often I went, not too often but every once in a while I went down and helped. They had a clothes bin where people donated clothes and they just put them in a bin and you could come out, so I helped. I was always active in rummage sales. I also was very active in the Triple C.

Carol Staiger: Okay, we're going back to the Community Church.

Betsy Andresen: Yeah, the Community Church and those were wonderful.

Carol Staiger: They had rummage sales. I forget, they finally gave up about 5 years ago.

Betsy Andresen: They called them "The Opportunity".

Carol Staiger: Yeah, The Opportunity.

Betsy Andresen: And we had lots of — those were wonderful women, too.

Carol Staiger: Yeah? The trouble with that group is they'd just gotten old and there were a few young ones in the guild, working and everything, they're not participating.

Betsy Andresen: And then I joined the 1066, a women's club.

Carol Staiger: Hastings.

Betsy Andresen: Hastings.

Carol Staiger: Oh, I know that because of the number. That was the Hastings address and I always thought that was clever using that, those numbers.

Betsy Andresen: And Jean Samis whose husband was the dean of the college, she was the one that got it started so I got started on it, too. And we had, 'cause I knew about garage sales, I was appointed to the first garage sale and we had two of them over in San Francisco and one in a real garage, part of the garage, we took it over and had a garage sale.

Carol Staiger: You mean a garage that repaired cars, type of garage?

Betsy Andresen: Yeah, it was one of those big parking garages and we had a space and then there was the Federal Building, I think we had a space in there one time for a garage sale. And it was sort of fun.

Carol Staiger: Well, let's see now. Let's get back to your children. Eric of course was friendly with my son Stuart and tell us about him now.

Betsy Andresen: Eric?

Carol Staiger: Eric.

Betsy Andresen: Oh, Eric was —

Carol Staiger: Growing up and so forth.

Betsy Andresen: Growing up, he was always —

Carol Staiger: Very outgoing.

Betsy Andresen: Very outgoing, always fun, had lots of friends and the boys and girls were always coming into our house. Our neighbors said they were jealous 'cause we always had these

cute boys coming in and as they grew up with their long gangly legs. And the Brennan boys and Stuart Steiger and who else was in there, too?

Carol Staiger: Well, one was Richard Breeze, I think.

Carol Staiger: Oh, yes, Richard Breeze. Richard Breeze. When I had Cubs and Richard Breeze was in my Cub group and I have pictures of all the kids and it's hard to remember all those things. But the boys, I had a station wagon and I could get 10 little boys in my station wagon and now I think I could get three of them in.

Carol Staiger: Well, it's before the seatbelts, it was before the days of seatbelts when you had to have every kid buckled down. I used to have a station wagon full of kids and oh, Lord. Okay. And then as I understand, so he has married Donna and he has darling twins and how old are the twins now?

Betsy Andresen: The twins are 23.

Carol Staiger: They're ready to have their own children.

Betsy Andresen: Yes.

Carol Staiger: So, okay. And then tell about Meg now. My daughter Janet knew her when they were in Job's Daughters.

Betsy Andresen: Yes, Meg was very active in Job's Daughters. She has dark brown eyes and dark hair and she was about 5 foot 8 and she went to Chico State, graduated in general degree, an A.B. degree. She is married and had a son, Michael Dadburg, and she remarried after her divorce from Ross Dadburg to David Stein. And she and David with their two girls, Sara and Rebecca, live near Minneapolis, Minnesota. She's very active in the Jewish community service and she's a member of Hadassah and has converted.

Carol Staiger: Let's see now. Well, Betsy, we're getting to the end of this and you moved to Mill Valley in 1946, which is about 55 years. What changes have you seen in Mill Valley besides the normal change in the clothes and cars and that sort of stuff?

Betsy Andresen: Well, first of all when we came in, there used to be a steam train that would come into Mill Valley as well as the electric train and that would wake the children up. I think it would bring lumber into the lumber company and that used to wake — the neighbors would be upset because it would always toot its whistle about 2:30 in the afternoon and wake all the children up from their nap because that was the time when I think young couples were coming into Mill Valley after World War II and getting started. That was a time that the Community Church, they had a — the club called us, the Tandems, and they wanted young people to get acquainted with the church and get acquainted with the community and the Tandems couple couldn't be more than 70 years age together, combined age.

And so Doris Jenkins and Bob Jenkins were members and they had invited us to join. Bob had met Bob Jenkins on the bus and they became very, very good friends through all the

years and Bob Jenkins has been very active in the Mill Valley library and community and The Redwoods and all. The Commuters Club was another active group. It was the commuters against the Greyhound Bus. The Greyhound Bus was always up to something and anyway that was quite a thing and we had pot lucks and parties and organizations and then the Commuters Club started in Novato and it became very active and somehow or other they got things worked out. And it isn't active anymore.

Carol Staiger: A lot of these organizations have just fallen away.

Betsy Andresen: And then Tamalpais High School used to have the road running right through, between the gym and that building, the hill.

Carol Staiger: It had a train and a road.

Betsy Andresen: Yeah, that's what I used to stop there when a child and then they changed that and built it over the —

Carol Staiger: The Miller Avenue extension.

Betsy Andresen: Uh-huh. And Bob didn't want that road in there because he thought it would bring a lot more traffic. And then Miller Avenue was only a one-sided street. There was just the other side where all — it was almost — there were no sidewalks down along there. It was all just the path and all along the marshes there it was a path and pretty soon they started to build the Safeway. I don't know when that came but the Safeway was on Blithedale, East Blithedale, and Sunnyside and then the Purity Market was down —

Carol Staiger: Where Banana —

Betsy Andresen: Yeah, Banana Republic is now and eventually Purity moved down to —

Carol Staiger: My corner.

Betsy Andresen: Yeah, down by Lomita and in that area. And so the only grocery store is the Mill Valley Market and the Mill Valley Market was just a little hole in the wall where the bookstore is and it was just one little building. It was maybe a 25-foot lot there and they sold the most wonderful vegetables and fruit. Frank Canepa was the proprietor. He would go over to the produce market early, early in the morning and only get the very best. And then there was Frank Keen who was the butcher there and he only got the best and then Frank Keen eventually — oh, then the Mill Valley Market moved to where the Green Frog —

Carol Staiger: Tell me, what do you remember of the Green Frog?

Betsy Andresen: Well, I don't remember too much because I traded at the Purity and —

Carol Staiger: Because we're doing an oral history on Chris Bingham and she worked there. I mean she ran it or something.

Betsy Andresen: Chris Bingham. Yes, I do remember Chris and her husband Wayne, and they were a very outgoing couple.

Carol Staiger: Okay, you were talking about Chris and Wayne Bingham.

Betsy Andresen: Chris and Wayne, yeah. Well, Chris was always very active and I didn't know Chris very well. She was in another little pocket of people and but she was always very friendly and we were always very congenial.

Carol Staiger: I want to talk about the Green Frog itself.

Betsy Andresen: The Green Frog was nice. It's the same building as it is now except for the addition which was a bar and a soda fountain, a creamery and that creamery right down the corner by the Outdoor Art Club on the creek, that was taken over by the Mill Valley Market. And I think the Mill Valley Market sign is atrocious. It's too big. They never should have allowed that. They have sign ordinances and somehow or other it's inappropriate to me.

Carol Staiger: Well, let's see now. Anything else you want to talk about Mill Valley?

Betsy Andresen: Well, the Outdoor Art Club is still there and we need people. They've been trying to get rid of it to use that property.

Carol Staiger: What was I going to say? Okay. I understand you want to say something about teaching in Mill Valley.

Betsy Andresen: One afternoon when we were building our house on Magee, we were setting our flagstones in our patio and a car drove up the road and it was Roy Logason. Roy Logason was the superintendent of the Mill Valley Schools. He was a fellow San Francisco State graduate and he was now living in Mill Valley with his wife Melanie and daughter. He wanted me to teach kindergarten at Old Mill School. I'd pretty much finished my full-time task of purchasing a procurement officer for 181 and so I was available. There was a shortage of teachers and buildings in which to teach at that time. I was assigned a classroom in the basement of the Episcopal Church on Lovell. We went over to the schoolyard to play for the recesses and the reverend, I can't remember the reverend's name.

Carol Staiger: Hammond.

Betsy Andresen: No, it wasn't Hammond.

Carol Staiger: Before him.

Betsy Andresen: Before him. He and his wife were very nice and he'd come down and talk to me. Mrs. Van Lewen was the principal of Old Mill School and she lived on Corte Madera Avenue on the level in a quaint old house. I think it's still there and the property is the - I can't remember the names of the people that own it but they still own it and people wanted to make a

park of it and it's on Corte Madera near Winwood Place. She was a teacher, a part-time teacher part of the day and the principal another part of the day. So she was a very busy person. Ann Perior was her assistant. She taught when Mrs. Van Lewen was principal and then there was a Miss Bishop who taught there and a Mrs. Smith and she lived up on —

Carol Staiger: What was her first name?

Betsy Andresen: I can't remember her first name. But her husband was a colonel and Mrs. Smith died on the job. She died when I was teaching there. Leonora Wright was —

Carol Staiger: How do you spell Wright? W-R?

Betsy Andresen: W-R-I-G-H-T, yeah. And she was very helpful to me because she lived in Mill Valley. She was related to the Damans who were related to the Fowlers. And we had, Mrs. Wright and myself, she had another kindergarten in the group and we organized a May Day celebration. Years ago there had been May Day celebrations in Ross at the Sunny Hills and because of the War and all, they just disbanded them so we decided we would reinstate the May poles, which we did and we had all our children dancing around the May pole. And I have a photograph of the students that I had. Then the next year I taught the first grade.

Carol Staiger: And where was that?

Betsy Andresen: That was in Old Mill School. And before that I taught kindergarten in the addition. I taught in the basement of the Episcopal Church but then the next year or the next time I taught in the addition.

Carol Staiger: Now that was not the Episcopal Church that's there now.

Betsy Andresen: It was part of that Episcopal that's still there.

Carol Staiger: Because they remodeled and got a whole new church.

Betsy Andresen: Yeah, but they didn't get a whole new church. I don't know, but it was in the old church. I don't know whether they tore that out or not. It was pretty old. And then in 1948 cars were hard to get but Bob had a brand new automobile salesman and we were able to get a 1948 Chevrolet, the first new car in Mill Valley. It was the shape of a teardrop and I remember I brought it to school. Maybe I shouldn't say this, but we were lucky to get it and we didn't have a car and so we got that car. And I told about Bob Jenkins and Commuters Club and the Tandems.