

Sonoma Nature Preserves Oral History Project (Fairfield Osborne Preserve)

Interview with Jane Duerson

Conducted by Caitlin Chang

Thursday, April 21, 2016

Recorded at the outdoor seating area of Honey Badger Coffee House in Rohnert Park, CA

Caitlin Chang (CC): This is Caitlin Chang recording Jane Duerson on April 21st 2016. And Jane, can you tell me when and where you were born?

Jane Duerson (JD): I was born in August of 1945 in Santa Rosa in the General Hospital, it's now been converted into...a homeless center? [A dog walks under the table] Oh, a dog!

Dog Owner: Hello, excuse me.

CC: Haha, okay.

JD: So, Santa Rosa, the General Hospital is no longer there. That's, you know, it was closed shortly after I was born, I think. [Laughs]

CC: Oh really?

JD: No, I think it was probably in the 1950s that it was closed.

CC: Where did you grow up?

JD: I grew up in Sonoma County on Sonoma Mountain. Up at the end of Lichau Road. I don't even know if it was named Lichau Road when I was, uh, I was born. We didn't have mail delivery up there. We had to go into Santa Rosa to get to the post- old post office, to get mail. So it was just a route number. I don't know when it was named Lichau. It may have always- always been that way. It was named after a family that was down at the bottom of the mountain. But I grew up at the end of the road on a 600 acre ranch. And my grandparents bought that, my dad's, so all on my- the history of my family is my dad's side. My mom was born out of state and came to Sonoma County later on and went to high school, and then met my dad and married him, and moved up to the ranch. So my grandparents bought that piece of property, the 600 acres, half of which is now the Fairfield Osborne preserve, uh, in 1929, and they sold half of that in 1966 to the Roth family.

CC: Okay. What is your profession?

JD: Um, right now, there's no profession! I am seventy and retired. I did work for the superintendent of schools on the classified staff for thirty years and I left there, uh, in 1998 and then I just had a few part time jobs until I was old enough for my retirement. So, that's uh, classified secretarial staff, whatever they call 'em now. I don't think they call 'em secretaries anymore.

CC: Haha. Um, well you already kind of answered this, but when did your family first come to the mountain?

JD: I didn't answer that. It was my dad's side and both my dad's mother and father's side. My dad's maternal heritage is Scottish. His great, it would be my... his great-grandparents Watts, Richard Watts and I don't remember her name, Janette maybe. They came from Scotland by ship, around the Horn, and they settled- they came into the Bay Area and worked their way up onto the mountain, and they had two daughters. They settled just below what is now, well they settled, uh, kind of on Eagle Ridge Road- which is now Eagle Ridge Road. Along in there on the way to the actual Eagle Ridge development up at the end of that road, that was where they homesteaded. And they had seven children. My dad's mother was one of those seven and she married a Duerson. That was my dad's paternal side. And his grandfather came across the plains in the early 1850s. Settled in Turlock and was there a few years, married one of the young girls when she became of age. He was in his thirties and she had just turned eighteen, I think, seventeen. And married her and they moved to the mountain and started the family and they had nine children and my grandfather, my dad's father, was one of those nine. So, both his mother's side and- both his mother and father were born on the mountain. And his, um, great-grand- his grandmother, I guess it would be, his grandmother was also born on the mountain, she was one of two, the Watts, that originally came. There were two daughters born there and one was his grandmother.

CC: Oh, so very long history then of your family.

JD: Very long history on my dad's side, yes, yes a-huh. Right, both his father and mother.

CC: Great. So how did your family start ranching?

JD: Well, this area in the... the eighteen, late eighteen, well it was all agriculture. So, that's how people made a living before vehicles, the mountain was a community. And neighbors married neighbors. And they entertained each other. They would have little music groups and they would go to one another's houses and have dances and uh... It was all a- whatever people could making a living off of the property, the property that they had. They had little dairies or they raised beef cattle or chickens or you know whatever, or they did carpentry. Some of my dad's uncles were carpenters. They sheared sheep, they would ride off the mountain to ranches around- that was, most of this county was mostly agriculture. And not just chickens, like the Petaluma history, but it was beef cattle and sheep, lot of sheep. So it was, um, ranchers, farmers. Yeah, they would just survive- they're just self-sufficient.

CC: Well what were your responsibilities when living at the ranch?

JD: Oh my, my folks were kind of easy on me. My mom was harder on me [laughs]. I never really had to get up at the crack of dawn and go milk cows, my dad did that. But some of the things I did do, I do know how to milk a cow. I have done that. And I, uh, worked, we would, my sister and I, my sister is a couple years older than I, and we would help dad 'cause he didn't have hired hands. He had neighbors and he had a cousin that lived next door, which is Round Oak. His, my dad's aunt and one of her sons, uh, lived there and he would come over and help once in

a while... when he wasn't drinking [laughs]. And um...but we would hold the lambs while Dad got the fire going and had the, the iron that would cut the tails off and then mark the little buck lambs and um... We would help with uh, you know gettin' the sheep in off the hill and I would go with Dad on the horse, 'cause it was the whole 600 acres and there were a lot of sheep. They would divide into a couple of different groups and go hide. You wouldn't think, uh, several hundred sheep could hide, but they could if they've got sneaky leaders.

CC: [laughs]

JD: He would figure out who the leaders were and put a bell on 'em. And so, you know they'd eventually give their selves away. So some of the trails that're now on, um, the hiking trails that're on the preserve that have steps, those are old deer trails and sheep trails that come down over the bluff. And one group would, I remember there's the steep, the steep area that people hike on now that have the wooden steps. The one group would divide off and go chargin' down the hill, while one of us would have to follow down that steep- and there weren't steps then [laughs]. Down that steep hill to follow and make sure they continued in towards the, you know, the ranch and the barn. So other than that, you know, there wasn't, we would have chickens once in a while, or turkey- we didn't have a- we'd gather the eggs. The chickens just ran loose in the barn and they would, the hens would lay all over the place and you'd know that there was a nest of eggs when they'd start cacklin'. So we'd go hunt down the eggs but, but we didn't uh, my sister and I didn't have hard chores. We didn't have to. We didn't work from dawn to dusk like some kids do, or did.

CC: You mentioned also that your neighbors helped you. Was there anybody else who worked on the property?

JD: No, there... they... It was such a small, small community. Nothing like now. There were just a few people that lived on the road and there was the Harvey Ranch that's halfway up the, halfway up the hill. It's all developed now. And then there was the Canon Ranch, which was a little further up that is now Cook's, the Cook ranch or property. So, uh, and on the north side there was another family, the Fury family, and they, those were, that was what you did then you helped neighbors helped neighbors and - [dog walks under the table] Oh, another dog, wow!

CC: [laughs]

JD: And um, my dad didn't have siblings, he was an only child and so there weren't... and he didn't have sons. So it was just, uh, that's kind of what you did. You helped each other. So when he needed help in the hay, if there wasn't a relative, his father helped him early on, and maybe there was some other friend that was around. It would be a neighbor that would come and help. So, that's how you got things done. You just... even though it was the day of the automobile up and down the hill, it still was like a community on the mountain for a long time until the late sixties and seventies when people started to die and those properties start to be developed and then the whole atmosphere of the mountain changed. And people got, you know, the people that I grew up with and knew, they got old and died, so... yeah.

CC: How much has ranching changed over the years? [Dog barks]

JD: Oh I think it's changed considerably because of the whole dynamic of the county and the population. It's no longer really, even though I think its agriculture- agriculture has changed in the... sense that there's smaller little private farms like organic farming, there's farmers markets. Dairies that exist now have to be large, very large, hundreds of cows in order to exist, and regulation is, uh, stifling what they have to go through, the expense that they have to go through and it's just times have changed. And bacteria, and you know...

[Dog owner yells at barking dog in background] [Dog ignores owner and continues to bark]

JD: ... Cleanliness, uh, things that we're dealing with now that we didn't, I don't even know if they existed in those earlier days. My folks had a grade, what they'd call a grade B dairy. And they sold cream, so they had a small mixed herd of maybe ten cows, eight cows? And my dad would, he would milk by hand until we got- actually he did milk- he had a generator. But we didn't have, when I was a little kid, we didn't have the electricity so he would milk by hand. Or after he got the generator goin' he had, he had that helpin' him out to milk, the milking machines. And uh, but he would just store the milk in the milk house in the side-part of the milk house in a long trough with water, cold water. And the cans would just be put in there. The cream would be separated through the separator- milk off to one side and cream went into the cans. And he'd take the cans and put 'em in this trough of water, put some gunny sacks around 'em and- do you know what a gunny sack is?

CC: Uh, no I don't.

JD: It's uh... it's a material that's... it's a sack. They don't use it anymore unless maybe it's in a yardage shop.

CC: Oh, okay.

JD: Yeah and so...

CC: Is it like burlap?

JD: Yes, like burlap. Yes, that's the burlap. Exactly. So, he would wrap the cans in burlap, wet them down. And that's how he kept that cream cool. And I remember gettin', knockin' the top of the can and gettin' in there and runnin' my finger around the edge of the can and it was like sour cream, it bubbled up and was real thick. It's like eatin' sour cream or butter....and oh! And so, but that's a no-no now! You don't do that, everything is refrigerated and gone as soon as it comes from the cow. It goes through the dairy and it, it's hauled off and that's the way it should be. It's clean and safe and so on. But things were different in those days. So that's how dairying changed. Um, it's just very few dairies can really exist now unless they're these mega dairies. And some of 'em are incorporated, that you know, there's more than one. Um, that's what, uh, some of my dad's uncles, they had little bitty tiny dairies and there was no milk truck that came up the mountain. Those that could haul the cans down to the bottom, down to the crik (creek), there was a little platform, and they would haul the cans down and put cans on the platform. And a truck would come, I think probably once a week, and pick up the cans. But my dad, he would take them into Petaluma to the co-op creamery, the cream. And um.... [Another dog walks under our table]... Um, I'm losing... A dog just went by and I got distracted [laughs].

CC: [laughs] I'm sorry about that!

JD: That's alright, I love dogs so I'm easily distracted.

JD: Sheep, um... sheep there's not as many sheep as there used to be. There used to be a lot of sheep around. Coyotes... as people moved in, you know hunting changed and trapping and all that and coyotes built up and wiped out a lot of... sheep herds. That's how my folks went out of sheep in the seventies because the last crop of lambs they had, uh, more than 70% of those lambs were killed, were gone.

CC: Wow.

JD: And that was part of their living. That was probably right, maybe right after they sold half the ranch. My dad liked sheep better than he liked cows. They were just easier to handle. And he would shear... the wool was income, you know. The sheep would be sheered and lambs would be raised and then taken to market. So, there's not as many sheep in the county, that's changed. And I just think that there's a lot of... I don't know if the changes are for better or for worse, I think it's just change. It's just what happens with human beings. We evolve, you know, we move along. And as population of the world and this area, this county, this is a beautiful county, changed, it... it was just inevitable that those days were going to go away. And whether its better days... but more regulations and cleaner and safer products for human consumption had to take place. Otherwise we may all be dead! [Laughs]

CC: Oh! [Laughs]

JD: So, hopefully that answers that.

CC: Yes it does, thank you!

JD: More than enough! [Laughs]

CC: It's great! Do you remember when Copeland Creek flooded? Were there anyways you were affect by the storm?

JD: At the bottom? Uh, you mean the crik at the bottom? It's flooded several times.

CC: So it's flooded many times?

JD: Well, yeah. Was there one specific- did somebody something about say one specific?

CC: This was one of [Claudia Luke's] questions. But, she mentioned about Copeland Creek flooding. But did any of the streams near you flood badly or do you remember any particular time?

JD: Not on the ranch, no. They're pretty deep- there's several canyons. But the crik at the bottom, we used to have more rain. We had longer winters and more severe winters and colder winters. And I think... I do remember. Because we would to catch the bus at the bottom of the hill where the crik is, where the bridge is. And that's a newer bridge and it used to be narrower, more unique bridge and it was a one car bridge. But that changed as population on the mountain changed. I remember when we would catch the bus and if it had been storming the crik would

bubble- it would bounce up against the bottom of the bridge. But there had been a few floods just in recent, the last ten years or so, because the debris filled the creek. It just washed down and it filled that creek. And water, a big storm coming and if there's a lot of run-off, the ground is already saturated and there's a lot of run off, water finds its own avenue. So I remember going to a part time job that I had early in the morning, probably like 2004, 2005, something like that. Just that the change of 2005 to 2006 January, it'd been raining a lot, it was already- everything was wet. And right by where Cold Springs is, it flooded across the road and it washed out parts of that road. But I, being the stupid person that I am, had to get to a job and I went down at like four in the morning and saw that. But I saw how the water was going over some high spots and I figured those were rocks and I would kind of veer around it. Little did I know that if I had gone too far to the right it probably would have gone off the road into where it actually did wash the road out. So, yeah, that's all I remember. I don't remember earlier on in my life. But it's highly possible that it did flood in the older days.

CC: What kind of wild animals lived on the property?

JD: The normal that would be in this area still today. There're varmints, coons, raccoons. We referred to 'em as coons because we'd talk about coon hunting. Anyways, raccoons, fox, skunk, you wouldn't see them but you'd know they were around. Deer... deer are fairly new, I think they were black tail. They're fairly new to this area in the last generations, they were planted, I think. And the bobcats, I have seen bobcats. I have seen where a mountain lion has been, but I have not seen one, but I know that they come through. And, other than that, that's the wildlife. I would think it's pretty normal to today. Maybe coyotes have changed because they were hunted. They were a predator and sheep were their- that was a bad thing, coyotes and sheep. And they were pretty much hunted out and were clean for quite a few years, so those are back. And then birds, you know, you got eagles and hawks and different types of hawks. There's a little chicken hawk that's in my yard that keeps going after the wild birds that I threw the seed out, and the doves and quail. It's a very persistent little hawk, and I know it has to eat, but not my birds! So that's kind of the common... Just what's here today was there then.

CC: There wasn't any wild pigs or..?

JD: Oh you're right! There were wild pigs, but those, um, oh there's also the wild turkeys. But those were things that were planted, wild pigs were brought in, at least during my lifetime. And in the nineties, I recall that it was around the first part of the 90's, I used to ride with a friend of mine and we'd go over to London's [Jack London State Park] over the hill, down into London's and we'd run into pigs and little piglets a lot. But those I understand were not natural. They were brought in and they just multiplied and now they've been hunted out. And turkeys were also, like Canadian Geese I think were brought in, and now they've multiplied to where they've become pests. I still like to hear 'em, I like 'em. They're not a pest to me. The turkeys can be a little pesty, but they don't bother the ranch. They bother other crops and other people I know that they can be a nuisance.

CC: What else can you remember about your neighbors?

JD: Well, let's see. The neighbors that I remember from when I was growing up, when I was a kidlet, from my early memories, other than the Roth family, to about high school or right out of high school... Those were relatives, all the way down to Gravity Hill, you know Gravity Hill. Okay, that's like between the fourth and fifth cattle guard, or something like that, there's that long stretch that people have named Gravity Hill that we didn't know existed until like, the seventies. It was just a flat strip of road. And so, down to the Canon, or Cook Ranch, all the way up were my dad's uncles. They had little ranches and mainly it was the Horn family. They were the offshoot of the Watts family. One of the Watts' daughters was my dad's grandmother, and she married a Horn. And they had seven children and my grandmother was one of those seven. And then there were uncles, there were four uncles and they lived up on the mountain. And my grandmother was one of 'em, and my dad was raised, I think it's called Quail Brook, off of Eagle Ridge. I think its call Quail Brook Lane, at the end of that over against the north side is where my dad was raised. And that was his mother's piece of property. So those were my neighbors. Then when I was about ten, I think it was 1955, the Roth family bought the ranch down the road from the existing Fairfield Osborne Preserve. It connects that piece of property so it's all the preserve. But now you're up at the end of the road, that's where the preserve is, and I don't think there's much goin' on down at the old ranch. So they bought that ranch, and that was to be a weekend ranch for their kids, their two daughters, and later on they had another daughter. We didn't have many kids to play with. I didn't feel like I was neglected that way, I didn't feel I was deprived because there weren't kids around, 'cause there were always people at the ranch and they would come and hunt and fish and so on. And a lot of people would come up to the ranch, my folks knew a lot of people and they were very friendly and they would end up at the ranch. So, some of those people had kids. But the Roths were a bid deal for my sister and I, because there were two little girls. And then they rode horses so we'd go down there just about every weekend, probably drove Joan and Bill Roth nuts having these two other girls down there 'cause we weren't shy then. And we never thought about we were being pests, we were just goin' down to play with the neighbor girls when they come up on the weekends. So other than old relatives, the Roth kids were a big deal to us.

CC: What do you think about the idea of the Roths converting the ranch into a preserve?

JD: I think it's a fine idea. It's been that way for so long that it's just something you're familiar with now. It's not new, we're used to it. I think by them buying the ranch it was one way to preserve that property. It could have been bought by somebody who would've put some houses in there. That would have probably been fine too because you... acclimate. So we've gotten used to the fact that it's a preserve. And for the most part everybody's respectful. It's at the end of the road and there's lots of traffic now that comes up the end of the road but that doesn't really have anything to do with the preserve. So I think it's a good idea. I think they did a nice job of preserving a mountain- they were up there for a long time. You know, 1955 to when they started... their daughters, when they first moved up there I would've been about ten. So, I think their oldest daughter was about two-ish, maybe about two years younger than me, and the next one was about two years younger. So I think they might have been like six and eight. And then when I was around fourteen or so, the last little girl was born. The 'little surprise' was born, she was a nice little surprise. So they had three daughters. So it was mainly... they started growing

up, the girls started growing up and that just took the whole family away from the ranch and they were people that... they didn't tear down things, they liked old things. They liked old buildings and just sorta tryin' to take care of 'em and preserve 'em, that was sorta who they were. In fact, Bill Roth, he was responsible for rejuvenating, purchasing and rejuvenating Ghirardelli Square. He did that in the seventies or late sixties. So they were... they liked to preserve history and enjoyed history.

CC: What were the other buildings or structures located on the property?

JD: There is... you mean when I was growing up?

CC: Yeah, when you were growing up.

JD: When I was growing up, uh, it was like I said it was a 600 acre ranch, it hadn't been divided yet. And there was the... original house. Oh, just thought of something... there was the original house. There *is* the original house that is still there... and the original buildings would have been maybe a wood house next to it. And later on my folks, like around 1950, they built a little cabin for some young friend who was like a big brother to us and he would take us down the mountain to school. So he lived there, it was like a tradeoff. He would stay there in the cabin and take us to school. And there is the barn, and a sheep shed, sheering shed and a little milk house. Those are the original buildings that I remember. So I don't know who built all of those, but I do know that the original pioneers that came in, the first owners, and I don't know if this was part of Vallejo with the Spanish land grant. I don't know, I would have to look at a map to see how that ran, but it could have been bought, traded off, how we traded properties with Mexico and so on and I don't know if this mountain was part of that. But anyway, the Burns family were the original pioneers on that ranch and they came in the late 1840s. The old house that still exists there, if you're up on top of the ridge and look down, into the ranch, you will see the old house. You should be able to see the old house and you should see the high point, it's a two story pitch roof and that's the original part of the old house that was built in 1850. And then about twenty-five years later, they built on a long kitchen. And that kitchen was where they would hold dances, like at different ranches, different properties around on the mountain, like I said it was a community. Kind of a self-contained community. And they would hold dances there in the kitchen. And my grandmother and grandfather, they'd go to dances there when they were kids. They would go up, they'd walk up to or ride a horse or wagon or whatever and they'd go to that old house and that's... and my grandmother went to her first dance there I think. So it was kind of a big deal. So that house was built by the Burns family. That 600 acres was known as the Burns Ranch. The canyon, if you're on the ridge and look down into the flat, the bowl of the ranch... there is a canyon that runs down. I think its Matanza crik, the crik... that comes from the top of the mountain. They had water so to speak. It meanders through the ranch, through the flat and goes down the canyon. And I think it becomes the Matanza crik in Bennett Valley. That canyon is known as Burns Canyon. And what I had just thought about... and what really made me upset because I wanted to bring that... was I found a picture. I'm moving from my house to the little house on the ranch, and I've inherited all this old stuff. And I've found a picture of Burns School District. The schools were all over the mountain, depending on where the population was the heaviest of the kids, they'd move the schools. And there was a picture of Burns School District

on that ranch. And probably it existed up on the preserve part of it now. And I looked at the picture and tried to figure out what the background was, where it could be, and I just couldn't picture it. It was more like a little lumpy hill and trees behind the school. And the kids were... outside and the teacher was there, and it had written on the back who the kids were. I think there were a few relatives and there were some neighbors, people from Bennet Valley. They would walk up to the school, and like I said the schools were moved depending on where the kids were the heaviest population of the kids. But kids would... my grandparents went to school along the mountain and um... is that what you asked me?

CC: Yeah!

JD: Oh, you asked me about the buildings, yeah. And as people have come and gone they've added a few buildings. My dad added, my folks added a shed, you know a work shed and the little cabin and a, kind of a garage. Lot of the original stuff is still there.

CC: Still there, yeah. I was reading a report and they mentioned that there was a burnt... it was either a burnt house or a burnt barn might still be there. Do you know anything about that?

JD: Well, the... on the ranch?

CC: On Fairfield Osborne.

JD: Any of that's possible, because a lot of the old buildings did catch fire. They were wood heated. A lot of the old houses that had been replaced. They were probably big, tall houses because of large families. So it's... I don't know what that would be. Somebody came across something like a foundation or something? It's possible. It's possible it could have been a school or uh, I think that that was one ranch. There weren't houses on the... that I'm aware of, unless it was a little cabin or something, on the actual piece that Fairfield Osborne is now. They're on the upper part of the mountain. There were places that I had, I know some of my relatives, they didn't own but they lived up there, and there were little houses, cabins around here and there. But it's not uncommon for a house to burn. And my great... the Watts house, which is down on the way up to the actual Eagle Ridge development, on that Eagle Ridge Road, that burned, because it, you know, was wood heated. So, things just caught fire and they had to be replaced.

CC: What do you know about the earlier history of the property?

JD: Well other than the Burns coming in, I don't know... I don't know what was there. I... I have been told, I don't know if it's true, that a lot of the rock walls were built by Chinese labor. And that... you know, in the 1800s there were a lot of Chinese that immigrated, but they weren't... they weren't treated very nicely from what I understand, they weren't welcome. And they probably, in order to make a living somehow, or to exist, or maybe they were just forced into labor. That's what I have been told now, I don't know if all the rock walls... I don't even know if that's true. It could have been... but I have heard that more than once that it was, uh, some of those rock walls on the mountain were built by Chinese labor. So, other than that, I don't know too much what went on.

CC: Okay. Do you know anything about any Native American history of the mountain?

JD: No I just um... I think what I've heard is that they migrated to the ocean, come back over the mountain a lot. There was the flat, the ranch is like a bowl, and that the flat was a lake at one time. But you know I can't really say when... how did it open up and not become a lake anymore, what changed that. So we have found, you know, arrowheads and uh, they have been there. But where they camped, it's been so many hundreds of years that time has just shifted the earth and cover things so deeply that... My dad would plow down below, well actually he would dig up below the old house to... for like a fire break in the late spring, early summer, and he would dig up, you know, the arrowheads. That probably was an area that was popular to camp with.

CC: Can you tell me a few of your favorite memories or stories about the people and the land?

JD: Well, one... what I remember, it's kind of coming off the mountain, but that... We used to come into town with my dad a lot. But the favorite people that remember, uh, there was my dad's cousin, Sack. His name was Merle, but his nickname was Sack. And he lived next door with his mother. He actually was raised over... he was an Elvick and his mother was a Duerson. So she married a man named Tom Elvick, he was a lot older and I think he already had another family. The rumor was that she was a lot younger than him and he would... she would walk from the Duerson- which is Eagle Ridge now- place, her home and walk across the hill and they'd meet. They'd meet and he was already married, and they'd have their little rendezvous somewhere on the hill there. But anyway that's kind of a... I don't know if it's true now, I think it is. Anyway, he divorced, I guess, and she married him and had five children. And they were down at the... where the Roths originally bought out back in there, and that house burned, that house burned when the Roths owned it. So that was the old Elvick ranch, down where it's now still Sonoma State University's, but it's down the hill from where you... from the preserve now. So back in there was the Elvick ranch and that was a relative. So Sack was the, he was the youngest of five. And he... I don't know how they got the forty acres, whether that was part of the Burns ranch, I don't know. But anyway the forty acres that they lived on, they had a little house and barn and so on and had cows and chickens, whatever they could make a living off of, right next... right behind our property and that's Round Oak. That's now Round Oak, it's got houses all over it. And he was... he was an alcoholic, but he was a very nice person. And he... when he wasn't drinking, which was wine, he would come over and he would help dad. He would help dad, he was just like two people working, he was such a worker... he was such a hard worker. And he would come over and help dad with whatever he needed. With fencing, you know there was a lot of fencing that needed cross-fencing and so on for 600 acres to keep sheep in and so on. And um, and then he would help in the hay, 'cause dad would raise hay for store in the barn for the cows and the sheep and so on. So he would help shock the hay and help get it into the barn. So he, he was... one of my... cheerful... memory relatives. The other were just older and the uncles, uh, they were the Horn Ranch, my dad's mother's side, her brothers. They were several bachelors and then, they just didn't have that... I mean I remember them... but I don't have fond memories of them like I do of Sack. So when he was drinking, he would come over and he... When my mom and dad got married and moved up, moved to the ranch in 1938, my mom was an outsider to the mountain. She wasn't welcome, but they didn't know what they were messin' with. She was... she had a hard kidhood and she learned how to survive and so they were gonna run her

out. They really were going to attack her, physically, and they were going to push her off the mountain. Even though that was their nephew that she was married to, or cousin, and they loved him. For some reason these old bachelor uncles and some of their friends, they were gonna get her off the mountain. Go figure. But, she... she uh, was so tough that she would... it turned, it turned on them! It backfired. And she chased them off. And there were many stories about that. But Sack, he was one of 'em that wasn't very nice, especially when he was drinking, but she'd took care of him. When he would come and work, she was the old fashion country cook, learned from... self-taught a lot of things and really a good cook. And I'm not just sayin' that because she was my mom, she was *really* a good cook. All from scratch, big meals, pies all kinds of... always dessert. Dessert! When she was planning a meal, dessert would be the first thing she would plan. That would usually be a pie. And anyway so lots of food. And she was um, she took care of them. So he, if something happened to him, she would tend to him. And they, actually all the relatives, all those old, they learned... they loved her. Because she did take care of them even though they were nasty to her in the beginning. It just turned. It turned and they all became family and she'd send 'em home with fruitcakes and she'd have 'em... they'd be there for supper and during the holidays. But Sack, when he was drinking, he would come... you could tell he was coming 'cause he was the property over behind the barn. And you'd have to look at the ranch to see where, but it was like west of the barn. Kind of west of the ranch, which is Round Oak. And he would come over the hill and he'd be talkin' to himself. Or yodelin'. Or somethin'. Or he'd be yelling at somebody, nobody was around, but he'd be talkin' to himself 'cause he was looped on wine. So he'd be comin' down and my dad had dogs. We always had dogs. But there were dogs tied down at the barn at their houses and then you'd come a little further over by the pig house there was another dog or two. There were dogs up at the house. So as he came, the dogs start barking. And you could tell how far, how close he was. And as a kid it just chuckled the heck out of me. It annoyed my mom to no... 'cause he'd come over at like 3'oclock in the morning when he was drunk. Yeah, he was lonely and he was gonna come and see Lucy. And that was my mom's name, Lucille. So he just loved her, he just really learned to love her so much. So he'd, the dogs at the bottom start barkin' and then they'd kind of quiet down... he'd be yellin' at 'em. Dogs didn't like him. So he'd come along and the dogs down at the pig house, they'd start barkin'. Then he'd get up to the house, and there was no fence or yard, it was just right against the house. And my folks' bedroom was right there on the old part of the house, the tall part of the house, right in front, on the bottom. And he'd come right up to window and start callin' to my mom. And he'd say "LUUUCY. LUUCY YOU IN THERE?" [Laughs] and that would go on until mom got so sick of it and she'd say "SACK. GO HOME." And I'd just be... here I was like nine, eight, nine years old and I'd just get the biggest hoot out of that. I'd just be laughin' in bed, I'd just think that was so funny. 'Cause he would go on, she wouldn't say anything, I guess she figured if she didn't say anything then he'd go home. But he was insistent that he would make a connection there. And then he'd bring her little things. He brought her artifacts like arrowheads and old pottery and things, old things that are probably worth something now. Glasses that you'd get in soap, dishes and things that'd come in laundry detergent. It would be an incentive, like during the depression and so on, later on they would put dishes and so on in soap. Those are collector's items now, I think I have one or two glasses. He'd bring things over like that for her and if it was in the day time when he was looped. But if it was

in the middle of the night he'd just leave his little gifts for her. [Laughs] But he had this one thing that would just crack me up, when he was drinking. When he was sober, he was quiet, very very quiet. Very internal, didn't visit much, but just was very serious. You wouldn't think it was the same person. But when he was drinking he was just a... he couldn't talk, he couldn't quite get it out what he was trying to say. But he would come over and he wanted to show how agile he was. And so, he smoked and rolled his own cigarettes, and he'd get the wooden match out and he'd put down on the floor and he'd jump way up into the air and dip down after this match. And it'd take him about three times, 'cause he was kind of weavin', before he could actually snatch that match off the floor and you know, after about three or four times he'd get it. And then he'd go "See, see! See how good I am, see how quick I am?" And that was something he'd do all the time when [laughs] when he was drinking. And as I a kid I just thought that was the greatest... he was just always so good to us. He was never... nasty... he was just very respectful of two little girls. He was my favorite memory as a kid growin' up.

CC: Do you have any other thoughts about, maybe how the landscape has changed or the people?

JD: Well other than just lots of people. A few years ago I counted up my memory and that would have been up through the early, the mid-sixties probably, before the landscape on the mountain started to change and the old relatives died off and those properties were bein'... they would go to the next... actually a lot of it went to the older sister who lived to be in her nineties and she inherited these little ranches and then just sold 'em, because that was just what you had to do then in the late sixties and early seventies. And so it's all built up. Uh, what was your question?

CC: Yeah, just any thoughts you have on-

JD: How it's changed! I started thinking about... When I was growing up, way past high school, which when I went out in '63. So a few years after that. I counted the number of homes or ranches, whatever, to families I should say. Not people, but families. From where you turn onto Robert's Road and I included Presley Road, all the way up Lichau Road to the end and I got twenty-five, twenty-four. Twenty-four families. Twenty-four individual... and now there's hundreds. There's literally hundreds. Presley road is packed full of houses. There was only one place on Presley Road and that was the Ore (sp?) Dairy. Which is now I think, Chris Brown has its quarter horses right at the kind of the top, you go up past Crane Creek and up the hill and so on. There's a lot of houses are on that west side of the mountain... right on Presley. And then the Ore Ranch was right across the road. That was all open. There was no houses, no houses at all except that one Ore Ranch. And then on Robert's Road, there was the Bryan's Ranch, the Ripley Ranch, Mendonza and that was it for Robert's Road. Those were just individual little homes with the families and they were dairies. Ripley's had a dairy but then they had chickens later on. And then Lichau Road, there was... where the grapes are on the left there was a dairy there. And where the, I think it's called Coyote Valley, it's a... organic farming now, on the right, that was a dairy. And then there's the straight away, that long straight away, that never used to be there. You used to come around that dairy, that first dairy on the right, or Coyote Valley now. You used to come down through that piece of property and around by their buildings and come back onto Lichau. And then somewhere in the sixties, I think, maybe late fifties... they put that long

straight away in that comes up... when you're coming up, it's flat there, it's right past that Coyote Valley Organic Farming and there's a long straight away and kind of you pass the Cold Springs. So, Cold Springs was the Stefanoni Ranch that was a little wire gate, right there, which is now going into Cold Springs. When you first turn off of Lichau into Cold Springs now, was just a dirt road. And it was a dairy, it was up the hill. The old buildings are still there, they've renovated 'em. And then there's a little wire gate and then Mrs. Lichau live up in the canyon, up the drawl a little bit. And then you'd hit that first cattle guard, there was the Hall, straight up, there's still a house there, that was one of the Halls. Over the crik, different bridge, but over the crik and to the left back in there, there was Mrs. Gladys Hall lived. And then you'd come up around the hill, the second cattle guard and then there's now a road that shoots straight up and back in there is a lot of development... that was the Harvey Ranch. And then keep coming up another cattle guard, and now the Cook Ranch, that was Canons. They were the only ones there and they had a little dairy, Harvey's had a dairy. They did whatever they could do to make a living, it was really hard... a hard life when you had kids. And then up the rest of the mountain were relatives. So I counted up and there were twenty-five little homes. And now I have no idea. Between Presley and Cold Springs is all developed back up in there. All the ranches... except for the Cook Ranch, but the Cooks built the house in the late fifties. But all the others are all developed. I thought that was kind of interesting when we start thinkin' about who's on the roads now. And how many hundreds... there gotta be hundreds... well maybe not... well, I would say between all of Presley Road, Cold Springs and all of Robert's and Lichau all the little... used to be one little ranch... all developed now, there's gotta be several hundred homes in there maybe, or at least one hundred and fifty. Probably, that's how that mountain has changed. When I went to school... I can barely remember Lichau Road, but I do remember that it was a dirt road. And there was no Rohnert Park, and so when we started school, I was six, first grade and, uh, I went two years to Cotati school. And that was the closest school... I think that we were actually Old Adobe School district, but there's no way we could have gotten to Old Adobe, there was no bus or anything that came, and we had to be taken to school. So we would go down, the first and second grade that I went to... my sister was special ed, so sometime she'd stay home, there weren't any special ed classes for her. It's not like now. So she'd have sat in a regular classroom or she'd stay home. But I went to first and second grade in Cotati and we were taken down, I was taken down... And then in third grade my folks got an inter-district with Petaluma city schools and I went to Penngrove from third grade through fifth and sixth and then Kenilworth and Petaluma High. The bus, the big bus came to the bottom of the crik and picked us up. But, Mom would still take us down to the bottom of the crik and then pick us up. But I was gonna say what... I can barely remember the dirt road but I do remember, so I don't know when it was paved, but my mom was pretty instrumental in that. And because it was a small area there weren't many people around the county then. People knew people. You just kinda knew... everybody. If you didn't know it, somebody you knew knew somebody. So she connected... knew somebody at the roads department, the county roads department and was pretty much the instigator to get that road paved and gates taken out. So every piece of property, every cattle guard that's there now, there's one cattle guard that was taken out, there was a gate. So when you left the ranch you had ten gates to go through to get down to... which is now, I'm talking about the Coyote Valley Organic Farming. And there was a gate right in that ranch. So you had to get

out and open the gate ten times to get down off the mountain to go to school. And it was a dirt road and muddy and my mom used to say when... and there weren't reflectors and it was a narrow road. If it was wet and foggy she would have to get out once in a while when they were coming home, like it was night time, and walk in front of... my dad would drive the car... walk in front of the car with a flashlight so he could see where the road was. It was so bad. So anyway, it's a highway compared to what it used to be! But I can barely remember dirt road and I can barely remember gates. But I didn't have to get out and open them and I didn't have to drive the road. That's how that's changed a lot.

CC: Well, that's all the questions I have.

JD: Great.

CC: ...unless you have anything else you'd like to share.

JD: No I just remember, I just what I remember as a kid... I had... probably the best part of my life was my childhood. And my dad, you know, during the grammar school years the first... and then, you start getting older and everything changes. But the first ten years or so of my life were probably best years of my life because it was a very busy ranch. There was lots of company, they would come and hunt and there were barbeques at the end of hunting season, deer season. And lots of... they'd come and fish. My folks put the lakes... the little ponds, there's a pond below the old house, and there's a pond that's out coming and the pond that's at the top up in the preserve. They put those in. They built them around the springs for the livestock. And they stocked 'em with fish. So this was when, before I was even out of grammar school. People would come up and we could drive up the road, or walk, and we'd go fish up in the upper lake. I think they call it Kelly Lake now, I'm not sure. I think the Roths named it Kelly Lake, 'cause that's on the piece that they bought, and it's now Sonoma State has. But I remember Dad would go up the hill, into the preserve now, but it was part of the ranch... There's a lot of Douglas fir and he would go at Christmas time and cut down a tree and bring it and put it on the... tie it up and put it in a bucket of water and put it on the porch and lean up against the... and I couldn't wait to have the Christmas tree put up. And they'd put that up. They had the old lights that were real hot. They're not like now, these LED lights that's cool to the touch. These were strings of light, if one light went out then they all went out. But these were these big, hot Christmas lights and Santa Claus... we didn't have a chimney... so Santa Claus would leave the presents on the stairs to the attic and we'd believe that. Of course that was before we were old enough to know that there was no Santa Claus or Easter Bunny. I remember when I was probably about four or so, I think they were trying to put the presents on the stairs, I thought later on in life. They said "I think I heard Santa's sleigh bells! Why don't you go outside and listen and see if you hear Santa's sleigh bells." You know, it's the imagination of a kid that they're not lying or making it up they actually believe. I went out and I heard Santa's sleigh bells goin' up over the hill, up over the mountain. And I still, to this day, remember that and I try and remember that kids do have that imagination. Excuse me... [Coughs] You know all those... goin' to town with my dad and... we knew all the ice cream parlors and one in Petaluma and two in Santa Rosa. And twenty-five cents for a great big banana split, five cents for one scoop cones... and there wasn't

fast food. These were little restaurants and there were actually ice cream parlors, creameries. Yeah good stuff.

CC: Sounds great [laughs].

JD: Yes, it was! It was. So, um [coughs] Sorry, I'm just choking here. I'm just trying to recover so I can keep talking!

CC: [laughs] We can take a break if you would like.

JD: Yeah, that might be a good idea.

[Jane recovers and begins talking about the history and changes in Santa Rosa when audio recording restarts]

JD: ... before everything started to get... Late sixties... before high school before Junior High, so 1957-58, probably up until then... no probably before that. Because I did go to eighth grade which was 1958-59, Herbert Slater, so that was part of Montgomery Village. But when I was a little kid, that didn't even exist, that was just all agriculture and sheep. But downtown Santa Rosa was actually downtown Santa Rosa. You come in Old Redwood, you'd come in Santa Rosa Avenue, I guess, Mendocino Avenue and there was Luther Burbank Gardens. And that's changed. I had a cousin that lived on Charles Street which is just right there. Borders, uh, Santa Rosa Avenue I guess it is and Charles Street and then there's Luther Burbank gardens. It was my mom's sister and her son and then later on her daughter, lived on Charles Street. So we'd go in and visit 'em. And my cousin, her son, he was about four years older, and my sister, we'd go into... climbed the fence into Burbank gardens. And Mrs. Burbank still lived there, he had long died, but she was still living in the old house. And we'd climb the fence and roam around in the gardens and pick the fruit and eat the fruit. And at Christmas time, I think the tree that they used to decorate had died, but it was a... I don't know if it was a Spruce but it was a tall evergreen. And they would decorate... the city would decorate 'em with strings of Christmas... colored Christmas lights. And that was a big deal because Santa Rosa, just as you'd come in past that was a little bit of Sonoma Avenue. But right in where... huh, I'm trying to think... Oh, okay Courthouse Square. You'd drive through Courthouse Square going north on Mendocino Avenue. On the left was the courthouse. I remember goin' into the courthouse. And there was a lot of marble and it was cold to the touch, so I was small. And we went in to town all the time with my dad. I think it was one way my mom got rid of two little yappy, snotty-nose kids. She didn't... you know she was always so consumed with dealing with the house and preserving and canning and all the domestic stuff. I think she was glad that the kids were gone. But we would always come into town with my dad, you know like I said, he would haul the cream down to Petaluma. And we'd go down there and we'd stop and get an ice cream cone or he'd come into town for the mail. There wasn't a post-office in Penngrove yet. We'd have to have a post office box... it's a rural route address. I still remember box 111 in Santa Rosa at the old post office, which is now a museum. And he would go into the courthouse for whatever reasons, and I remember goin' up this big staircase and the sides... it was marble, I'm sure it was marble 'cause it was cold and shiny and slick, real smooth. And a kid... I just, I was fascinated with that. And on the other side, on the east side of Courthouse Square... the street didn't go through, it was like a big square and

you'd come into town... you come into town and then... I could never figure out what, bein' a little kid in a car, I could never figure out why they come into town and if they want to go over to the left, they had to go to the right. But it's what they're gonna to now I think with Santa Rosa is they're going to close off that Courthouse Square and they're gonna to block that off and they're gonna to have the street go around. So you'd come in and you'd turn right, and you'd go around, back onto fourth street and come back down fourth street... you'd have to make a big circle, almost a 360 degree circle, to come back to the courthouse, except I dunno where they parked. But anyway, and then so on the east side of Courthouse Square of the street that goes through, they're now working... they've got that kind of blocked off with some cyclone fencing there was the city hall and the police department. And on the backside, if you turned onto... is that Third Street, I'm trying to see it in my mind. You'd come in and courthouse square was straight ahead and the courthouse was on the left and the police department was right on the corner of Third and... Third Street. I can still picture it, kind of a stone building. So you'd go on Third Street and there was a parking lot behind, uh, behind the city hall. But there was also an extension of the city hall and the police department and the jail. And I think it was Safeway that had a store across from Barnes & Noble, it used to be the Rosenberg building. But across from kind of Katted (sp?) Corner, it's a big... there's a big garage there, big city garage, three stories or somethin'. Right there, that was gone, there was a little parking lot. And then there was a Safeway right there. And we would go into the Safeway once and awhile or we'd sit in the car and we could see the prisoners up in the jail, you know, behind the bars. We could see people walking up there. So that's where the jail was. And of course eventually that... they out grew that and they moved it out to the Civic Center... or they built all that. And then we'd go into the Safeway and you'd go down a couple wooden steps and the floor, what I remember, was wooden planks. And I still remember this one teller, she was always there... She was this pretty lady with white hair, beautiful face, and of course, everybody knew everybody and Dad knew her... But we'd go shopping with Dad. We'd never... I don't ever remember going shopping with Mom, unless we had to get some cloths or something, shoes, or go to the dentist or go to the doctor. That was kind of the motherly duties but otherwise we went with Dad. We were off the ranch and gave her peace and quiet. But it would smell liked coffee... I still remember goin' into the Safeway and I don't know if it was just absorbed into those wooden planks, but they ground their own coffee. And I think instead of buying it... I don't know how bought... maybe you canned it yourself or maybe you had it in bags... That's the only thing I remember about the store was that lady, she was the checker, one checker and the wooden planks and the smell of coffee. And then across was Rosenberg's. And then when we were sitting in the car in that parking spot behind the police department, right next to the jail. Across the street which is Third Street and I don't know... it's all filled with buildings now. There was nothing but just field, but there was a Chinese restaurant and somebody... I told somebody about this not too many years ago and they knew which one it was, Golden Dragon or somethin', I don't know. And I never went into it, but as a kid sittin' in the car waitin' for dad to come back with groceries.... I- I was fascinated with this Chinese restaurant because it looked mysterious to me. People would go in and out and when they open it, it was dark. And I think some of the Chinese restaurants are kind of... their little entrances are kind of... the lighting is very subdued. But anyway, it looked dark. So people were going into this place that I knew it was... where they ate, but it was dark. They were goin'

in there and then come out, and they'd go in and come out. And it always fascinated me what when on in that Chinese restaurant, but I guess it was just all they did was eat!

CC: [Laughs]

JD: And I remember the old library that was on, I think it was on... where I think the library, the Santa Rosa Library now exists... there was a beautiful building. It was a big stone... it was made stone and it had ivy growin' on it, it looked like something out of, you know, some... story book, kind of just how the architecture was. And we knew the ice cream parlors, there was one on Fourth Street. Dad knew who that was and there was a place across from the JC [Junior College] and it was, I don't remember the name of it, started with an 'S', and they had a great big... I don't know if neon... but it had a great big ice cream cone on the outside and they actually made... and that was another ice cream parlor, a creamery... they actually made their ice cream right there. You would... get a milkshake and they'd put it on this... it always fascinated me... they'd put this big metal container, this big shake container, on the stick. I guess connected to the bottom of the inside of that metal container... that's how they made the milkshake, they stirred it up.

CC: [sneezes]

JD: Oh, do you have allergies?

CC: Oh, it's okay! [Laughs]

JD: ... and um, as a kid that fascinated me and the other thing... Jukeboxes that changed colors and Penngrove was a place that was just tiny tiny. There was Vick's Bar... There was a Pete's... where the Buddhist Center is now, uh, in Penngrove, was a butcher shop, it was Pete's butcher shop and you'd go in there and he'd give you a hot dog if you were a kid. Right next to it was, there's nothing in that... I think it says 'Bank' on the building. There was a little grocery store and then comin' on down, there's two bar... well they're bar restaurants now... but it was called Vick's. That was uh, I think it's maybe Penngrove Pub maybe now, the first one, but that was Vick's. Dad, once in a while when we'd come back, he'd stop there, get a beer and we'd get a soda water and they had the jukebox... we'd sit at the counter on the stools. There was a lot of Naugahyde goin' on in those day, Naugahyde stools and... in restaurants, I remember red Naugahyde in doctor's offices, or I remember... it was not leather or plastic, it was Naugahyde, whatever that was. That was a big deal I guess. And so, um, then there's Kelly's Bar... which is not Kelly's anymore, it's something else... down towards the railroad track, and I never went in there. And I don't know I think there might have been a barber shop. And then there was Nissan's down where it had burned, they got it... have it boarded up. There was a grocery store, and eventually the post office went into that north end of that... and then they moved across the street later on, you know, as time passed. So, but... it was just... it was our treat to be able to go with Dad, and we went with him all the time. We knew the guy at the creamery, we would be in the truck and he, I think Dad went about once a week with his... and they'd rotate the cans, they had enough cans... the cans had numbers on 'em, that was your ID, the ranch ID. So I think his was 7, the ranch was 744 on these milk cans. So he'd take the cream in... I still can see the man, uh, dressed in white with this kind of little white... I don't know if it was a paper hat... rosy

cheeks, and he was the sweetest man. And we would just be in the front of the truck and then Dad would unload some cans and go up further and get the cans from the week before and so he could start all over again. And they had a little... they made cottage cheese and they would put the cottage cheese would be in little cups, metal cups that are now antiques. So once in a while we'd get a cup of... but they made so much of the stuff on the ranch... once in a while we'd get to take home a cup of cottage cheese. Yeah, so those were good memories. Yep, those were good memories. Um, school I... I don't pay much attention, I went... Penngrove School's changed, it was just the old building and a parking lot now that's on the corner of Adobe and Petaluma Hill Road. It's build up high, that was the ball field, and it was ground level. So anybody... and I think it might have been a four-way stop, or two-way stop, it was no lights there. The school was... the building's still there, but they've renovated it... I guess it was K through Six. And Cotati School, uh, like I said there was no Rohnert Park at all, that wasn't even a dream. So it was... it's now the... it's part of the City Hall, I think the actual Cotati School building is City Hall and the police department is behind it on Sierra or West Sierra right there. And I went to Kenilworth Junior High out of sixth grade. We were the first class that went from seventh to ninth, all the way through. And you know... it was vacated in, I don't know what, the nineties? They built a new school, maybe... and it was condemned and torn down and now it's the big Target... Target shopping center. And I think if that doesn't age you, if that doesn't make you feel old when you went into a brand new school... you were the first class to go actually all the way three years through, except I did go to Santa Rosa one year, my sister had a class up there... But my class would all the way through the first... and now, now it's a shopping center. So those are, those are my memories. But my kidhood was really the best. Mom... Mom would uh... She was sort of instrumental, that was kind of her job, to take care of the Easter baskets. And then the young days when we believed in the Easter bunny. And I think kids believed a lot longer than they do now. They... if they're six years old and they still believe in Santa Claus that's great. I still think that he's up there somewhere. I still have to believe that there's Santa Clause somewhere. But the Easter Bunny, they were... it was real eggs. The eggs are the chicken's laid and Mom would color... more than likely it was Mom coloring, because Dad had to do all the milking and the hard heavy lifting outside... So, she would color the egg, boil 'em and then color the eggs and she'd go hide them. And there's always one or two that got left behind and you'd find sometime during the summer. But she... I remember, I don't know how many times she did it, but I remember at least once, when an old pine tree near the house, and there were some big boulders alongside of the pine tree. And she, one time, made a nest... the bunny nest, Easter Bunny nest. And we did have the baskets with the green grass, there wasn't colored grass, but that green fake grass... they didn't have a lot of money, but they made it stretch so that we had those memories... and the regular... the real eggs, colored eggs were in the basket, but not at that nest. In that nest there were the eggs... and there were carrots for the bunny. And they proved that the bunny came, and that was the bunnies nest and that the Easter Bunny laid those eggs because the carrot... She had flipped, broken the carrot in half, taken a fork and just etched the end of the carrot and said "See, the bunny had some of the carrots. See where it ate? And that's the Easter Bunny's nest." And I still remember that. It may have only happened one time, but it was such an impression. It just... has to remind me that you really have to take care of kid's imaginations. You can't... you can't bring the real world too soon in the life of a kid. But now

with all the technology and all the exposure that children have, I don't know if that imagination is... it's different. Yeah, it's... it's different. But there was none of that and I remember we didn't have electricity until I was maybe, six? We had TV when I was ten, but that's not unusual in those days. We would listen to the radio, the old battery radio, and so that was great for imagination because I... I liked the Westerns. And once in a while Dad would take us in... it was a big deal to go into the show at night into Santa Rosa, to the movies. And they had double features and a lot of 'em in the fifties were Westerns. So that was when we were pretty young we'd go in there. But I'd listen to Roy Rogers and a lot of the old radio shows on this big battery radio, that was our... Or you read... by kerosene lamp. And then the electricity came to there in... and we got phones. The phones came and we had an eight party line and you had to share it with eight, with seven other families. Some across the canyon, some down the road. And some of them... you would get to a neighbor, you'd call a neighbor by dial... well you'd dial the last four digits I guess, I'm not too sure since it was 795... and uh, it would ring, they would be different rings in the house and so you... it seems like you would dial the phone, you would hang up and you would hear the rings. It would ring on your phone, it'd be ringing in their house and when the rings stopped you knew that they'd picked up. So then you'd have to pick up the phone real fast before they hung up on ya. And it was... I remember that now because of cellphones, everybody... everybody has their own phone, not many people have landlines. And to have the phone come in... it was the rotary dial, and then the big deal was the push buttons. And now the big deal is the cellphones and smart phones and all that good technology that's happening now, which was a lot different than... But I guess, uh, I guess TV and electricity... that was technology, just a different version of it.

CC: That's true.

JD: Yeah, so. I think that ends... that ends... That ends my life! [Laughs]

CC: [laughs] That sounds great, though!

JD: So I hope I can hang onto what's left of the ranch. I have some nice young people living on the ranch now and they're country people and they were raised on the mountain. And so we're on the same page.

CC: That's good.

JD: Don't wanna... That's my intention. Hopefully to be able to keep what's left of the ranch and... there's a lot of memories there. There's just... because the mountain and the whole area has changed so much... it's uh, it's such a pretty ranch. Such a pretty mountain and it just, uh, it's deep in my soul. So much a part of me I don't know... I suppose if I... in my senior years when I go off my rocker and have to be carted out, I won't even know that I'm leaving. But hopefully that... that doesn't happen before I lose my mind. [Laughs]

CC: Aw, I'm sure you'll be fine! [Laughs]

JD: I plan on... I plan on, you know, savoring my senior years on the ranch. 'Cause it's just so much a part of my heritage on my dad's side, but my mom... even though she wasn't raised in California... she came to California to San Joaquin Valley when she was maybe ten or eleven

and then they came to Sebastopol and then they came to Santa Rosa. And she went to school with my dad, but didn't know him. They were introduced later on in their twenties by mutual friends. She really became part of the mountain and she knew a lot of the stories. She knew the... anything she heard she seemed to retain and she was the storyteller. She remembered facts and it's unfortunate what happens with people... what happened with me, which happens with a lot of people... Is when you... when you finally get to that point in your life you want to understand some history, it's too late because the people that could have told you what you want to know are gone. So once in a while you find somebody that really is interested in their family, and they pursue it. They either tape it now or they write it down when they're young and, and the people are still around that can answer questions. But... but there's history on that mountain that I've lost. Because I was just a young person, not even realizing what I had. What was there and how many generations had been before me and how they came. What they endured and what they saw and how they had to live. I just only can... some of that that I remember and some that I can imagine. So... you know it's just the way it is. Just the way life is, history gets lost. Our own history gets lost, our personal stuff.

CC: Thank you so much, though, for providing us with this account.

JD: I'm excited since somebody was interested in listening to me! [Laughs] Thank you for doing that, yes.

CC: Yes, it was great!

JD: And good luck with your life and your future.

CC: Thank you.