

**Oral History Committee
Mill Valley Historical Society**

**Mill Valley Public Library
Mill Valley, California**

BERNICE MATTOS SCHNEIDER

(Mrs. John Russell Schneider)

An Interview Conducted By

Carol Budds

BERNICE MATTOS SCHNEIDER

(Mrs. John Russell Schneider)

Born January 12, 1923 in Stockton, California

An Interview Conducted By Carol Budds

April 1994

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Family of Bernice Mattos Schneider

Name	Date Born	Where Born	Relationship to Bernice
Bernice Mattos Schneider	January 12, 1923	Stockton, CA	
John Russell Schneider	1915	Seattle, WN	Husband
Donna Schneider Block	1945		Daughter
John Stephen Schneider	1948		Son
Christine Schneider Canada	1951		Daughter
Jean Marie Mattos Maguire Mitchell		Stockton, CA	Sister
Eugenia Brazil Mattos		Hollister, CA	Mother
Anthony Silveira Mattos		San Francisco, CA	Father
Eugenia Leal Brazil			Maternal grandmother
Joaquín Brazil		St Jorge, Azores	Maternal grandfather

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW WITH BERNICE MATTOS SCHNEIDER
at her home, 26 Cove Road, Belvedere
Conducted by Carol Budds
April 1994

Carol: Let's just talk about this picture of down town Mill Valley. *

Bernice: Look at the Safeway on the corner. **

Carol: Yes, I remember Safeway there very well. Now, the next store is called the Wherehouse. I don't remember it, I just don't know---I remember Oppenheimer's - do you remember? They had a store down the street on Miller and then they moved there, but I don't ever remember it being called the Wherehouse.

Bernice: Somehow I remember a few steps going up into it...

Carol: I barely remember; it had a big stove in the back.

Bernice: Really, now, I don't remember that. I remember Rutherfords over here. Remember Rutherfords?

Carol: Oh yes

Bernice: I don't know if it is in the picture. I can't make out.

Carol: No, it is just to the right because this is where the train - the Mountain Railroad - ran right next to Rutherfords.

Bernice: Do you remember the train? I don't. It was before my time.

Carol: Well

Bernice: Is that where you caught the train?

Carol: The Mountain Railroad Train was this one I believe, right there.

Bernice: Oh, it went on from there across the street?

Carol: Across Throckmorton and it went between Rutherfords and whatever was next door.

Bernice: And then it went up into the valley, did it?

Carol: Up through Blithedale.

Bernice: Is that right? Well, that's before my time.

Carol: That's right. Well, my sister can remember riding on it. I don't remember riding on it.

* Throckmorton Avenue and Bernard Street, a picture taken circa 1930.

** 106 Throckmorton Avenue

Bernice: That's the Gravity Train. I've seen your mother in that picture. *

Carol: Oh, you have seen the video? **

Bernice: I have. I have seen it. She was quite an historian herself.

Carol: Well, she certainly loved Mill Valley. She really did.

Bernice: You know, once you've lived there, and it has changed so - it's changed

Carol: Coming over here, well, there is just traffic all the way now. I was surprised. But, I know you lived on Bernard Street.

Bernice: Yes, Oh, I can see my house from here. No I didn't live on Bernard. I lived on Bayview. Yes, that's it right there. That was #46. Yes, it recently sold for \$550,000, and we sold it for \$55,000.

Carol: Now, when did you sell it?

Bernice: Well, mama died about 23 years ago, so we must have sold it -- Oh, I'm trying to reach that. Oh, I guess we must have sold it 22 or 23 years ago. We sold it for \$55,000 and now it's \$550,000, but of course it was remodeled extensively and it had beautiful redwood walls inside and I was hoping that when we sold it they would keep the walls.

Carol: Do you now who built it?

Bernice: No, I don't but you know my mother bought that house. My mother and father bought it for \$3,000..

Carol: Do you know what year?

Bernice: I don't know who built it but it was very well built. It had all kinds of cabinetry in it. I mean there was such fun when we moved in there and I think it was an estate sale or something. There was beautiful redwood inside, beautiful walls.

Carol: Now what year did you move there?

Bernice: It must have been 1929 or 1930 and I guess they just had had that fire.

Carol: That's right. The fire was 1929.

Bernice: Because I don't remember anything about the fire but it must have just happened.

Carol: Where did you live before?

Bernice: Oh, we moved from 27th Avenue in the City. Jean and I went to St. Monica's.

* Karen Connelly

** "Steaming Up Tamalpais" by Chris Chater

Carol: Oh, for goodness sake. So you were born in San Francisco?

Bernice: No, I was born in Stockton, actually.* Jean ** and I were born in Stockton. She was born when our parents owned a ranch there and I was born in town, right across the street from an insane asylum.

Carol: Which they don't have any more, I'm sure.

Bernice: Oh, I think it's still there --- I don't know or a hospital or something.

Carol: Well, now, your father was a rancher?

Bernice: No. Well, they did have the ranch, but then when he moved into the City. He worked as a deck hand on the ferry boat. Yes, he did, for the Northwestern Pacific.

Carol: So, when you lived in Mill Valley, is that what he did?

Bernice: That's right. That's why we moved to Mill Valley.

Carol: So he was close to the train?

Bernice: That's right. There's a lot of history in the ferry boats. Aren't they charming?

Carol: Oh, they really are.

Bernice: Well, I don't know who all you remember on that street. I remember Norman Abraham lived on that street and when I was going to school, he and Harry Barnes - I don't know if you remember that. Do you remember that?

Carol: Well, I didn't but Gene Stocking was telling me the other day that he was the one who was with Harry Barnes when he was drowned.

Bernice: That's right. And you know, I guess, that was my first experience with death, you know, and it was just embedded in me that a classmate could die, you know?

Carol: Now, Harry Barnes was in your class?

Bernice: Yes he was.

Carol: And Norman Abraham also?

Bernice: Also. And he lived in one of those houses on Bayview Ave ***. Norman Abraham - one of those two sticking up there.

Carol: Oh, one of the twin houses. Now, is that what they looked like when you lived there?

* Bernice Mattos Schneider born January 12, 1923

** Bernice's sister, Jean Marie Mattos Maguire Mitchell was a well known cellist, later one of the founders of the Marin Symphony

*** 4 Bayview Avenue

Bernice: Yes, I don't know if they look like that any more.

Carol: Now, this one has been remodeled and turned into --- I'd guess you'd call the flats -- at least two -- there may be more apartments.

Bernice: Oh, is that right?

Carol: There may be more apartments.

Bernice: And this, now that's Tommy Schaal's house. No? Oh, I'm not sure. I didn't realize until --- Tommy Schaal lived down the street. Those two were up the street. He had a house down the street.

Carol: Well, they built a house down the street like in the late 40's but did they live on Bayview before that? *

Bernice: Schaal? I don't know where they lived before, but Tom Schaal is evidently a successful lawyer. Do you know him?

Carol: No, but he married Helen Arrigo, didn't he?

Bernice: Right, and I didn't know that until I saw them at the reunion and he has white hair and I vaguely recall him but Helen still looks the same.

Carol: Oh, does she?

Bernice: Yes, she had that sweet face.

Carol: Yes she did. She was quite a tennis player.

Bernice: Was she? I didn't know that.

Carol: I remember and I think he was too.

Bernice: Oh, I didn't know that. I knew Melvin Klyce was.

Carol: Yes, that's right. Well, now the house right next to you, some people names Stocker lived there. Were they there when you were growing up?

Bernice: Yes, he was quite a tease as I recall ---'cause I was quite young and he could see me walking down the little path on the other side of the hedge, and he said: "there goes that daughter of the man that's good for nothing". One time I said: "My daddy is too good for nothing." He just wanted to get a rise outta me. He was a tease. He was a railroad man.

Carol: Well, that's what I understood, an engineer** I think.

Bernice: I can't remember what he did, but he was an engineer. I remember they were very nice

* Frank J. Schaal, father of Tom Schaal. The two house locations were at 11 and 16 Bayview Avenue

** He was both a steam train engineer and an electric train engineer

people. We liked them very much and then he died, and let me see, the Stewarts moved in, I think. Remember the Stewarts? They had a lot of children.

Carol: I know Helen Stewart. She was a teacher. Yes, that's right. So that must have been after you had married and moved away, wasn't it?

Bernice: Possibly, because I remember, yes, it must have been.

Carol: Because Helen Stewart is pretty much a contemporary of ours.

Bernice: Ah, that's right. So they had lots of children and he was in the real estate business.*

Carol: That's right

Bernice: So, they wanted to build a house at the top of the hill and I see they have. They had an extensive lot. We owned to Summit Ave. as well. Oh yes, the lots went all the way from Bayview to Summit but theirs had a little wider depth there so they put their house up there and we were not able to do so, but the view is up there.

Carol: Well, did the property stay the same all the time you owned it? You still owned to Summit when you sold it? Do you remember?

Bernice: It didn't change the land at all. We didn't add on to the property but the Stewarts evidently did, somebody did. There's a house up there now.

Carol: That's right, and it's been there quite a while I think.

Bernice: I don't know who did that. I knew the Stewarts wanted to. Now whether they did after I moved away --- I didn't keep track, but there is another house up there now.

Carol: Well, we really didn't keep track and there was so much available property in Mill Valley it seem as if it would ever get the way it is.

Bernice: You do know so much about it, don't you?

Carol: Well, we walked along there. Gene Roseveare - do you remember her?

Bernice: I do remember the name and I do remember the face.

Carol: Gene Stocking and a man who is on the Historical Society Board and I.

Bernice: Oh, say hello to Gene. She probably wouldn't recognize me and I probably wouldn't recognize her. She was blond and blue eyed as I recall.

Carol: That's right and her mother use to be in the library some of the time.

Bernice: You knew the library was down below our house, easy for us to get there.**

* Joe Stewart

** Carnegie Library at 52 Lovell Avenue

Carol: Yes

Bernice: There used to be a theatre - didn't there - on Throckmorton?

Carol: Well, it was there but I don't think it was ever a movie theatre when we were children. I think it - the Sequoia - was already open.

Bernice: Uh, huh. There was some kind. I know I performed there several times. As I recall, it was an auditorium.

Carol: It was an auditorium. That's right. The HUB Theatre.

Bernice: You remember, I used to sing a lot.....

Carol: Oh, I remember. Yes Yes

Bernice: Jean used to play.

Carol: That's right. Did you keep up the singing after you.....

Bernice: Well, I did. I did considerable singing after I got married. I did play YUM YUM in the Mill Valley Light Opera, in the MIKADO with Barry Mineah.

Carol: Oh my.

Bernice: And I directed the church choir for many years up here at St. Hilary's....

Carol: Oh you did.

Bernice: I did solo work there, and oh, I sang with the Winifred Baker Chorales and performed with the Symphony too, you know.

Carol: My goodness. Well, you did continue with it.

Bernice: I did extensive work with Clinton Lewis who directed the College of Marin.....

Carol: Oh, I haven't heard that name for a long time.

Bernice: Oh, he was great. I adored that man.

Carol: Did you go to the College of Marin?

Bernice: Yes, I graduated from there.

Carol: Oh, you did.

Bernice: And belonging to his choir for many years afterward you see. We had an alumni choir and I didn't know until many years later that one of the concerts we performed at Christmas time he had me on this record and I have it, my singing "Oh Holy Night" with the chorus in the back, you see. I'm glad I have that. It's precious to me and I didn't even know he was taping it or recording it. It was

nice to have.

Carol: Every Christmas when I hear "Santa Claus Is Coming To Town" I think of you.

Bernice: Really?

Carol: Either it was at Mrs. Spencer's....

Bernice: Oh, did you take piano lessons from her too?

Carol: Yes. Or it was at a school program. I don't know, but that was the first time I ever heard it was when you sang it.

Bernice: Is that right? Oh, isn't that something?

Carol: I never hear that song without remembering.

Bernice: Oh, that's sweet. Well, I do remember walking down -- I guess it's Corte Madera Ave.---the extension there....

Carol: Oh yes

Bernice: To get piano lessons. Sometimes I'd go that way and cross overit's kinda like a little bridge...it was. Charles Berry used to live there. A little bridge and I think the Beemans.

Carol: Oh yes.

Bernice: Remember the Beemans?

Carol: Yes, I do

Bernice: An then you cross over to Blithedale.

Carol: Right

Bernice: Then go up to Coronet.

Carol: Yes, Up to Mrs. Spencer

Bernice: Remember the Milners. Madeleine and Mabyn Milner. Twins?

Carol: Yes, I do.

Bernice: Well, Mabyn died, you know.

Carol: No, I didn't know that.

Bernice: She died many, many years ago. I guess to some sort of reaction in a dentist's chair.

Carol: Oh, my.

Bernice: But Madeleine -- we keep in touch still. She lives in New York and she doesn't play the cello anymore. That's how we knew her because Jean and she were so close.

Carol: Now, was she the same age as Jean?

Bernice: Actually, she's more my age -- she's more my age than she was Jean's.

Carol: Were they twins or ...

Bernice: They were twins, not identical however.

Carol: I never knew because they weren't identical.

Bernice: That's right, they were twins. I think I can find them in this album, a lot of old pictures..... I had a little camera when I was going to Old Mill School and that's what I took those little square pictures with.

Carol: Oh, well, I'll enjoy looking at that in a few minutes.

Bernice: Well, we had kinda a little group that was so close when we were going to Old Mill School and then when we went to high school, we just kinda went our own way.

Carol: I think that often happens. Yes.

Bernice: I was so involved in music. I played the clarinet as well, you know.

Carol: No, I didn't know that. No, all I knew was the singing.

Bernice: I was very active in the orchestra and the band and the marching band and the band - we played in the band crossing over the Golden Gate Bridge when it opened.

Carol: Oh, you did?

Bernice: Yes, it was quite a big thrill.

Carol: Was it like a parade?

Bernice: Well, it was some kind of big thing. Yes, It was a parade of sorts, I guess.

Carol: Well, do you remember the uniforms? I'm sure you do.

Bernice: Hey, yes you bet I do. The hats. There were capes, I as I recall. We had to wear white under the capes and then, I don't remember what color they were. (red and blue). You know at the reunion we had a group of musicians at our table --- Jean and her daughter and Mark Teel. He and I played the clarinet together in the band.

Carol: What was his name?

Bernice: Mark Teel. His father was John Teel, who sang onRemember Uncle Benny?

Carol: Oh, an amateur hour was it?

Bernice: He had a program in the afternoon. It wasn't an amateur hour. What was that? It had Ricardo the violinist. We used to go over to Don Lee's studio and hear the program. Remember Don Lee? and they.... was it KGO or something? I don't know.

Carol: I don't remember that.

Bernice: Well, anyhow, his father sang on that program and Mark Teel was in the band with me and we played the clarinet together and he was also at the reunion. And it was so dear on this tape that they made and he said "When I was in high school I was in love with the Mattos girls and I still am".

Carol: Oh.

Bernice: Isn't that sweet?

Carol: That is. That is.

Bernice: A very dear man, very dear. He lost his wife not long ago.

Carol: Does he live locally?

Bernice: I think he lives up in Kentfield or somewhere like that.

Carol: Oh, I see.

Bernice: Interestingly enough, my son, in the pictures of my family up there, is married to the daughter of one of the Burgren twins. Remember them? *

Carol: Oh, yes.

Bernice: That's the one in red on the left there.

Carol: Now, this is you son right here?

Bernice: No, no, my son is in blue sitting down over there. That's my son there, and that's his wife and she is the daughter of one of the Burgren twins.

Carol: Oh, I can see the resemblance. And this is their daughter?

Bernice: That's their daughter, yes. She's into horses. We have a sailing family. My husband is a sailor and an engineer but we've got sailboats out on the Bay and here as well.

Carol: Oh, now tell me about the others. Who is this?

Bernice: Oh, that's my oldest daughter's youngest boy and the other one standing is the oldest boy. And Donna is right below there. That's our oldest daughter, and the one in green is our youngest daughter and that's her son below and their husbands are standing right around them there.

Carol: What a nice family. A lovely picture.

Bernice: Uh huh. that is a nice picture. We did that about two or three years ago on Easter. That's when you get the family together.

Carol: That is a nice looking family.

Bernice: So what grade did you teach, Carol?

Carol: Well, I taught mostly second and third grades and then after I came back to Marin.....

Bernice: Yes, that was even further back, doing things manually.

Carol: Was that at Tam?

Bernice: I learned that at the College of Marin. I took commercial subjects there. I became a secretary and I didn't learn bookkeeping there. I just took secretarial training -- shorthand and all.

Carol: Did you work then, after you graduated?

Bernice: I worked in the bank. My first job, I had for a brief while at the *Mill Valley Record*..

Carol: Oh, where were they located then?

Bernice: They were down from the R & M a little bit, as I recall. But you know where they were before that was on that little side street. I think there's a delicatessen or something there now.

Carol: On Madrona

Bernice: Is that it, Madrona?

Carol: Right opposite Dowd's --- it goes up the hill to the old Library.

Bernice: Yes, is that Madrona?

Carol: Yes. that's right, I remember when they were there.

Bernice: Lucretia Hansonran ran the place, more or less, didn't she?

Carol: I guess she did. I thought she was practically the *Mill Valley Record*, I remember.

Bernice: That's it. She was it. And what was the name of the one who really owned it?

Carol: Well, at one time there were the Drexler's . That's when you worked there?

Bernice: Oh yes, and then I worked for the Mill Valley Bank and that one.....

Carol: Was that on Miller Avenue?

The picture referred to is hanging in the home at 26 Cove Road. See end sheet for further information of the family

Bernice: Yes, and that's when I got married and from there. But at that time I was very involved with singing lessons because I had a scholarship with Maud Fay Symington.* Do you remember her?

Carol: Oh, yes.

Bernice: She gave me a scholarship.

Carol: Was that through the Music Chest?

Bernice: Uh huh. And she sponsored my voice lessons and I had to go to the City every week, but at that time was working at the Mill Valley Bank and Walter Swenson --- remember him? and Cecil Kindred and Dora Brunini who became Piper after that. (Dee Brunini Piper)

Carol: That's right. Yes.

Bernice: Well, those were the people I was working with then. And then I got married and we moved to Belvedere. I was commuting for a long time and then I got pregnant and that's when I gave up the job. And we lived on the hill and that's how I met Patricia* * again after all those years. We were on Bella Vista ave. and she was up on Golden Gate. I knew she was there and I knew her husband, Bob Kirchmann, more because he was down here at the yacht club a lot, you know. Didn't he move to Tahiti or something?

Carol: Well, he was in -- had a charter service in Lahaina but he sold the boat and he's now in in Washington state and living on a boat up there.

Bernice: I know Walter Burbeck Johnson. Remember him?

Carol: Just barely, yes.

Bernice: Well, he used to follow me around when I was in grammar school. I duno, but his father was mayor of Mill Valley.

Carol: Yes

Bernice: And he also owned that grocery store down on Locust and then the children moved the store over to Blithedale. I don't know the name of it at that time.

Carol: I think it was the Food Mart on Blithedale.

Bernice: That doesn't sound right but...

Carol: Now, did Burbeck Johnson - was he interest in boats also?

Bernice: Yes, and I saw him again because he bought our first house on Bella Vista Ave. He bought our first house and then he got married and he bought Hank Easom's house. You know Hank?

Carol: Oh, he's the one who sails too.

* Maud Fay Symington founded the Marin Music Chest

** Patricia Connelly, daughter of Karin Connelly and sister of Carol Connelly Budds.

Bernice: If the boat will run, he sails. Just a little guy when we first moved here, sailed a little Moon boat with his dog Rowdy, but he he went into the boat building business and.....anyhow Burbeck bought the Easom's house up on Bella Vista - big house - and then they sold that and now they're living on a boat in Washington.

Carol: Oh, is that right?

Bernice: I wonder if that where....

Carol: I think that Bob Kirchman is at Friday Harbor. I'm not positive.

Bernice: Oh, I see. I didn't know if people up there see one another.

Carol: No. That's not it, it's some other: Bainbridge Island.

Bernice: Oh, yes. There is another gal from here up there, maybe you remember her: Marilee Rice.

Carol: Oh, yes, I remember her brother Bootie.

Bernice: Yes, Bootie Rice. Their older brother Russell Rice, who lived in Belvedere, died not long ago.

Carol: I saw that in the paper. That was too bad. Well, getting back to Mill Valley, you graduated from Old Mill School, I guess, right?

Bernice: Yes. we went to Summit School and then they transferred everybody out of there. I guess they were going to tear it down. * You know what I remember about Summit School - I don't know if you do either - there was an eclipse. We all had to sit on the hill with colored glass. Were you there?

Carol: No, I don't remember that.

Bernice: It was a big thing. We had an eclipse; sat right up there and watched it.

Carol: And you probably all looked right at the sun and everyone thought the colored glass would be enough. Now, they say it's not.

Bernice: Well, I maybe that's why I have trouble today. Do you remember all the teachers up there? Mrs. Sporleder and Dorothy Van Loon.

Carol: Yes

Bernice: I took clarinet lesson from Mauricia Van Loon. She was an excellent clarinetist.

Carol: Now, when you were in school, you took lessons from her?

Bernice: Well, I was in grammar school when I was taking lessons from Mauricia Van Loon. That was her only daughter.

* Last class was June 1939.

Bernice: Catalpa or one of those side streets there.

Carol: The Sporleders lived on Catalpa too, right next to Park School.

Bernice: Do you remember a mentally handicapped - a tall drink of water - that kind of walked -- swooped when he walked?

Carol: I know who you mean, George Grant, and his father was at the high school, Mr. Grant.

Bernice: Oh what did he do?

Carol: He taught a vocational program. I'm not sure what.

Bernice: I remember the Wenderings lived down there too.

Carol: Oh yes, they lived on

Bernice: One of those streets there. Virginia used to sing.

Carol: She did, yes. I guess it was Catalpa.

Bernice: I remember how strong those girls were because Mr. Wendering was an athletic teacher, wasn't he? When we took physics or something, (I guess) from Mr. Adren Aitken, he made us run up those stairs.

Carol: Oh, really.

Bernice: Remember? And we were all clocked to see how much horse power we had. Remember those steep stairs that went up the side?

Carol: Yes, I do.

Bernice: I remember that was one of our projects - to run up those stairs and he was timing us, or something.

Carol: It was such a beautiful campus in those days.

Bernice: It was. It was really was. They had an Italian gardener.

Carol: Yes, beautiful and it's so changed now. We didn't set a foot off the path, remember? You didn't dare step on the lawn. Now, they just lounge any place.

Bernice: And they had a swimming pool. They don't have one anymore, do they?

Carol: Well, I don't....they have an outdoor pool. They built a new gym. Well, oh, it's not new now, but where the highway used to be.

Bernice: That's right.

Carol: And I think they have an outdoor pool over in that area. But probably that old pool that we

knew is gone.

Bernice: Yes. I remember that pool. I still don't know how to swim. But you know, I understand that at some schools it's required that you swim before you graduate.

Carol: I think that it's a state law for California. I'm not positive. It's a good idea.

Bernice: Good thing it was not a law. I would never have graduated.

Carol: Did you not like to swim?

Bernice: Well, I didn't like my face wet, I guess.

Carol: Because they did have summer programs, as I recall, even then. I think the Red Cross had swimming lessons down at the high school.

Bernice: Well, after I got married, I was gonna go down there and learn and I did fine as long as I kept my face above water, coordinating it with the arms didn't work.

Carol: I think the older you are, the harder it is to learn. I know when my sister and I were about first and second graders when we took lessons and my mother decided that she would take lesson at the same time to surprise us. Well, she never did get very good. I think, you know, you just build up a fear of the water if you don't start when you're young.

Bernice: Well, I remember fondly the earlier times in my life and the Campfire Girls was one of my best times.

Carol: Do you remember who your leader was?

Bernice: Yes, it was Nell Kallio's roommate, what was her name?

Carol: Oh, Blanche Jackson.

Bernice: Blanche Jackson. Yes, and she died not long ago.

Carol: That's right.

Bernice: I didn't even know she was still living until I read it in the paper.. Blanche Jackson was our leader and that was the best fun I ever had, you know, because we went to Camp Thayer up near the Russian River and we used to go to the Scout Hall for our meetings every week and Mrs. Huffman was very involved too, as I recall, she helped with certain things.

Carol: Now, wasthe Huffman Boys?

Bernice: Yes, Roy Huffman was the Superintendent of Schools.

Carol: That's right, yes.

Bernice: Well, his wife* was active with the Campfire Girls. I remember going to her home.

* Alys Huffman

Carol: Oh, I see.

Bernice: And, let me see, what else did we do? Oh, I loved to go walking down Cascade Drive. I loved that and then we used to go to the Three Wells, remember?

Carol: Oh, yes.

Bernice: But that's private property now, isn't it?

Carol: Well no, the Three Wells itself is still a park. There are some houses just beyond the Three Well, two houses, I believe. but you can still walk on the trail all the way to Cascade Falls.

Bernice: Is that right? Oh, that was such fun. It's another world up there and evidently people know about it 'cause the last time -- although I couldn't walk up there anymore -- I see beer cans thrown about and that's terrible. How can they do such a thing to Mother Nature?

Carol: Did you go there with the Campfire Girls?

Bernice: No that was just something we used to do with our girl friends or when company came, we'd - it was our favorite walk up there and then we'd think nothing of climbing the mountain at night. Did you?

Carol: Oh, that's right.

Bernice: You know, Mama would say, "Why doncha dry the dishes?" and we're too tired, but if Andy Ward called us "Lets go hike up the mountain" so, too tired to dry dishes, but we'd walk up the mountain, you know.

Carol: Now, Andy Ward was the friend of yours?

Bernice: Yes, he lived on La Goma. And he played the clarinet. His father was a railroad man, I think.

Carol: And his mother was a substitute teacher?

Bernice: I don't really know.

Carol: I remember a Mrs. Ward** who was a substitute teacher.

Bernice: I don't think she was, maybe it was another one. Let me see, what else do I remember? I remember the Rutherfords owned that house on the corner there.

Carol: By Sycamore

Bernice: Was it Sycamore? It was right on the corner - every time I'd go by. You take that road off. You turn at Filippis's and you go down that road and it's the main turn to go up to the mountain. You know, you cross by the 2 AM Club.

** Mrs. Ward was a substitute teacher. She was the mother of Andy Ward.

Carol: Yes

Bernice: But there. Oh, it's just before all the automobiles and you turn left to go into the Hardware and the Nursery. Was it Strawbridge or who was it in there?

Carol: Egger's Nursery.

Bernice: Eggers is in there, yes. But just before you get to Eggers there was a --- that corner house--kind of a stucco house. A two-story stucco house and the one on the right there belonged to the people who owned the drug store ---was it Rutherfords?*

Carol: Oh, there was a drugstore at Locust and maybe they lived there.

Bernice: I don't know those people.

Carol: Vernon, was it Vernon?

Bernice: I don't know. It was a drugstore owner, but I don't remember that name. Could it be Rutherfords?

Carol: It could be the Rutherford's. ** Actually, there were the two Rutherford brothers. One -- when I said Sycamore because there was the Rutherford who was the dentist, not the dentist, the pharmacist. His brother lived right next to the Methodist Church on Sycamore.

Bernice: I didn't know him, but did I tell you that when we went to the reunion, the son of the Rutherfords was there and he sat at our table and he now lives in Wisconsin. ***

Carol: Now is that Sam? Do you remember if it was Sam?

Bernice: I think it was Hugh, Junior or something. Hugh Rutherford. I think it was Hugh.

Carol: Because there was a Sam Rutherford who was in Kindergarten with me. Maybe he had a brother named Hugh.

Bernice: But interestingly enough, we had a dog and I asked him "Do you remember that I got one of your dogs?" and he says "Yes, that's right, our dog" (and he named the name) "had puppies and I know we were giving them away" and we got one of his puppies.

Carol: My goodness.

Bernice: Well, I don't recall anything else ...Joy Sutherland, remember her?

Carol: Yes.

Bernice: She lived down from the firehouse.****

* It was the Vernons of Vernons Pharmacy at 365 Miller Avenue. Their home was 212 Sycamore Avenue.

** There were two Rutherford brothers, Hugh and Sam. Sam lived at 13 Sycamore. He was in a wheel chair due to polio. Hugh was a pharmacist and his sons were Benton W, Hugh E., Jr. and Sam.

*** Hugh E. Rutherford, Jr.

**** 30 Corte Madera Avenue

Carol: That's right.

Bernice: And I remember she had a little doll house. Her father was a contractor and he made a little doll house in the back.

Carol: I'd forgotten all about that.

Bernice: Do you remember that?

Carol: Oh, I thought that was wonderful.

Bernice: Wasn't that fun?

Carol: Yes, her father was a contractor. I didn't know that.

Bernice: I remember he built the little house for her.

Carol: I wonder if he built other homes in Mill Valley.

Bernice: I don't know that, but Klyce for sure and you know I still keep in touch with Carolyn Marsilli, who was a Klyce.

Carol: Oh, do you?

Bernice: She's living in some kind of a retirement home with a cousin or niece or someone.

Carol: Is her husband still living?

Bernice: Oh no. Virgil died a long time ago, but Carolyn and I worked at the bank together.

Carol: At the Bank of Mill Valley?

Bernice: No, the Mill Valley Bank and she gave me a wedding shower. I never forgot that. It was so dear. They're nice people. I remember Melvin was a nice boy too.

Carol: Well, I guess Carolyn is the only one of her generation who is still living.

Bernice: I wouldn't be surprised.

Carol: I know her brother Melvin died and I don't....

Bernice: Is that the one? The contractor who built City Hall? *

Carol: Yes, Harvey. He was the father of the Melvin that you were in school with.

Bernice: Yes.

* When the City Hall was built in 1935-36, Harvey A. Klyce did not build it. He was the Building Inspector for the City of Mill Valley. He represented the government and the city council. He was the general overseer.

Carol: I didn't know her husband had died.

Bernice: Yes, Virgil died a long time ago.

Carol: Well, they've been gone from Mill Valley a long time and I think they retired and left Mill Valley. She must be well into her eighties.

Bernice: Yes. the last one, although I think....is there a Harvey? Harvey's son....who became an architect - had an oriental wife or lived in the woods.

Carol: Oh, that....

Bernice: Did you read in the paper about that a bit ago?

Carol: That's Alfred. That was Melvin's, you know the Melvin you went to school with, that was his younger brother. Yes

Bernice: Oh. And he married somebody who was artistic or something.

Carol: He studied. I think he was in -----maybe ---Japan after the war and he studied Japanese architecture and he met his wife over there.

Bernice: I remember reading it in the paper. I was fascinated by that. I think I sent it to Carolyn too, thought she might like to have it.

Carol: Oh, I'm sure.

Bernice: I'm fond of anything that has to do with Mill Valley that's great. And I remember the guy who owns the Mill Valley Market, he lived on Lovell Avenue.

Carol: Oh, Canepa.

Bernice: Oh, Kan-ee-pa. Yes, we called him Canepa. Oh, am I pronouncing it wrong? It's always been Kaneepa, but he lived right below us somewhere on Lovell. He was on Lovell.

Carol: I think you are right. I don't remember which house.

Bernice: It was down there on Lovell somewhere.

Carol: Well, they still own the Market -- the grandsons, actually now.

Bernice: Oh, is that right?

Carol: Well, Jim still works there, but he turned over his interests to his sons and I guess his younger brother still works there.

Bernice: Ambrose Polacchi worked there. Remember Ambrose?

Carol: Yes.

Bernice: He was married to an Ezekiel.

Carol: Oh.

Bernice: Do you remember a Purity Store where Banana Republic is?

Carol: Yes, I do.

Bernice: I remember the manger's name was Bob Addison.

Carol: I don't remember anybody who worked there, but I remember the store.

Bernice: I remember it, uh huh.

Carol: There were so many markets in town.

Bernice: Oh, and there where the Mill Valley Market is - use to be a Green Frog.

Carol: Yes, that's right.

Bernice: And, Suey Key. Remember Suey Key?

Carol: Yes, I do.

Bernice: And then, right next to the theatre, there was a little candy store.

Carol: Oh, yes. I think it was called The Sweet Shop.

Bernice: And I think two sisters ran it. I remember their faces well, but I don't know their names.

Carol: Did you go to the movies very often?

Bernice: Yes we did. And I remember they use to give dishes away. Momma wanted those dishes. Do you remember that?

Carol: I remember. Someone always dropped a dish during the performance.

Bernice: Yes, those were great days.

Carol: Did you ever sing at The Outdoor Art Club?

Bernice: Oh yes, many times and I even sang in the Sequoia Theatre.

Carol: Oh, you did!

Bernice: There was a performance there and George Cory accompanied me and are you aware that George Cory wrote "I Left My Heart in San Francisco"?

Carol: Oh, no, I didn't know that.

Bernice: Yes, he's famous. George Cory wrote the music and a friend wrote the words to "I Left My Heart in San Francisco". And when his friend died, I guess he had a tough time with that and committed suicide.

Carol: George Cory did?

Bernice: George Cory committed suicide.

Carol: Oh, I didn't know that.

Bernice: I think it was up at Clear Lake or some place like that.

Carol: Oh. That was a tragedy. Well, he played the organ at the Sequoia Theatre, I remember, before the show started.

Bernice: You remember George Cory then? He was very talented

Carol: Yes. I did and I remember that he played the organ at the Community Church.

Bernice: Yes. I remember he accompanying me. I was singing "No, No, A thousand times No" and I was in a top hat and tails -- you know, singing this song (my mother always put me in these little theatrics, you know, in those days) and I leaned over to take a bow and my hat fell off in the pit there. so that was very funny but at the time, I didn't think it was so funny.

Carol: Well did you dance too or just sing?

Bernice: No, I just sang and performed. Singing came easy for me. You know, performing was easy, but if I got up to make a speech, that would be difficult.

Carol: Well, did you and Jean just...you were just naturally inclined to music or did your mother kind of push you?

Bernice: I guess they recognized that I had a voice. Even in the second grade I remember singing and Norma Pomeroy was in there too. Do you remember the Pomeroy's?

Carol: No, I don't remember them.

Bernice: I remember, we did a little tap dance in there but I was not a dancer per se. But I loved to sing. It was easy for me -- very easy. I remember there used to be a little freight place there on the side of the depot.

Carol: Oh yes, down a ways on Miller

Bernice: Oh, no, right there. I'm looking at this picture there right next to the Depot, there was a freight place. If you wanted to ship anything, you'd take it there.

Carol: Oh, I think that's right. This, I think, maybe was the freight place.*

* Railroad Express Agency

Bernice: Yes, uh huh. Do you like the Depot? Do you go there and buy food?

Carol: No, I never go there. Never

Bernice: Well, it's kind of ---- it used to be a hippie place. Is it still?

Carol: Not too much. It's kind of a little but, there's so many people on that Plaza. They sit and they play chess and they play other games.

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END OF TAPE

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