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**MATTHEW DAVIS**

**An Oral History Interview  
Conducted by Debra Schwartz in 2015**

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Matthew Davis was born in Nebraska, grew up in Oregon, and finally settled in the Bay Area, California in the late 1950s. After studying at the University of Oregon, Davis travelled to Japan while in the Navy, where he was intrigued by the country's culture and landscape. Davis then moved to Point Richmond, and later to Mill Valley, where he started a family. It was in Mill Valley that he was inspired by Mount Tamalpais and met other like-minded local artists and Buddhists, including Alan Watts, Allen Ginsberg and Gary Snyder. Together, they began the long-standing local tradition of "circumambulation" of Mount Tamalpais, a meditative, often spiritual, day-long journey around the mountain. His love of Mill Valley and Mount Tamalpais led Davis to write his book *Opening the Mountain: Circumambulating Mount Tamalpais: A ritual walk*.

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## Oral History of Matthew Davis

### Index

- book (*Opening the Mountain: Circumambulating Mount Tamalpais: A ritual walk*)...p.6, 7
- Bootjack...p.9
- born in...p.1
- Buddhism...p.5
- circumambulation...p.5-9
- Collier, Robin...p.5
- Dimitroff's Art Store...p.2
- Dimitroff, Steve...p. 2
- Dipsea Trail...p.4
- Dixon, Trudy...p.4
- Druid Heights...p.8
- equinox...p.5
- Fern Canyon...p.10, 11
- Ginsberg, Allen...p.4, 5, 8
- Greensfelder, Bob...p.5
- healing...p.7
- hiking...p.4
- Homestead Trail...p.8-10
- Homestead Valley...p.8, 10
- Japan...p.1, p.5
- Killion, Tom...p.5
- Klyce, Al...p.2,
- Kwong, Will "Jakusho"...p.5
- Matt Davis Trail...p.3, 4,
- Mill Valley...p.1-3, 9, 10
- Milchev, Sita...p.1
- Mount Tamalpais (Tam)...p.1, 7, 9
- Navy...p.1
- Oregon...p.1
- Orin (son)...p.5, 6
- Pantoll...p.9,
- Pettibone, Laura...p.6,
- Pine Street Clinic, San Anselmo...p.7
- Roshi Suzuki...p.5
- Saijo, Albert...p.5
- San Andreas Fault (geology of Mt. Tamalpais)...p.9
- San Francisco Zen Center...p.5
- Snyder, Gary...p.4, 5, 7
- solstice...p.5
- Sonoma Zen Center...p.5
- Steep Ravine...p.4
- steps and lanes...p.9
- Suki (wife)...p.2, 3
- Taggart, Joanne...p.5
- Tamalpais Conservation Club...p.3, 4, 10
- University of Oregon (U. of O.)...p.1
- Watts, Alan...p.2, 8
- Whalen, Philip...p. 5

**Oral History of Matthew Davis**  
**May 1, 2015**

**00:00 Debra Schwartz:** Today is May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 and I am Debra Schwartz. I'm sitting here with Matthew Davis, long time resident of Mill Valley and Matthew, thank you so much for allowing me to interview you on behalf of the Historical Society. Why don't we begin with – you tell me a little bit about yourself, perhaps a little bit about your family and what brought you here to Mill Valley.

**00:30 Matthew Davis:** Alright. Well, I was born in Lincoln, Nebraska. I have no memory of that at all. We moved to Oregon when I was a baby, so my first experiences were mountains; living in mountains in Oregon, both east and west of Eugene. And later on we moved to a small farm town near Portland. There is Mount Hood to the east; there is Mount St Helen's to the north and Mount Adams to the south and the Gresham Butte nearby, which as a kid we could hike on.

**01:24** I went to University of Oregon a couple of years and then decided to go on active duty in the Navy. During that time I was fortunate to have some time in Japan. I became sort of intrigued by Buddhist temples and very intrigued by Japanese country growings and farms and gardens and so forth. I wasn't a typical sailor at all. I would get off the ship and walk straight for the country, and in four or five blocks I'd be free of all bars and things like that, and where old gentlemen would bow to me and I felt like a guest there.

**01:28 Debra Schwartz:** What year would this be approximately?

**02:30 Matthew Davis:** This was – Let's see, '55 – 1957.

**02:39 Debra Schwartz:** Mm-hmm.

**02:44 Matthew Davis:** I was fortunate also – it was the peacetime navy and my dormant ability to write and edit things put me in good stead. I became a journalist. Part of that was to design a big cruise book – think of like a big college year book but this was a cruise book of a big aircraft carrier. And during that work, I employed the talent of a sailor who was a little older, who had a mother in San Francisco. That mother knew the Dimitroff's in Mill Valley. And I went back to the University of Oregon in a year, then got enticed to come to the bay area, and I lived in a little house, way high on Point Richmond, looking across the whole bay and especially looking across to Greene County and Mount Tamalpais – every sunset that reached the mountain. And I started working doing yard work for people. The mother of the sailor took a liking to me, she had two other sons – well, she had one other son besides the one I met in the navy, and she said, “You want some part-time work, why don't you go see my friends the Dimitroff's in Mill Valley?” I didn't know anything about Mill Valley.

**04:52 Debra Schwartz:** How long is that – that Dimitroff's is the frame shop in town? Do you know when that frame shop opened? I had no idea it'd been around so long.

**05:03 Matthew Davis:** Yeah. The last Historical Review has a nice article by Sita Milchev,

their daughter on how the Dimitroff's came to Mill Valley. So it would be – it was specifically mentioned when they came to Mill Valley. They hadn't been there all that long. When I came to work, it was actually located in the Bank of America building.

**05:30 Debra Schwartz:** On Throckmorton and Corte Madera.

**05:33 Matthew Davis:** Yeah. When you look at the bank, if you're standing in front of the entrance, there are windows to the left. Those windows used to be a doorway into Dimitroff's Art Store which sold art materials and did framing. So, there was a big workshop behind the retail part and the Dimitroff's were very open and warm people. And they in fact became my California parents. When I got married, they came all the way up to Mendocino to be at our wedding. They would invite me to dinners, which had other guests like Alan Watts. It was a happy circumstance to be there.

**06:35 Debra Schwartz:** Alan Watts?

**06:38 Matthew Davis:** I had never – I haven't done framing, except to try to put together some of my own things since Steve Dimitroff said, "I want you to forget everything you know, and just learn it my way." That's the Dimitroff personality coming forth. Anyway, I went, got married, saved money, and my wife Suki and I took a long trip to Mexico and Western Europe. We were gone for six months, when I came back I still had a job at Dimitroff's.

**07:28 Debra Schwartz:** So this is now into the '50s still?

**07:32 Matthew Davis:** It's about '62, '63, or that time, yeah. And you know I felt pretty – I liked Mill Valley, I liked the people – how it was a very different town after the commuters would go to work in San Francisco, it would get very quiet during the day. It was just a few house wives around. I had a chance to buy the property we're on now. We'd lived in a chicken shack on the front of the lot, before we went to Europe. And then it was 20 by 20 feet.

**08:26 Debra Schwartz:** You and Suki lived in the chicken shack?

**08:28 Matthew Davis:** Yeah. And when we came back, it was occupied by somebody else. Pretty soon, the owner called me up and offered – she was disgruntled at dealing with younger people who weren't so responsible and so forth. She offered to sell it to me – sell me this lot. So the chicken shack was on the front, and most of the rest of the lot was jungle growth, which we set about slowly clearing away. And today, we have all this garden, and I started digging the foundation for this house. Let me say, I had started studying Architecture at the "U of O," so I wasn't a stranger to designing houses. Also along with framing, I would once in a while work for people like Al Klyce, who's a third generation builder here in Mill Valley.

**09:50** And in fact Al Klyce helped me, he supervised the pouring of the foundation that day, which was a good thing he was there to do that, 'cause it had to be pumped in and so forth. And so by that time, we had two children in the 20 by 20 foot shack. As soon as we had a roof here – no walls – we started sleeping out here, just because we needed more space. It's one of the reasons it's very hard to think of ever leaving where I live, because I've put so much sweat

equity into it. And Suki has – she’s a devoted gardener. In fact, when I crashed in my bike, without her there wouldn’t have been a garden that year. And even now, I’m limited what I can do, so she works and works.

**11:12 Debra Schwartz:** So you managed to move from the chicken coop into an actually home with your children, and then did you – you eventually went back to the frame shop, yes?

**11:28 Matthew Davis:** Yeah, but I was already working back at the shop.

**11:30 Debra Schwartz:** Oh, you were already working back in –

**11:31 Matthew Davis:** And building part-time, weekends and nights. This pine extravaganza here, these cabinets, took a whole year to make all those.

**11:44 Debra Schwartz:** They’re lovely.

**11:47 Matthew Davis:** Those things.

**11:48 Debra Schwartz:** Well, this house is beautifully paneled, people listening aren’t going to be able to see it, but I’ll get a photograph of you with all this beautiful wood. So your children went to school in Mill Valley – and tell me a little bit about the general ambience of Mill Valley and what it is you liked about it or didn’t like about the area?

**12:14 Matthew Davis:** Well, I’m not by nature a very critical or judgmental person. I don’t remember at the beginning too much I didn’t like. It was a friendly town and I love the different valleys and canyons. It took me several years to learn – to even know about some of them existing. And then during all this time, I gradually became more and more enamored you might say of the mountain itself. Our oldest child is a girl. When she was three-weeks-old we actually took her on a hike – carried her on the Matt Davis Trail.

**13:14 Debra Schwartz:** Oh that’s something we probably should clarify. Your name and Matt Davis.

**13:20 Matthew Davis:** I’m not the Matt Davis –

**13:21 Debra Schwartz:** Matt Davis from the Tamalpais Conservation Club who, I believe he died in 1938 or ’39. And he was a dean of the trail goers, and this is not you. You are a different Matthew Davis.

**13:38 Matthew Davis:** Right.

**13:38 Debra Schwartz:** Yes.

**13:40 Matthew Davis:** In fact, I should mention that when I came to Mill Valley I had a different first name, Dennis which I still use medically through the VA. It’s still Dennis because I never had a legal name change. But for probably 40 years I’ve been known locally as Matthew

Davis and people who know me love that I have the same name as the trail.

**14:15 Debra Schwartz:** Because you're such an avid outdoorsy hiking guy.

**14:20 Matthew Davis:** Yeah, although I haven't been on that trail for quite awhile. It was always one of my favorite –

**14:26 Debra Schwartz:** I was just there two days ago.

**14:27 Matthew Davis:** – little jaunts.

**14:28 Debra Schwartz:** Yesterday actually. And it is beautiful as ever and fat solomon is blooming and it smells fragrant – well, it's almost done. But yes, like Matt Davis you enjoyed the mountain and the hiking in the area.

**14:46 Matthew Davis:** And I've done a lot of trail work on the new part of the Matt Davis Trail particularly, but somewhat the old park. Somebody asked me the other day how long since I've walked the Steep Ravine or the Dipsea Trail. Just to set out and walk it, it's been years since I've done that. But then I helped maintain part of it. I helped build the new ladder, it was partway down.

**15:21 Debra Schwartz:** Oh yeah. Looking good. When was that built?

**15:24 Matthew Davis:** Maybe three or four years ago.

**15:27 Debra Schwartz:** Yes, I see. So are you even part of some of the hiking clubs or the conservation clubs?

**15:33 Matthew Davis:** Yeah. The Tamalpais Conservation Club which has started to come alive again. It's having its annual meeting on Sunday, which I hope to get to.

**15:51 Debra Schwartz:** So, how often were you hiking with your young family? I guess what I'm trying to get to is your experience with the mountain. How it affects you – the relationship you have with it on a daily basis, weekly.

**16:14 Matthew Davis:** Well, it means a lot to me to walk out and see it. From my bed I can turn my head and see it. Whether I get on it or not, frequently, just to know that it's there and to see it in different light conditions and different cloud conditions. It's no wonder it's such a well loved place from all around the bay area. People come to, you might say, worship there, to hike there.

**17:04 Debra Schwartz:** So that brings us towards the religious, you could say, experience of being on the mountain for you and obviously for lots of others, is your second ambulation. Maybe we could talk a little bit about that. How it came about and –

**17:28 Matthew Davis:** Well, it came about because Gary Snyder, Allen Ginsberg and Philip

Whalen I guess – I think it was mainly Gary Snyder’s impetus, but he always gave credit to the other two. They joined together to “open the mountain” and do walks. On October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1965 was their first formal circumambulation. After that, I guess Gary went to Japan again. When he came back there was a – the Haight-Ashbury Times was being published and there was a maybe a double-page spread about a hike that was gonna happen, a circumambulation to the mountain.

**18:30** I was never a big formal practitioner of Buddhism, but always interested and intrigued and knew people who were, like Will Kwong. Will Kwong, now known as Jakusho Kwong, is the Roshi at the Sonoma Mountain Zen Center. He introduced me to Roshi Suzuki at the San Francisco Zen Center and other people. There was one – the editor of Roshi Suzuki’s book, *Zen Mind, Beginner’s Mind* – Ms. Trudy Dixon, a woman almost exactly our age, had children the age of our children and lived just a short ways away here.

**19:31** So, I had this proclivity to – well, there’s no way I was not gonna go on that walk, you might say. And several of us, several friends here also, showed up, maybe we even shared a car to get there. I’m thinking of people like Albert Saijo, and – still it was a surprise because – Joanne Taggart just hit upon this the other day at Commonwealth. She was too young to have been a beatnik, but too old to have been a hippie. I was sort of in that same slot. So here’s the circumambulation and the people that show up look like you’re – well, not a costume ball, but the women are mainly in long flowing dresses. They have ankle trinkets. There’s flute music playing. There’s definitely a flower child ambience there. And that was my introduction to hippies and the flower child era, you might say.

**21:13** Anyway, I loved the circumambulation, the feeling of seeing the whole mountain in one day. All these different vistas and angles, and coming together as a group, periodically, to do chants. And so, some of us there wanted to do it again, which we did a little over a year later with Allen Ginsberg and Philip Whalen. That was a huge circumambulation. If the water district has regulations now, not allowing groups over, I think, 19 people or 29 people – that group probably had 129 people in it, but that was before the regulations. Anyway, nobody cared.

**22:14** And after that walk, I don’t know if Allen ever came again. I think Philip did. Gary did, he came several times. Bob Greensfelder is a Homestead resident who definitely was part of it. He had been a Reed College student, along with Gary and Philip. Anyway, people like Tom Killion, and Robin Collier and I, and Bob Greensfelder wanted to make it more a part of our lives, not just to have it happen once a year. But maybe, “Say how about doing it every quarter? Doing it on solstices and equinoxes?” Which we started out doing, but then it turned out people often had to work on solstice and equinox, but if we did it on the Sunday closest to the solstice and equinox, it would work out. So that – it varied a lot during the years according to the weather and so forth. There’s been times when myself and one other person did the walk, including Robin Collier and I did it during a lunar eclipse, complete lunar eclipse.

**24:00** But now it’s boiled down to maybe 30, 35 people, who on any given time maybe half of them will show up and do the walk. It’s a very bonding, enterprising – we got bonded to the mountain, we got bonded to each other. Some of us often have a meal together afterwards. So it became a really big part of my life. And my son Orin, all my children have done the walk, but Orin did it when he was eight or nine-years-old. And then, when I suddenly was incapacitated by



my bike accident, Orin stepped forward – and he had been coming sometimes – and he stepped forward and he’s led it ever since. And the feedback has been very good, on his leading it, so I’m happy about that.

**25:25 Debra Schwartz:** And when was your bike accident?

**25:28 Matthew Davis:** It was early March last year.

**25:32 Debra Schwartz:** So Orin took over –

**25:33 Matthew Davis:** Right away. In two weeks there was a circumambulation.

**25:39 Debra Schwartz:** Oh wow! So you’ve been doing them four times a year for how many years before your accident?

**25:52 Matthew Davis:** Well, I’m not sure how many. He –

**25:55 Debra Schwartz:** Rough guess.

**25:56 Matthew Davis:** He probably did at least 20 over the years. 20 times. He knew the way.

**26:07 Debra Schwartz:** Yes, but how about you? How many do you think you’ve done?

**26:12 Matthew Davis:** Well, there’s a woman, Laura Pettibone, I think she’s up – she counts about 160 she’s done. And we figured out that when I stopped, I was around 180. I have records. I could someday go over them and figure –

**26:36 Debra Schwartz:** Close is good.

**26:37 Matthew Davis:** It’s not important.

**26:37 Debra Schwartz:** No, it’s not. It’s not about that.

**26:40 Matthew Davis:** Right. [Chuckle]

**26:42 Debra Schwartz:** And so in the book – you’ve written a book. Let’s talk a little bit about the book you’ve written about your circumambulation<sup>1</sup>. We’ve got that here.

**27:02 Matthew Davis:** It was fun to put this together. I’ve always sort of been enamored with putting out books, the few that I’ve done. So it was fun to do this and do the drawings. The drawings were all done in the same day as a walk which is why they’re kind of simple, broad line drawings ’cause I only had maybe 15 or 20 minutes to do each one and then catch up with the other hikers. [Chuckle]

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<sup>1</sup> Opening the Mountain : circumambulating Mount Tamalpais : a ritual walk / Matthew Davis & Michael Farrell Scott ; foreword by Gary Snyder. Emeryville, CA: Shoemaker & Hoard: Distributed by Publishers Group West, c2006.

**27:42** I was very fortunate to have a good friend, Mike Scott. He and his wife Vicky had been coming on the walk and Mike is very – he’s a sociology professor, but he’s also a very, very good photographer. All the pictures in there were by Mike.

**28:11 Debra Schwartz:** So, basically your book talks about – there’s a foreword by Gary Snyder, right?

**28:17 Matthew Davis:** Yeah.

**28:18 Debra Schwartz:** Yep, the poet. And it talks about how anybody could read this book and reproduce your experience with the prayers and the –

**28:30 Matthew Davis:** And people have. I’ve been surprised by being told by people, “Oh yeah. We got together. We did the circumambulation.” I can’t think of his name – acupuncturist at Pine Street Clinic and –

**28:50 Debra Schwartz:** In San Anselmo?

**28:51 Matthew Davis:** San Anselmo. They’ve actually sold copies of the book and they –

**28:54 Debra Schwartz:** Really? As a healing?

**28:56 Matthew Davis:** They’ve done the walk.

**29:00 Debra Schwartz:** You think there’s healing properties on Mount Tam?

**29:05 Matthew Davis:** Well, I think any time you get out in fresh air and have a reason to breathe deeply, you’re gonna have healing and, certainly, the greenness, and the flowers, and the birds, and everything are going to be very good for us suburban dwellers. [Chuckle]

**29:39 Debra Schwartz:** Do you have any special mountain experiences that have happened? You’ve spent a lot of time on the mountain. Have you had any adventures in particular you wanna talk about?

**29:57 Matthew Davis:** Circumambulating at night, which is probably very illegal to do, but it was during the lunar eclipses. I think it was January 31st, and on the North side of the mountain, we had to deal with sheet ice on the ground.

**30:20 Debra Schwartz:** Ooh.

**30:23 Matthew Davis:** And when we came down, Robin had a – one of his buddies, I think it was Ryan, he was a cross country runner. He joined us – he couldn’t do the whole walk – but he joined us at Mountain Home. But then he stepped off the – by that time the moon is in full eclipse and it’s very dark in the woods and he stepped off the edge and slipped down.

**30:50 Debra Schwartz:** Where? By the –

**30:51 Matthew Davis:** Somewhere down in the woods there.

**31:00 Debra Schwartz:** That can be dangerous.

**31:01 Matthew Davis:** Yeah, I don't think – I personally have had any "adventure" particularly. Just a huge enjoyment and refreshment from doing it.

**31:20 Debra Schwartz:** Any animal sightings to speak of?

**31:25 Matthew Davis:** No, never saw a cougar or –

**31:28 Debra Schwartz:** Oh wow.

**31:31 Matthew Davis:** I've heard about them around. Right here in Homestead, I was walking on the Homestead trail through the woods and I realized that something rather large had jumped off a branch, a horizontal branch about 20 feet from the trail. I turned to look. I didn't see anything. The branch was still quivering.

**32:00 Debra Schwartz:** That suggests weight.

**32:01 Matthew Davis:** So, it could have just been a bobcat I guess.

**32:04 Debra Schwartz:** Could've been.

**32:06 Matthew Davis:** Which I have seen – in the Homestead Valley are bobcats. And of course deer. You see deer going through the mailbox stuff. Well, we saw a coyote up on the mountain once.

**32:28 Debra Schwartz:** Hmm. I'm surprised you haven't seen more honestly.

**32:34 Matthew Davis:** I didn't mention walking quietly. At some point, I talked about this in the book. We decided to not talk as we climbed the mountain. And everybody loved it, but it does spook other hikers who are usually gabbing away as they walk along, and then all of a sudden there's 15 people next to them that they didn't have any idea were there. Kind of amazed. That's them. I don't know if that still happens or not but –

**33:17 Debra Schwartz:** Did Alan Watts ever circumambulate with you?

**33:21 Matthew Davis:** No, he wasn't – I don't think he was much of a hiker. He took some walks out in Druid Heights I'm sure. But he never – I'm not sure what the sequence was when the circumambulation started whether he was still around or not. Allen Ginsberg wasn't a hiker either but he did the walk, and my impression of him was that he would barely be able to make it to the next station. But at that station he would chant until he was revived and he'd stride off forcibly to continue.

**34:17 Debra Schwartz:** You've been working on the mountain, walking on the trails, and you're in very much part of the mountain. So how do you see change on the mountain as far as usage and the way that people relate to it? Do you see anything different? Or –

**34:39 Matthew Davis:** Well, the usage has grown over the years. Some places seem like they're worn down [chuckle] somewhat. But as far as out on the trails, I don't know how many people really get that much out on the trails, but around Pantoll or Bootjack or something there's certainly heavy usage. And any place within a 1500 feet of the car. Up off of Ridgecrest Boulevard, I mean who can blame people? It's just so gorgeous up there. You get up there and there's those knolls and there's not even any trees blocking your view. You're on top of the San Andreas Fault. Who can blame them for walking out into the grass and wearing it down? I do wanna – it reminds me of it. It more and more seems like a very, very special privilege to live here, so close to the fault and so close to the mountain.

**36:01** And where one of the circumambulation stops is a serpentine field where the mountain changes direction, you might say. It had been running, more or less, east and west and there it turns north, and if you read anything about geology and so forth, it's kind of amazing to live so close to a fault, a big a fault as the San Andreas Fault. And the recent revelations of some school – Pennsylvania geology people came out and they determined that Tamalpais was formed by a blind thrust fault at right angles to the San Andreas Fault, which helped, for me, to explain why, when most cross ridges run parallel to the course, Tamalpais comes off at a right angle. I think that the first mountain south of San Francisco, I can't think of the name of it, also is at a right angle. Anyway the geology here is very intriguing and always a sense of wonder. Awe and wonder.

**37:43 Debra Schwartz:** Have you studied a bit of geology? The rocks and –

**37:46 Matthew Davis:** I haven't studied it, formally, I just –

**37:49 Debra Schwartz:** But I mean, you're interested in it?

**37:49 Matthew Davis:** Whenever I see an article or something I read it. Yeah.

**37:52 Debra Schwartz:** Mm-hmm. How about the paths and lanes in the area? And this thick steps, paths and lanes in Mill Valley? The many paths and lanes that we have that –

**38:03 Matthew Davis:** Well, that's one of the wonderful things about Mill Valley is that all these steps and lanes in it. It's sad when somebody gets permission to block one off, but fortunately, a lot of them are still open. I make use of one of little one to go down to the store here in Homestead, but it's one of the neat things about Mill Valley.

**38:37 Debra Schwartz:** Mm-hmm.

**38:41 Matthew Davis:** And Homestead actually has a whole trail called the Homestead Trail that runs through the woods. It's not lacking in the walking capabilities. In fact, you could walk

up Homestead Valley and connect to the Dipsea up on Edgewood and follow that or you can right from here you can go up to the Homestead Boulevard to the end and get on the Homestead Trail through the woods and come out more by Dias Ridge. At one time, I would walk to Green Gulch that way; it would take me an hour. Above the Three Corner area, I would connect to an old cow trail that went down through the gulch. That was when there were still cows – [Chuckle]

**39:50 Debra Schwartz:** Yeah, I remember.

**39:51 Matthew Davis:** – had been cows there. George Wheelwright’s Angus. But gradually that’s grown up. The last time I tried, I never made it. I gave up. It was too thick and overgrown.

**40:13 Debra Schwartz:** What are the people that you recall in the years that you’ve lived here? Are there individuals that come to mind that stand out for you that very much made Mill valley an experience or a home for you?

**40:30 Matthew Davis:** Well, one for sure was a – I’m having trouble coming up with his name. Martin, who died about four or five years ago, was a – he lived in Homestead Valley and he did pottery on his retirement, but he was a great enthusiast for the mountain, the Sierra, and he was a part of the Tamalpais Conservation Club and he had a very profound influence on me and my attitude towards the mountain – this mountain and the Sierra as well. He introduced me to the Tuolumne Poetry Festival which I still go to, at least one more year I think.

**41:43 Debra Schwartz:** If you were to say anything to anybody – coming into our mountain – about how you feel about it or the privilege and responsibility of living in an area this unique and this beautiful. What would you say?

**42:10 Matthew Davis:** To introduce somebody to –

**42:12 Debra Schwartz:** Yeah, or whatever information you’d want to pass along to somebody coming here for the first time, or maybe they’re moving to the town.

**42:23 Matthew Davis:** I’d just tell them to take a walk. [Chuckle] Take a walk with an open mind and no time limit on it. Maybe a wonderful quick introduction would be to drive up Summit Avenue and then – I forget what the street is.

**42:55 Debra Schwartz:** Fern.

**42:56 Matthew Davis:** Fern Canyon? Or – park there, look around and walk. Walk up and around. There’s various – I won’t try to describe, but there’s various loops you can do, including the – this is the site where an airplane crashed years ago.

**43:25 Debra Schwartz:** Which is – on what trail is that?

**43:29 Matthew Davis:** Well, it’s not on a trail. I think parts of it are in one gully, but the main field of debris is off to the side. There’s a ranger, a largish ranger that kind of makes it his mission to protect that area.

**43:55 Debra Schwartz:** There are wonders to behold up there. Echo Rock and on the Hoo-Koo-E-Koo Trail, and all kinds of places to hike.

**44:08 Matthew Davis:** For a year, friends of mine were lookouts on the mountain.

**44:13 Debra Schwartz:** Mm-hmm.

**44:14 Matthew Davis:** When circumambulators came by, we were invited in for tea.

**44:21 Debra Schwartz:** Up at the lookout station at the top of East Peak.

**44:23 Matthew Davis:** Yeah.

**44:24 Debra Schwartz:** Yes, well, that's convenient.

[Background conversation]

**44:55 Matthew Davis:** I don't know if I have much more to say.

**44:58 Debra Schwartz:** Okay well – I think this is wonderful by the way about the mountain – everything you're saying. And that's a wonderful suggestion about over at Fern Canyon. You know, I can tell you I finally couldn't take it anymore; I'm always picking up litter up at the end towards where the Fire Road at the end because they always have those cans. The garbage cans there have no tops on them, so I always go and pick up litter. I finally couldn't take it anymore. I called the city and I said "You just gotta stop this. You are creating the litter. If you have people putting their garbage in, with no tops, it's a grocery store for animals in the wind. Now, please put a proper animal proof, wind proof canister up there." And they did. It's beautiful, it's green. They painted it green and the litter isn't getting distributed anymore. Thank God. Twenty years I've been picking up that litter finally, and without complaint you know. Finally I just thought "This is nuts. Just nuts." So I don't know if you've been up there, but check it out. I call them big greener.

**46:13** I'm gonna say thank you very much for the interview and it's been a delight to talk to you and we can, I think, "Take a walk" is a good way to end it. I'll ask one more question, okay? Matthew –

[Pause]

**47:00** Well, Matthew as for winding up our interview here. Is there a question here that I haven't asked that you wish I'd asked?

[Pause]

**47:21 Matthew Davis:** I think we've covered pretty much – I guess you could ask if I ever, what would make me leave? Peter Coyote has just announced he's gonna move to Sonoma and

the traffic is bad. There's no doubt about it, but when you're so rooted to a place with a house you've made and a garden you've created and a neighborhood of people that know you, it's very hard to think of leaving. I just hope new people that live here can gradually be seduced by peacefulness of the place and live accordingly.

**48:28 Debra Schwartz:** Thank you. Thank you very much, and thank you for your time.

**48:32 Matthew Davis:** You're welcome. You're feeling a discomfort from a headache? I'm having more and more shoulder ache. I don't know.

**48:47 Debra Schwartz:** I've got my shoulders hurting here, too. You know, I swear. Do you think – I have a friend who says that when you're out in nature all the time, your pores open, and your sensitivity to things – you become more sensitive to things. Sometimes I think I have spent so much time on that mountain – I can't tell you – every day for years, by myself a lot of the time, and it's very hard to go from that into the world at large. Because there is sensitivity and empathy, and the way the nature opens you up. And then to transit from that world into the jarring modern world, is always a challenge, I think. But you okay?

**49:42 Matthew Davis:** Yeah. It'll dissipate, I think.

**49:46 Debra Schwartz:** It's really good to meet you.