

# UC Santa Cruz

## Santa Cruz History

### Title

Santa Cruz and the Cowell Ranch, 1890-1964

### Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/2zw5t11r>

### Authors

Cardiff, George  
Calciano, Elizabeth Spedding  
Regional History Project, UCSC Library

### Publication Date

1965-06-01

### Supplemental Material

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/2zw5t11r#supplemental>

University of California, Santa Cruz  
The University Library

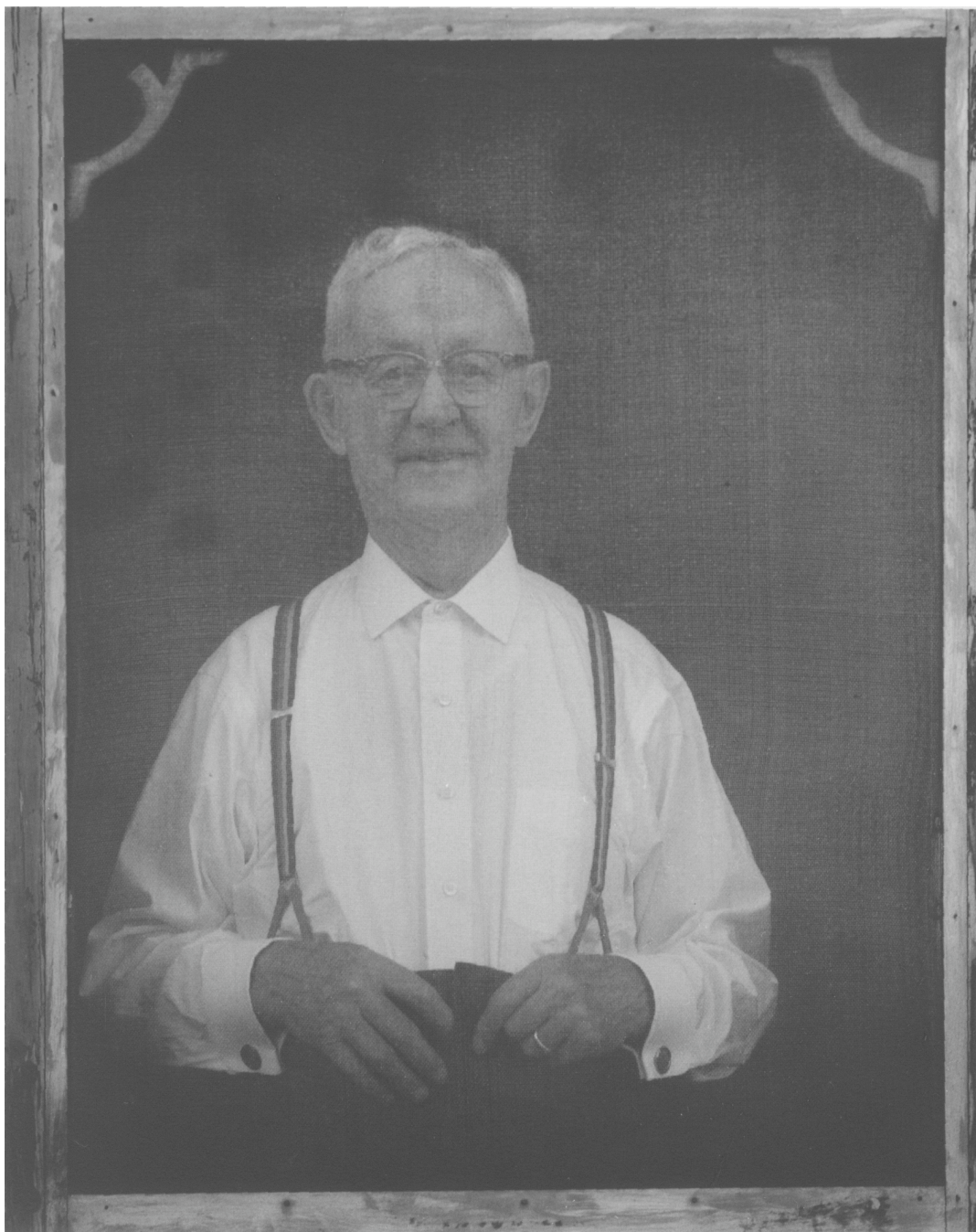
GEORGE H. CARDIFF

SANTA CRUZ AND THE COWELL RANCH, 1890-1964

An Interview Conducted By  
Elizabeth Spedding Calciano

Santa Cruz

1965



George H. Cardiff  
At his screen door  
November, 1962

All uses of this manuscript are covered by an agreement between the Regents of the University of California and George H. Cardiff, dated January 7, 1965. The manuscript is thereby made available for research purposes. All literary rights in the manuscript, including the right to publish, are reserved to The University Library of the University of California, Santa Cruz. No part of the manuscript may be quoted for publication without the written permission of the University Librarian of the University of California, Santa Cruz.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>INTRODUCTION.....</b>	
<u>COMING TO CALIFORNIA .....</u>	3
<u>CHESTNUTWOOD'S BUSINESS COLLEGE.....</u>	8
<u>STIKEMAN AND CANFIELD'S GROCERY STORE.....</u>	15
<u>THE CANFIELD FAMILY.....</u>	19
<b><u>OWNING A LIVERY STABLE.....</u></b>	
<u>CLAUS SPRECKELS .....</u>	24
<u>RUNNING THE STABLE .....</u>	30
<u>WAKES AND FUNERALS .....</u>	37
<u>DRIVING TO SAN JOSE.....</u>	43
<u>CARRYING A CONCEALED WEAPON.....</u>	47
<b><u>COURTING IN SANTA CRUZ.....</u></b>	
<b><u>TWELVE YEARS IN GLENN COUNTY.....</u></b>	
<b><u>STARTING A RETAIL LUMBER COMPANY.....</u></b>	
<u>AUSTIN HOUGHTON.....</u>	61
<u>THE SAN VICENTE LUMBER COMPANY.....</u>	66
<u>S. R. COWELL BUYS THE BUSINESS.....</u>	72
<b><u>COMMUNITY SERVICE.....</u></b>	
<u>THE LIBRARY BOARD.....</u>	74
<u>WATER BOND SCANDAL.....</u>	80
<u>BANK OF AMERICA ADVISORY BOARD.....</u>	84
<u>STARTING THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.....</u>	86
<b><u>SANTA CRUZ HOSPITALS.....</u></b>	
<u>ESTABLISHING HANLY HOSPITAL.....</u>	97
<u>MARY JANE HANLY.....</u>	106
<u>DOMINICAN SANTA CRUZ HOSPITAL.....</u>	108
<u>COMMUNITY HOSPITAL.....</u>	111
<u>COUNTY HOSPITAL.....</u>	115
<b><u>THE COWELL RANCH.....</u></b>	
<u>EMPLOYEES -- PORTUGUESE AND ITALIAN.....</u>	118
<u>THE LIME KILNS.....</u>	122
<u>COWELL OXTEAMS .....</u>	132
<u>THE GHOST RANCH.....</u>	135
<u>THE COWELL WHARF.....</u>	139
<u>MAKING BARRELS .....</u>	141
<u>CATTLE AND HAY .....</u>	144
<u>THE COOKHOUSE .....</u>	152
<u>HUNTING AND FENCING .....</u>	154
<u>HENRY COWELL REDWOODS STATE PARK.....</u>	158
<b><u>THE COWELL FAMILY.....</u></b>	

<u>THE RANCH HOME</u> .....	166
<u>S. H. (HARRY) COWELL</u> .....	167
<u>ERNEST COWELL</u> .....	181
<u>ISABELLA AND HELEN COWELL</u> .....	183
<u>SARAH COWELL</u> .....	187
<b><u>THE UNIVERSITY PORTION OF THE COWELL RANCH</u>.....</b>	
<u>ACQUIRING THE PROPERTY</u> .....	189
<u>THE INDIAN MOUND</u> .....	193
<u>THE GOLD MINE</u> .....	194
<u>NEIGHBORING PROPERTY</u> .....	200
<b><u>THE COWELL COMPANY</u>.....</b>	
<u>THE FALL CREEK PROPERTY</u> .....	201
<u>POGONIP</u> .....	204
<u>PFYFFER BROTHERS' CATTLE</u> .....	208
<u>COWELL WHARF AND COWELL BEACH</u> .....	211
<u>COWELL CHARITIES</u> .....	214
<b><u>SANTA CRUZ MERCHANTS</u>.....</b>	
<u>THE HABER FAMILY</u> .....	217
<u>MORRIS ABRAMS</u> .....	222
<u>WILLIAM T. COPE</u> .....	232
<u>F. A. HIHN</u> .....	233
<u>SAMUEL LEASK</u> .....	236
<b><u>LAWYERS AND JUDGES</u>.....</b>	
<u>BERTRAM SNYDER</u> .....	241
<u>CHARLES YOUNGER</u> .....	243
<u>JUDGE SMITH</u> .....	247
<u>JUDGE LOGAN</u> .....	249
<b><u>PROMINENT CITIZENS</u>.....</b>	
<u>FRED SWANTON</u> .....	252
<u>WILLIAM JETER</u> .....	256
<u>JOHN D. CHACE</u> .....	260
<u>WILLIAM ELY</u> .....	262
<u>FRED HOWE</u> .....	263
<u>H. A. TORCHIANA</u> .....	266
<u>COTTARDO AND MALIO STAGNARO</u> .....	268
<u>D. D. WILDER</u> .....	270
<b><u>NEWSPAPERS AND POLITICS</u>.....</b>	
<u>THE EVENING NEWS -- RAY JUDAH</u> .....	272
<u>THE SENTINEL -- DUNCAN. MCPHERSON</u> .....	272
<u>THE SURF -- ARTHUR TAYLOR</u> .....	274
<u>CITY MAYORS</u> .....	275
<u>CORRUPTION</u> .....	277
<b><u>EVERYDAY LIFE AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY</u>.....</b>	
<u>MONEY AND BANKING</u> .....	280
<u>CHARGE ACCOUNTS</u> .....	286

<u>MAIDS AND GARDENERS</u> .....	288
<u>FAVORITE FOODS</u> .....	293
<u>CHINESE VEGETABLE GARDENS</u> .....	296
<u>CHINESE GAMBLING</u> .....	300
<u>THE JAPANESE</u> .....	302
<b><u>WINE, WHISKEY, AND BEER</u></b> .....	
<u>WINE-MAKING</u> .....	304
<u>SALOONS</u> .....	307
<u>PROHIBITION</u> .....	308
<u>BEER BREWERIES</u> .....	310
<b><u>ENTERTAINMENT</u></b> .....	
<u>THE OPERA HOUSE</u> .....	313
<u>VENETIAN WATER CARNIVALS</u> .....	316
<u>MINERAL BATHS</u> .....	319
<u>RESORT HOTELS</u> .....	321
<b><u>SANTA CRUZ IN THE 1890'S</u></b> .....	
<u>THE 1894 FIRE</u> .....	328
<u>DR. CRYSTAL'S OFFICE</u> .....	331
<u>FASHIONABLE RESIDENTIAL STREETS</u> .....	333
<u>FLOODS</u> .....	336
<u>EARLY AUTOMOBILES</u> .....	340
<u>THE POWDER WORKS</u> .....	344
<b><u>SANTA CRUZ -- THEN AND NOW</u></b> .....	
<u>THE "RETIREMENT" CITY</u> .....	346
<u>SOCIAL WELFARE</u> .....	348
<u>THE DEPRESSION</u> .....	350
<u>CRIME RATE</u> .....	352
<u>CHURCH ATTENDANCE</u> .....	355
<u>RELIGIOUS CAMPS</u> .....	357
<u>LIGHTHOUSE POINT BREAKWATER</u> .....	361
<u>BOARD OF SUPERVISORS</u> .....	364

## ILLUSTRATIONS

George H. Cardiff At his Screen Door	Frontispiece
George Henry Cardiff and Violet Mitchell Cardiff, 1918	62
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Cowell with Frank George In front of the Carriage House	117
S. H. (Barry) Cowell with his cousin Edith Cowell Lane at the Santa Cruz Ranch	168
Map of University of California, Santa Cruz, property	191



## INTRODUCTION

For the past seventy-five years George Cardiff has been a leading citizen of Santa Cruz County. Always an active man, his career has brought him in touch with many facets of our community. The Regional History Project was indeed fortunate when Mr. Cardiff agreed to be interviewed, for he was able to cover much that was pertinent to our research.

Mr. Cardiff was born near Ontario, Canada, in July, 1872. Early in this volume he favors us with a description of his cross-country train trip at the age of 15 when his family made their move to California. They settled in San Benito County; here Mr. Cardiff spent several years working on his grandfather's ranch.

In 1890 Mr. Cardiff moved to Santa Cruz to enroll at Chestnutwood's Business College. Mr. Cardiff gives us an excellent explanation of the curriculum and novel teaching methods that were used at this school. Shortly after his graduation he became a clerk in Stikeman and Canfield's Grocery Store. Then, when Mr. Cardiff was only 22, he and his brother, Robert, assumed ownership of a local livery stable. His adventures during the subsequent four years make lively reading.

Mr. Cardiff spent the years between 1896 and 1908 managing a ranch in Glenn County. During this period his

first wife died. After his marriage to his present wife, Violet Mitchell, Mr. Cardiff returned to Santa Cruz. Here, in partnership with a man named Austin Houghton, he opened his lumber and building materials store. It was during these years that he began his active participation in service clubs and civic duties. Mr. Cardiff discusses the problems he confronted as a member of the library board, and, as the first president of the Chamber of Commerce, he is able to give a detailed and lively account of its formation and early history. Mr. Cardiff also chanced to be instrumental in the development of Hanly Hospital, the first private hospital in Santa Cruz. A substantial section of the manuscript deals with the origin of the three local hospitals currently in operation.

For the past 40 years Mr. Cardiff has been associated with the Henry Cowell Lime and Cement Company. Needing a local outlet for their cement, the Cowell Company purchased Cardiff's building materials store in January, 1925. They asked him to manage the business for them and to assume the bookkeeping duties involved in the operation of their 10,000 acre Santa Cruz ranch. In this capacity, Mr. Cardiff became familiar with the location and operation of their numerous lime quarries and kilns. He mentions the famed Cowell oxtteams, the company wharf, and the loyal Portuguese and Italian employees.

He also discusses with us the work involved in running an extensive cattle ranch.

Mr. Cardiff came to know the members of the Cowell family, especially Harry Cowell, and talks quite fondly of the personable but enigmatic man. The Cowells were not always liked by the townspeople, but they seemed to inspire great loyalty in their employees. Mr. Cardiff well expresses this sentiment. Cardiff's reminiscences are not restricted to the family and ranch. During Harry Cowell's last years he decided to give land to the state to form the Henry Cowell Redwood State Park. Mr. Cardiff was closely involved in the negotiations and gives us an interesting summary of the formation of the state park.

Several years later, when the S. H. Cowell Foundation sold 2,000 acres of land to the state for the site of the University of California, Santa Cruz, Mr. Cardiff again was a party to the negotiations and discusses the sale. His description of the land involved includes stories of the University's Indian mound and famous gold mine.

In the course of his long career Mr. Cardiff has become acquainted with many of the prominent people of Santa Cruz and talks freely about a number of the merchants, lawyers, and civic leaders. His conversation is liberally sprinkled with

pertinent anecdotes. Mrs. Cardiff joins her husband in the discussion of every day life in Santa Cruz during the period forty to fifty years ago. Maids, gardeners, "company" dinners, Prohibition, and resort hotels are a few of the subjects mentioned in the conversation. Towards the end of the volume, comparisons are drawn between the life several decades ago and now.

The Cardiffs live in the house that was once the Cowell family home. At 93, Mr. Cardiff oversees the operations of the remaining 6,000 acres of the Cowell ranch. Both the Cardiffs are still active in the civic life of Santa Cruz, and Mrs. Cardiff seems to do a prodigious amount of entertaining.

The interviews were held in the comfortable dining room of their home. Mr. Cardiff sat erectly at the dining room table while Mrs. Cardiff added her comments from the nearby sofa. Both talked very easily. Seven interviews were held between December 4, 1963 and June 10, 1964. A portion of the tape is preserved in the Regional History Project Office for those who might wish to listen to the conversation.

The manuscript was edited by the interviewer and returned to the Cardiffs for their corrections and approval. They kindly let us reproduce the picture of Hr. and Mrs. Henry Cowell and also their own formal portraits. The frontispiece

picture of Mr. Cardiff was taken by Ansel Adams, who kindly prepared the copies used in these volumes. Wendell Simons drew the map of the University property.

This manuscript is part of a collection of interviews on the history of Santa Cruz County which have been conducted by the Regional History Project. The Project is under the administrative supervision of Donald T. Clark, University Librarian.

Elizabeth Spedding Calciano

August 23, 1965

Regional History Project

University Library

University of California, Santa Cruz

CHILDHOOD AND FAMILY

Calciano: Where were you born?

Cardiff: I was born in Canada, about 23 miles from Ottawa, in Ontario, Canada.

Calciano: How long did you live in Canada?

Cardiff: I came out to California in 1887 with my grandparents. I was born July 13, 1872. I am Scotch; my mother's parents were born in Scotland. my father was a Welshman, I guess; I don't know where he was born. I don't know very much about him because he left home about three months before I Was born. My mother and my brothers and I lived with my grandparents.

Calciano: Near Ottawa?

Cardiff: Yes. I went to school back there in Canada and graduated from high school there. I came out here at the ago of about 15.

Calciano: You'd already finished high school by then?

Cardiff: Yes, I was through. It was probably a little different from what they have here; I don't know. Country schools, you know. When we came out here we landed in the Salinas Valley. My grandfather went over and bought a ranch in San Benito County, about 160 acres,

and we moved in there. We lived there for, well, a number of years, until after my grandfather died. It was just a little farm.

Calciano: Why did your grandfather move to California?

Cardiff: Well, my grandfather was a wonderful man, a very bright fellow, but of course he didn't have the education at that time. But during the time of the Gold Rush to California, along in 1849, he started out for California from Canada. And at that time, of course, there were no railroads running across the continent. There wasn't even this Pony Express, I guess. The way they got to California was on a boat that would go down and around the Horn and come back, or else they could go down to the Isthmus of Panama, walk across the isthmus, get a boat on the other side, and come up to California. So he started out, and when he got down to Panama there were so many people there that they couldn't get transportation. Since he couldn't get a boat back up to California, he turned around and went back to Canada, So he always wanted to come to California after that. That was in 1849. So then along in 1887, he was quite an old man, I've forgotten how old, but nevertheless he didn't like the cold winters back there. So he says, "I'll never spend

another winter here. I'm going to go to California before another winter." So he had a little farm back in Canada which he sold, and he picked up the family, that is my grandmother, my mother, my brother, and myself, the five of us. So we came out to California. Well he already had two sons that had come to California before that, so he went to them. That was why he went to California at that time, because he already had two sons here.

Calciano: Were they in this area?

Cardiff: Yes. Well, they were down in Soledad, just below Soledad. They had a little place there.

Calciano: Ranching?

Cardiff: Ranching, yes.

#### Coming to California

Calciano: How did you come out here? What means of transportation did you use?

Cardiff: Well at that time we came on the trains of course; we came by the Canadian Pacific to Vancouver. Of course Vancouver didn't have over a dozen houses at that time. Vancouver, British Columbia. When we got there we got a boat across to Victoria, and then we got a



boat from Victoria down to San Francisco. From San Francisco we went down to Soledad.

Calciano: It must have been quite an experience.

Cardiff: Yes. I'll never forget coming across the Rockies on the train. At that time they didn't have tunnels through, you know, to get through the hills. The railroad ran up over the mountains, and coming down the western side, which was very steep, was quite something. At that time, of course, they didn't have these steam brakes on the trains like they've got now. The brakes were all run by hand, and they had a brakeman for every two cars. I've forgotten how many cars in a train, maybe ten or so. But I know in coming down the hill, every so often the railroad company had what they called a switchback. They had a man stationed, and the engineer would whistle whether he had control of the train or if it was running away from him he'd whistle for the man to throw the switch. He'd throw the switch so the train would come down and run up the side of the mountain and stop. Then it would back up you know, and then it'd go on down.

Calciano: Oh, my goodness sake.

Cardiff: That was the way they came down the hill. I was very much intrigued with that, you know.

Calciano: It must have been rather frightening.

Cardiff: Well, I got out between the two cars, and of course the brakeman was between these two cars. He just had a wheel to turn to put on the brakes for just those two cars. I talked to the brakeman, and in that way I got to find out just how that thing operated.

Calciano: My goodness!

Cardiff: I'll never forget that; that was in '87.

Calciano: Did your particular train run away at all and go up the mountainside?

Cardiff: No, it didn't. Oh we had that same system up here in the Santa Cruz mountains. For a number of years I handled the retail end of the San Vicente Lumber Company. They cut their logs up here on the Ben Lomond mountains. They used that system for coming down off the mountains with these logs. They had one of these shay engines, but they had to have switches. The engineer couldn't handle the train coming down, so he'd try and throw it up the side of the hill. Then he'd back up, you know, and then down again. It was the same thing going up. They'd go up this way, you

know, and then back onto the switch. It was just like going up on a ladder, back and forth.

Calciano: Was the train that went from Ontario to Vancouver a wood-burning train?

Cardiff: Yes, oh yes. At that time they used nothing but wood. This train, the Daily Pacific, ran clear from Montreal to Vancouver. I don't know whether it went any further east than Montreal or not, I don't remember. But from Montreal through Ottawa, and then up through the Great Lakes, north of Lake Superior, and across over the plains and through the Northwest.

Calciano: Did you catch it at Ottawa?

Cardiff: Yes. We got it a little ways further on, right close to Ottawa.

Calciano: How many days did it take?

Cardiff: Oh, I think it was about ten days.

Calciano: My. I guess you just sat upright, or did they have sleeping quarters?

Cardiff: No, no. No sleeping quarters. All of the passengers had blankets and cooked on the stove at the end of the train. They'd make coffee and cook a little something there, but they all had their grub along with them.

Calciano: Oh, you brought your own?

Cardiff: Oh yes. Of course the train stopped in the larger cities that they went through, and the people would get off and get some extra food so they'd have enough to eat.

Calciano: Did the train carry a water supply for the passengers?

Cardiff: Yes, they had tanks on the train.

Calciano: What about toilet facilities?

Cardiff: Well they had nothing; a little room in the head of the car was all. They didn't have any water for the toilets at all. Nothing like that at that time. No, it was very crude and all, and they just had to make the most of it. People at that time were glad to get transportation.

Calciano: I bet.

Cardiff: That was quite an experience. I was just a young fellow, and I thoroughly enjoyed it. The train would come into a little town and stop, and I'd get out and run around. I always stayed close to the train though, so it wouldn't get away without me. You never knew when the train was going to leave. The trains had certain places to meet the trains coming from the West. They didn't have telegraphing like they have now, you know. It was just a case of hunt their way through. That was why there were lots of long delays,

you know, every day, because one train might be late you know, and the other one had to wait at the switch there until it came and passed.

Chestnutwood's Business College

Calciano: When you arrived in California, did you continue your schooling?

Cardiff: I didn't go to school here. Well, I take it back, I did go to school. I went to school down in San Benito County, down about 13 miles below Hollister. There was a country school there. It was just an elementary school, but I went to it to study American History. Of course I didn't have that in Canada. It's a strange thing, that was just the time when Stanford had given that grant and started Stanford University. They were getting ready to take in the first class, and this lady coached me in studying so as to try to get me into Stanford. I had an ambition of going through Stanford, and my grandfather was willing to put me through. That was the first year that Stanford opened. But unfortunately one day a young fellow in the neighborhood there said to me, "I'm going over to Santa Cruz to go to business college. Come and go with me." I said, 'Well, I'm figuring on going to

Stanford." He said, "Well, come on, let's go over there and take a business course. I think it would be better." So I took it up with my grandfather and he said, "Well, if you go to take a business course and I put you through there, I won't put you through Stanford." I said, "Well, I want to take a business course." So I came over here to Santa Cruz with this young fellow and went into Chestnutwood's Business College and graduated along about April, 1891.

Calciano: What did you take at Chestnutwood's?

Cardiff: Just a regular business course -- bookkeeping and regular business courses. He had a very fine business college. In fact nearly all of the old-timers, of course they are all gone now, they were nearly all graduates of Chestnutwood's. All of the businessmen here in town went there. I don't think there is a one of them left now.

Calciano: How long was the course; was it a year's course?

Cardiff: Well, I got through in about six months, but I worked night and day. I didn't have the money to stay too long, and it was a course where the more you worked the quicker you'd get through.

Calciano: Where was the college?

Cardiff: It was upstairs, over where the five-and-ten store is

now, the Woolworth store. There was an old store there, and there were vacant lots on the corner at Pacific and Walnut. We went across that lot and it was upstairs in the next building. While I was going to college they built that building on the corner, and we used to have to go up through the building to get into where the business college was.

Calciano: About how many students did the college have?

Cardiff: Oh, I don't know. I think probably -- well probably fifty or sixty.

Calciano: Mostly boys?

Cardiff: No, no. There were women and girls. A lot of them,

Calciano: Did the girls take the same type of course that the boys did, or did they just take typing and ...

Cardiff: Oh no, they took the regular course. In fact I don't believe that they had any typing at all.

Calciano: Oh really?

Cardiff: I think it was all business, all bookkeeping.

Calciano: Oh. You were supposed to learn to type on your own?

Cardiff: Well, yes. You see he had a system that you had to go through. They had a set of offices in the college there, and in each office you opened up a set of books. You actually made out the books for it, like

you might in a real estate office. You ran the real estate office set of books for, well, maybe it would take you a week. Then there was an insurance office, and different offices. Probably ten or twelve different offices, and you had to serve in each one of those offices and make out a set of books. Well, I guess he did have some sort of guide to go by in setting up the books. Then you'd be given ten thousand dollars of the college money to start out with. You would buy real estate, buy a piece of real estate and sell it at a fixed profit. You'd have to pay your brokerage fee and different things you know, just like it was a regular transaction. You had to keep books on it, you see, and then turn it in. Of course if there were any mistakes in your books, you lost credit. And they had at least six or seven offices, and there was probably a hundred students all doing business with those offices. Now when they went to their bank they were given so much money. In the bank, you know, you would lend some money to somebody for so much interest and keep track of it and of all the different ones that did business with the bank. You had to be quite sharp.

Calciano: It was like a mythical small town.



Cardiff: Oh yes, it was wonderful. He had a wonderful system. Of course you were graded on your books. You had to be able to pass on them. As I say, a great many of our friends went through. Well they were really older than I was, although Chestnutwood did run for a time after I got through there. I think the Heald's Business College of San Francisco has got a fellow that learned here, and he has got to be President of Heald's in San Francisco. Clarence Phillips is his name.

Calciano: Did Mr. Chestnutwood do all the teaching himself, or were there other teachers also?

Cardiff: Oh he had some teachers, and he was a teacher himself. He was the principal; he ran it himself.

Calciano: About how many teachers did he have?

Cardiff: I don't know, but I think he had only one lady teacher, if I remember rightly. Miss Wilkins.

Calciano: Where did you live while you were going to school?

Cardiff: I went in a Santa Cruz boardinghouse. This young fellow and I got into Santa Cruz one night about nine o'clock, late at night. We came up Pacific Avenue to the head of the Avenue up there where that grocery store is now, McHugh and Bianchi. There was a rooming house upstairs so we went up and got a room that night. The next morning about eight o'clock, or before

eight, we heard the bell of the Catholic Church up on the hill tolling, so we walked up there to see what it was. We weren't familiar with the town, and there was a funeral procession coming towards the church. There was the hearse and two spring wagons. The hearse had the casket in it, and each spring wagon had a casket in it. Three bodies. Of course it interested us very much, so we stood and watched it going up to the church and all and inquired about it. There were a family of seven who had eaten mushrooms, and three of them *died*. Three others were at the point of death quite a while but survived, and the seventh one evidently hadn't eaten enough, so he wasn't sick. But that was my introduction into Santa Cruz.

Calciano: What an impression that would make on a young boy!

Cardiff: Yes. That was just before I started into business college. As I say, I worked hard for about six or seven months, I think. You know, I had worked on the ranch with horses and everything, so I went down to the livery stable that was right under the rooming house where I was staying, and asked if they wanted a driver. They sometimes needed someone to drive to a funeral or something. I would drive a trip for an hour or two and make fifty cents.

Calciano: What livery stable was that?

Cardiff: Well it was Miller's, Sam Miller's stable. It was named the San Lorenzo Stables -- it is gone now. It was right there where Byrne Brothers has a hardware store now.

Calciano: What did you do when you graduated from Chestnutwood's?

Cardiff: When I got through Chestnutwood's Business College I went back to San Benito County, to the ranch that we had there. My brother had been working on it, so he came over and started to business college, and I stayed there on the farm to look after things. He came over and started in to college to take a course, and I think he only lasted about two months, I don't know. He didn't like it. So just then was when the electric light company started to string its first wires in town. At first they put in a 250 watt generator to generate lights, and he got a job working on that. He worked and kept on until finally he was general manager of the Coast County Gas and Electric here, and also manager of the Beach Company and all that.

Calciano: What was his first name?

Cardiff: Robert.

Calciano: Is it his son who has the Cardiff exterminating

business?

Cardiff: Yes. Darrell. That was his son.

Stikeman and Canfield's Grocery Store

Calciano: How long did you stay on the San Benito Ranch?

Cardiff: Well, I left and went to work when my brother went to work at the electric light company. I came over to visit him, and the first morning I was here I was walking down the street and he was talking to a fellow by the name of Stikeman, Frank Stikeman, who had a grocery store. Stikeman and Canfield. That was Laurence Canfield's father. They had a grocery store right where Woolworth's is. I heard my brother say to Frank, "Here he is now." So he introduced me, and Stikeman asked me if I wanted a job. I said, "Well, I don't know. I hadn't thought of it." "Well," he says, "I can give you a job." I talked to him and said, "All right. When do you want me to go to work?" He said, "Any time." So I went and bought me a pair of overalls and went to work right then. I worked for them for several years.

Calciano: What did you get per day or hour?

Cardiff: I'm ashamed to tell it. I got \$35 a month. I opened

the store at six o'clock in the morning, and then I'd go out for ten or fifteen minutes to get some breakfast, and then at noon I'd go out for half an hour or so and get some lunch. Four days in the week I'd close the store at eight o'clock at night. I worked from six to eight those days, and the other two nights I got off at six.

Calciano: Oh my.

Cardiff: And then I worked Sunday mornings too.

Calciano: Oh my goodness.

Cardiff: I kept that up for a year or two, and then I left them and went to work for the California Market. It wasn't a grocery, but was a market. That is it had all kinds of vegetables, poultry, and such things as that. It was owned by Jenkins and Dysle. They had their business underneath where the town clock is now, in the Odd Fellow's Building. That was theirs there. In fact Dysle was the grandfather of this fellow who's got this store over in the East Side; he's got stoves and refrigerators.

Calciano: Oh, Eastside Home Appliance?

Cardiff: Yes. He's the grandson of that fellow Dysle that I worked for. That was along in 1891.

Calciano: Did they also have canned goods?

Cardiff: No, no canned goods at that time. Fresh fish and poultry and vegetables of all kinds. Vegetables just came in from the neighbors around, you know. It wasn't like they get it now, where it comes in packages and cases.

Calciano: Did they sell sacks of flour and things like that?

Cardiff: No, the grocery stores did that. The grocery stores didn't have anything in packages then, like they have now. Flour came in 100 pound sacks. People would buy five, ten, fifteen or twenty pounds, and the clerk would have to put it up into packages. The same thing with sacks of potatoes. Sugar came in 100 pound sacks and was sold out in two, five, ten, or twenty pound packages. You'd have to package it all. During slack times, of course, we spent our time putting up packages. Coffee came just in a sack, and at first we used to have to roast the coffee. Then in a short time they bought it roasted, and we had to grind it. I remember distinctly now, that at that time people would buy coffee and blend it. They'd buy Java, Mocha, and some other kind, and then we would blend it. We'd take ten percent of one, twenty percent of another, and we'd have to dish it out, you know, and mix it,

and then grind it all together. That's the way people bought their coffee.

Calciano: Just whatever way they wanted it.

Cardiff: Yes. They didn't buy straight coffee or straight coffee beans like it is now.

Calciano: What did it sell for per pound?

Cardiff: Oh, I've forgotten now.

Calciano: Were all the grocery stores downtown, or were there little neighborhood grocery stores also?

Cardiff: They were nearly all in town. Just small ones; no large stores, no neighborhood stores or anything like that. None of that kind.

Calciano: So there was a separate meat and fish market, and a separate produce market and...

Cardiff: Well, there was a fish market, and then there was the California Market which handled fish and fruits.

Calciano: Were there any peddler carts going around town with fresh vegetables and such?

Cardiff: Oh yes, yes. They went around peddling. Peddled fish around on their horse and wagon. Yes, there was a boy who used to peddle tamales every night on the streets.

Calciano: Oh?

Cardiff: Old man Buelma. Yes, he was a tamale-man. "Chicken tamales -- chicken tamales." They used to swear he

killed these sea gulls.

Calciano: Oh! (Laughter)

Cardiff: They were just thick, you know. There was no law against killing them. I guess he did probably use sea gulls for chicken tamales.

Calciano: What year did you start working with Stikeman and Canfield?

Cardiff: I started work for Canfield about 1893.

Calciano: You said that he was related to Laurence Canfield?

Cardiff: Yes. His father.

#### The Canfield Family

Calciano: The Canfield family has been here a long time then?

Cardiff: Oh yes.

Calciano: C. E. Canfield had an insurance business as well as the grocery store.

Cardiff: Yes, Charlie started the insurance business. His wife, Laurence's mother was the sister of my first wife. That's where we have connections with them.

Calciano: The Canfields have been quite prominent citizens in the county, haven't they?

Cardiff: Oh yes, all the time. Charlie Canfield was always very prominent and took a very great interest in politics.



He was a councilman here one time, one of the city fathers. He always took a great interest in Santa Cruz.

Calciano: Do you think he was a good councilman?

Cardiff: Oh yes, yes, he was very good. He was an honest fellow and very reliable. Yes, he was a wonderful man.

Calciano: How did he start in the grocery business?

Cardiff: Why, along about, I should judge probably before 1890, he and Frank Stikeman went to work for a local fellow who had a grocery store. Then they branched out themselves. They started a grocery store for themselves, the two of them.

Calciano: Was C. E. a little older than you?

Cardiff: Oh yes, oh yes, he was probably ten years older than I was. Oh yes, he'd probably be over a hundred if he was living now. He's been dead now ten years or more.

Calciano: You worked such long hours at Canfield's grocery. Did you like grocery work, or not?

Cardiff: Oh, I don't know. It was just that I wanted to work, and I needed the money. I was alone. I had to eat, and I had to earn something to eat on. I had to get out and do, you see. I worked at the grocery at that time, and then later on I worked for them again. My brother and I had bought a livery stable (it was about 1894

that we bought it), and I didn't like to work in the stables, so Canfield paid me and I paid for a man to work in my place at the stable. But I did work some in the stable too.

Calciano: This was still grocery work that you did for Canfield?

Cardiff: Yes, that was grocery work. I took care of the grocery work instead of working at the stable. I don't know why; I just got into it I guess. Anyway I was familiar with it, and I think Canfield got after me and wanted me to work because I was familiar with the grocery business, you see.

Calciano: You did some of the driving at the livery stable though, didn't you?

Cardiff: Oh yes. I would anytime I got a chance.

#### OWNING A LIVERY STABLE

Calciano: Why did you and your brother buy the stable *if* you didn't like Livery work?

Cardiff: Well, I'll tell you how we got it. My grandfather died a short time before that, and he left my brother and I the little ranch over in San Benito County. So this fellow that had the livery stable, he knew of the ranch, and he wanted it, so we traded the ranch to him

for the livery stable.

Calciano: I see.

Cardiff: So we took over this livery stable, but my brother stayed with the Electric Light Company, and I went to work in the hotel. We used to run the bus to the Ocean House Hotel which is where the Bubble Bakery used to be, on that side of Pacific Avenue. Me also did livery business for them. I used to drive the bus from the depot up to the hotel and back. At that time we had something like five or six incoming passenger trains a day, and as many going out. It was big business. All the travel was done by trains at that time. My brother and I boarded at the hotel. We got our board and any livery business. The clerks at the hotel got the livery business for us and we got our money through that. We worked that way.

Calciano: You weren't married then, either of you?

Cardiff: No. This was quite a while before that. The livery business at that time was a very good business and we were quite busy. Well, as I look back on it there were quite a lot of interesting things. Now when I first came to Santa Cruz there was no road from Santa Cruz to Felton on the west side of the San Lorenzo River. We used to have to go up where Graham Hill is now,

that road there. We'd drive up that hill, and then this side of the Welch property we'd drop down into the Big Trees. Instead of going down into Mt. Hermon, we'd turn left. The property there was the Cowell property, I guess, although I didn't know it at the time. Then about the first year I was in Santa Cruz the civic leaders here had a big drive to get money to open up the road between Santa Cruz and the Big Trees. They opened it up on the west side of the river where the road is now. I remember they raised thirty-five hundred dollars, and the road was opened for travel.

Calciano: What year was that?

Cardiff: That must have been about 1892, I guess. Somewhere along there.

Calciano: What year did you get your livery stable?

Cardiff: 1894. But at the time the road opened I was still working at the California Market. It opened before we got the livery stable. Before the road was made, of course, Cowell was hauling wood from out of the hills up there. It was just a wood road, and he had oxen; he did all his hauling with oxen. Then afterwards, when the road was opened, he used that. We had an awful time getting horses past those bull teams. They were

scared to death of them.

Calciano: Oh really?

Cardiff: Yes. Once the road got open we used it a great deal. We picked up the livery stable tourists who used to come in from Del Monte on the train in the morning, along about eight o'clock I guess. We would pick them up and drive them up to the Big Trees and leave them there. Then they would take an afternoon train on to San Jose. I've taken a good many notable people up there, Eastern people. I remember W.K. Vanderbilt, the old Admiral Vanderbilt, the head one of the family. He was there one time, and several of the other notables. Chauncey Depew was the famous dinner speaker there in New York. I remember he was there. Of course I got quite a kick out of seeing these fellows.

Calciano: I'll bet.

Claus Spreckels

Cardiff: One of the interesting things after we got the livery stable, I should be ashamed of this ... Claus Spreckels, who was the big Beet Sugar King, had a place down at Aptos. He owned that all around Aptos.

Calciano: Yes, all around where Deer Park Tavern is.

Cardiff: Yes. He and his wife used to come down from San

Francisco quite often. They would take a yacht or launch, I guess, at night, and they would get here to Santa Cruz along about-five or six o'clock in the morning. Then he'd call up the stable, and many a time I'd take a team and surrey and take him and his wife down to Aptos and spend the day with them. He had some very fast horses, and they used to take them out and drive and everything, and I was very much interested in it. Then at night I'd bring them back into Santa Cruz. He'd take the launch and go back to San Francisco. But to get on with the story, I felt that I was really to blame for this, but it turned out all right. The sheriff here, Sheriff Besse, kept his horses in our stable, the horses that he used for his work in the sheriff's office. One morning Claus Spreckels came in and called me up and I took him down to Aptos. He said he wasn't going back. He was going to stay and I was not to come back after him, which I didn't. I came back to Santa Cruz. The paper that day came out with an article where Claus Spreckels' sons, two of them, were suing him for something. I've forgotten, but it was some of their business deals. They were getting out papers and the old gentleman had left town. Then along about that time the sheriff

called me up and said, "Have my horse team ready at one o'clock. I've got to go down and serve some papers on Claus Spreckels." So I told Johnny Chace who owned the hotel and was a great friend of Spreckels, and he said, "You get a horse, and you beat it down there and tell Spreckels about it." So I took a saddle horse and started out. That was before the sheriff started. I started out and went down on horseback just as fast as I could. I got down to Aptos and told Spreckels about it. They were eating dinner. He jumped up and told his man, "Get out a team, quick, to go to Watsonville." So he took the team to Watsonville. Well, you see, he owned the railroad that run; between Watsonville and Salinas, the beet-sugar railroad, so they took an engine and car and he got in that and got over the Monterey line into Monterey County. The Sheriff went down to Aptos, and of course Spreckels had gone. He tried to catch him, but he didn't. Then they sent the papers on to Monterey County to be served, and by that time Spreckels had gone on into San Luis Obispo County, and from there on down to Ventura. He just kept ahead of the papers. That run along like that, and every day the papers would have something about Claus Spreckels and all, and of course I had bean

responsible for him getting away. Well, coming back from Aptos that day I went down on to the beach, and it happened there was low tide. I came back to Santa Cruz on the beach, on horseback, along the base of the cliffs there, clear back to Capitola.

Calciano: To miss the sheriff?

Cardiff: Yes, to avoid the sheriff. Oh yes, if he had ever seen me ... Of course it was the wrong thing for me to do, I realized. Fooling with the law, you might say, but just as a kid I thought I was probably doing the right thing at the time.

Calciano: How long did it take you to get to Aptos?

Cardiff: Oh that didn't take very long. I ran right along. It probably took an hour or hour and a half because I ran the horse, you know. I had a horse that was full of life and struck right out. Anyway, the next time Claus Spreckels came down he said, "I want to thank you for what you did." He gave me a twenty dollar gold piece. Of course that paid for taking him down there and all, too, but he gave me a twenty dollar gold piece. Well, of course, twenty dollars at that time was a lot of money, and everything was gold then. We didn't have anything but gold. After that I saw him quite a few times. During the two years that we had the livery



stable I used to see him right along.

Calciano: What type of man was he?

Cardiff: Oh, he was a wonderful man, an awful nice fellow. He was a great big fine fellow with whiskers. I remember him very distinctly, and his wife was a lovely woman, a German woman. I know she spoke English very brokenly. She was a German, and I guess he was German too.

Calciano: He knew English though?

Cardiff: He was more educated than she was, but he had a lot of trouble. He had four sons, and they were high livers. I remember one time two of them, not these two, came down there one night on the train. The next morning they ordered a four-in-hand, four horses and a rig, to come up and get them at the hotel. They had a bunch of friends with them. We went up there and waited around till along about ten o'clock and drove them down to the beach. They got out there for a few minutes and then we drove them back to the hotel and put the team away. They lied their dinner and we went back and picked them up again and took them down to the beach. That was all, and it was a whole day's work. I remember we got well paid for that. It was four horses just standing around all day for just two Spreckels

fellows.

Calciano: What had the other two sons been after their father for? Do you remember why they were trying to serve papers on him?

Cardiff: No, I don't know. They got it settled afterwards. They came to terms. I've forgotten. Of course that's 70 years ago.

Calciano: What year was it?

Cardiff: That must have been about 1894.

Calciano: How old was Spreckels at that time?

Cardiff: Oh, I would judge that he was a man about, I don't know, he seemed like an old man to me. Sixty-five or 70, I guess. He had a grown family -- those four boys, and I think he had a couple of girls too. He must have been 70 years old. They were an elderly couple. Spreckels raised some fine horses on his ranch -- racehorses and all. He had a racetrack there and used to have his man take them out and race them for him. He did that quite often. I took him down there many, many times.

Calciano: Didn't he also have a private railroad car?

Cardiff: No, but then he did own the railroad between Watsonville and Salinas. It went cut to Spreckels' sugar factory and through the valley there where they used to raise a lot of sugar beets. Of course the land was fresh you know, and they'd raise pretty fine beets. They'd load them on the cars there and haul them on the railroad.

Calciano: Did you see the beet fields when you were a boy then?

Cardiff: Oh yes, and they still have them.

Calciano: Oh?

Cardiff: Oh, yes. Lots of beets raised. In fact in the fall here, if you go down there this side of Salinas, you'll see maybe fifty or a hundred cars loaded with beets that have come in from around Manteca, up in the San Joaquin Valley. They take them over to the sugar factory there and process it and make sugar out of it. Yes, and they still raise the beets around there in the Salinas Valley. They grow the big ones there in Salinas. A lot of that land, though, has been turned into strawberries now. There's more money in that.

Calciano: Yes.

Running the Stable

Calciano: How many horses did you have in your livery stable?

Cardiff: Oh, in the wintertime we kept around 25 or 30. In the summertime we'd have about fifty.

Calciano: Where would you get the extra ones for the summer?

Cardiff: Oh, we'd pick some up probably, or in the winter we'd take and turn them out to pasture, you know. We owned them ourselves and had them just turned out to pasture. Then we'd go and get them in the spring.

Calciano: Would they have to be retrained a little bit after all winter in the pasture?

Cardiff: No, no. We'd take them out for a trip of thirty or forty miles, and that would pretty well train them to go back. We'd probably put two together, you know, a tame one and one like that you know, and when they came back they did pretty well. No, we didn't have any trouble. Oh, we did have some trouble, yes, sure, but we never thought that much about it at the time. Taking horses like that, working with horses, we never thought a thing about a horse bucking or anything, or running away. We'd just take a horse out, and if he'd want to run away, well, we just let him run until he got tired out, and then he wouldn't bother us anymore.

Calciano: Who did your horseshoeing?

Cardiff: We had a blacksmith do it -- that is we took them to a blacksmith.

Calciano: Which blacksmith shop?

Cardiff: Well, Fred Wagner did an awful lot of our shoeing.

Calciano: Oh, did he?

Cardiff: Yes, Fred shod our horses fifty years ago. He was just an apprentice, a young fellow. He worked for Foster; he learned his trade there. He did shoeing for us right along. At that time horseshoers knew how to shoe a horse. Now take Fred there, he knows more about shoeing a horse than probably any of these new blacksmiths, because he was taught how. Now take it for livery horses: there's so many things to know about shoeing a livery horse, a horse that does a lot of trotting, you know. Like one of the things is overreach, where a horse's hind legs come too far over, and his back shoe hits his front foot and pulls the front shoe off. Well Fred had to know how to put the shoes on so as to overcome that. Another thing was when a horse was interfering. As he stepped along his ankles would come together and the shoe would cut into the other ankle. Well, the shoe had to be put on proper, and oh, there was a lot of things like that about horseshoeing that Fred there knew all about. You

took a horse in that was interfering and told him about it and Fred would take care of it. He'd shoe it so it wouldn't interfere anymore. Same thing if it was overreaching.

Calciano: How often did a livery horse have to be reshod?

Cardiff: Well, of course, it all depended on the amount of driving it did. But at that time, of course, there wasn't the paved roads; there were just dirt roads, so the shoes didn't grind off like they do now. And another thing, they used to temper them pretty hard, you know, so they wore quite a while. I don't know, you take now, some of these fellows who have saddle horses -- these stock horses, cattle horses -- they don't want the shoes to last too long, so they don't temper them very heavily. That way they wear down. Like Pfyffer here, he changes the shoes on his horses about every two month: anyway. Of course at that time you could get a horse shod for a dollar and a quarter or a dollar and a half; today it's ten dollars, so it makes a difference.

Calciano: How long would a livery horse last before it needed new shoes?

Cardiff: Well, I'd say about every three months. We'd have them reset if they hadn't been worn down too much. Instead

of putting new shoes on, they just took the old shoes off and trimmed the feet, you know, fit the shoe again, and put it back on. You could use the same set of shoes probably for two times.

Calciano: How much would it cost if you used the same shoes over?

Cardiff: Well, I think seventy-five cents.

Calciano: Did a lot of people in town own their own horses?

Cardiff: Not so very many, but quite a few kept their horses in the stable there. You know we boarded them for them and took care of them.

Calciano: Oh, I see.

Cardiff: Yes, they'd telephone, and we'd take them up to the businessmen you know; we'd hook them up and drive them over. They'd use them and bring them back. Quite a number of men kept them there.

Calciano: You said the people would phone you. Did most people have phones at that time?

Cardiff: Well, not so very many, but there were two phone companies here. There was the present one, and then Fred Swanton started a company. He was a great promoter -- always had been for years. He promoted a telephone company; I think they called it Home Phone.

I've forgotten the name, but anyway business firms like us in the livery stable had to have two telephones. But an interesting thing, you know, my brother and I had the telephone company's phone number one for years. Well, during the whole time we were in the livery business we had phone number one.

Calciano: My goodness.

Cardiff: When we gave it up, when we sold out about '97 or '98, Dr. Phillips had come in here. He was a big doctor, and his brother and one or two other doctors were with him, and he got number one. He had number one up to the time that they got this new system.

Calciano: When did the telephones start?

Cardiff: Oh, I don't know. Not very much before we had our livery stable. That was at the time my brother helped to string the first wires here for the light company. They had a place down on Pacific Avenue, about where Haber's store is now, and that is where they had their engine and their generator. When they started cut with a 250 watt generator, the Light that was put in Santa Cruz was in there where Canfield's office is now, right opposite corner of Church and Pacific. There was a store there -- think maybe it belonged to Bert



Snyder. He had a clothing store or dry goods store. I don't remember if he was the one or not, but anyway there was one light there that hung down in the window, an old carbon light. People used to come over there to look at that light. That was the first one, and my brother was working for the company.

Calciano: Was he older than you or younger?

Cardiff: Older. Three and a half years older.

Calciano: How many surreys and rigs and so forth did you keep in your livery stable?

Cardiff: Well, we had quite a number of rigs of course. We had different kinds -- surreys, and four-seaters that would hold ten people. You know. We used to use four horses on that, and we had three-seaters, two-seater surreys and buggies, different buggies and all.

Calciano: Now a surrey had two seats. It also had a top, didn't it?

Cardiff: Oh yes, the surrey had a top.

Calciano: But the four-seater didn't?

Cardiff: Oh yes. They all had tops. All except the driver's seat. The driver's seat was a little higher, and the top just came up part way on the driver.

Calciano: Then you got wet when it rained?

Cardiff: Oh yes.

Wakes and Funerals

Cardiff: Have you met Amos Elliott?

Calciano: Yes, briefly.

Cardiff: You know after the University came along I was telling him about this property, and he was telling me that he was born down here on Washington Street. His father was an engineer of a train between here and San Francisco. I told him that I knew his father well, which I did, Bob Elliott, and I told him of an experience I had. One day the undertaker, Wessendorf, the father of Lester who is the undertaker here now, called me up and wanted me to bring a team and surrey down to some place on Washington Street. There were curtains on the surrey so it was closed in. So I drove down there and stopped at the address, and in a little while he came out, and he was carrying a little casket. Following him was Bob Elliott and his wife, Amos' father and mother. They got into the back seat of the surrey and put the casket on their knees, and he got in with me. We drove out to the Evergreen Cemetery and up to the upper end where they had a grave ready. We stopped there and got out and Louis

Wessendorf went to take the casket, and the mother threw her arms around it and just hung on and wouldn't give it up. She screamed and hollered and cried, and she just hung onto that casket. I bet it took him ten minutes to get that casket away from her. And that old undertaker, well he wasn't so old then, of course, because he died only a few years ago, but the tears were just dripping down off his cheeks. He was just brokenhearted at doing it. Finally he got it away. Well, I was telling Amos about it. Amos said, "Yes, that was my brother. I was five years old when my little brother died." It is strange how things like that come back, you know.

Calciano: Didn't the undertaking parlor have its own hearses?

Cardiff: No, no, all they had were just merely horses for the hearse. Just two horses for the hearse. The two horses did all the work that they needed, I guess.

Calciano: And you had to provide the wagon?

Cardiff: Yes. They always had a coal black team. Of course at that time, you know, the horses would have a lot of trappings on them. They'd have nets hanging down, and plumes on the horses' heads and shoulders, you know. They were all decorated, and of course the hearses were too. They had plumes on the corners, and it made

quite a show. I remember that very distinctly.

Calciano: Would they have a procession go out to the cemetery?

Cardiff: Oh yes. Everybody went to the cemetery. Always funeral processions. They didn't have it like they do now.

Lots of times now they just have the services in the undertaking parlors and then the undertaker takes care of it after that. Everybody went to the cemetery then.

Calciano: How long was a funeral?

Cardiff: About the same I guess. I think the services in the parlors were longer. Mat services were in the houses. That was really before they had parlors. They never took the body to the undertaker parlor at all. You would go right to the house and have the funeral there.

Calciano: Did they have wakes?

Cardiff: Oh yes, they had wakes. The Catholics did. Of course this is a little out of turn, but Lester Wessendorf was telling me one day about one funeral he had not so many years ago. The fellow that he spoke about was John Perez. The Perez boys were fishermen here, and old John died. They were having a rosary (I guess that's what it was) at the undertaking parlor. There were a lot of these fishermen there, and a lot of them were pretty well keyed up you know. They were

drinking, which is what they always do at a time like that. He said that after the rosary for John got over they had another rosary scheduled for just a few minutes later, so they wheeled his casket out and wheeled in a lady to have her rosary. Well, in the meantime one of the old fishermen had gone out to get another drink, I guess, and was gone a little while. So the old fisherman came back and went up to the casket and crossed himself and all and pretty soon he looked up and saw it was a woman. You know he just stared, and pretty soon he hollered out, "My God, John, where have you gone?" (Laughter) The rosary was going on for this woman, and he just hollered it out so everybody could hear it. (Laughter) Yes, they have some funny things happen.

Calciano: I can imagine! Was there only the one undertaking parlor back then?

Cardiff: No, there were two or three. Just the same as now -- well there is one extra one now, I guess. There were three of them at that time, or maybe just two. Wessendorf was the oldest. Wessendorf and Staffler were the owners. They had a furniture store, and they had the undertaking parlor in connection with it. Then the Santa Cruz Furniture Company started cut, and they

got a man in there and started an undertaking parlor too.

Calciano: Was undertaking usually connected with furniture stores?

Cardiff: Oh yes.

Calciano: Because they had the wood or what?

Cardiff: Well, at that time, you know, everything was done in the houses.

Calciano: Did they embalm in the houses too?

Cardiff: I don't think they ever embalmed. No, I don't think so. I think all they did was just prepare them, dress them up. And at that time they'd just fix the casket and put them right in the casket. No, I don't think there was any embalming or anything, like that at that timer. Oh, I guess they had to do something when they shipped the bodies away, like to the East or that, they would have to. I don't know just what the process was there. Oh, there was lots of things happened during those years when I stop to think about it, you know.

Calciano: Well, returning to the livery stable, it sounds as though you did a good business.

Cardiff: Yes, that was all right, I guess. During the time that

we had it, it was a very nice business, very nice business. An awful lot of people would take horses and buggies and go for a ride, especially the Catholics. They would have their morning mass, and nearly everybody that was friends would order a horse and buggy. If it was a Catholic funeral in the morning, everything that we had in the stables was ordered out. We would have a complete sell-out. After the funeral they would drive back from the cemetery and then they would all go for a ride. (Laughter) They'd make use of the horses afterwards. I remember I used to think about that. Yes, they were awful good customers. Especially the Italians; the Italians were very good. They always had their early morning mass at the church.

Calciano: How many other livery stables were there in town?

Cardiff: Well, I guess there were two.

Calciano: What was the name of the livery stable you bought?

Cardiff: Bonner Stable.

Calciano: Did the Bonner Stable also have a stable where the post office is now?

Cardiff: Not the Bonner, no; that was the San Lorenzo.

Calciano: Oh. And it was torn down for the post office?

Cardiff: Yes. First it was over in the building where Byrne

Brothers have their hardware store now. That was remodeled.

Calciano: It's the same building?

Cardiff: Yes. That was the San Lorenzo livery stable. That was there in 1890. Then the stable moved over there by the post office and remodeled their old building into offices. It was over there in the post office for several years. Miller and Abbott owned the stable.

Calciano: What building is where your stable used to be?

Cardiff: The bowling alley is there now.

Calciano: Is it new? Did they tear down the original building?

Cardiff: Oh, yes. They tore it down and rebuilt. Oh, yes, that's been torn down for many years.

#### Driving to San Jose

Calciano: I understand you used to drive people over to San Jose sometimes.

Cardiff: I guess probably the time you're thinking of was in 1894. There was a railroad strike and all trains were stopped. It was right on the Fourth of July, and at that time, you know, our summer was from the first of July on. People used to come here and stay for a couple months. The town was crowded and the trains



were all stopped. At San Jose the trains were all dead, the engines were all dead, and you couldn't go any further. At that time there was a contingent (I guess that's what you would call it) of about two hundred cavalrymen here, United States Cavalry, camping down here at the beach. They were in the charge of an old Colonel, and the Colonel's wife was staying at the hotel here. He had got orders from the government to go over to San Jose and clear the depot and let the trains run. So he called his wife and told her, and he started out for San Jose with two hundred cavalrymen. So she called up to get a horse and rig to take her to San Jose. Well, I took a horse and buggy and drove her over. I was just a young fellow at that time you know, and she was telling me about the battles they'd been through while her husband was a growing officer, the Indian battles and everything. By the time we got over there she had my hair standing on end. She had me scared to death. She says, "Well, one thing is sure, if there is any trouble when we get there, he'll clear the depot. Believe me, nobody will fool with him. Now when we get over there let's catch up with them, and I want you to drive me where they go." We caught up with them just as we were going into

San Jose. She told me, "You drive right over there along side." So I drove right up, and there I was, right there at the head of this procession of cavalrymen. He had ordered fixed bayonets. Oh, the station was just crowded with people; they were on top of the cars and everything, just a mob, you know. He ordered fixed bayonets and told his men to charge. Boy, you ought to have seen that crowd disappear off of those cars and everything. The thing was cleared in no time. That was my first experience with the army or anything, you know. But it was quite an experience. But say, I was scared. I want to tell you one thing -- as soon as she got through and talked to him, I took her to the hotel. And believe me, I made it back for Santa Cruz. (Laughter) She wanted me to take her to San Mateo and on up to San Francisco. She wanted to go since the men were going on the next day; he had orders to go on further up. I said I had to get back. (Laughter)

Calciano: You'd had enough of her, hadn't you!

Cardiff: Yes.

Calciano: How long did it take you to drive to San Jose with a buggy?

Cardiff: Well, it was about, oh, say thirty-five miles -- I

guess around about ten or twelve hours. I left early in the morning and got there about five o'clock in the afternoon, as I remember it. During the time of the strike in San Jose there were no trains running from here for several days, and the people visiting here in Santa Cruz got panicky. They wanted to get out. One morning I took a four-in-hand with about ten passengers and drove to San Jose. We stayed there all night. They were passengers from San Francisco, rich people; I guess they paid well. Then the next day I drove on to San Mateo, from San Jose to San Mateo, with four horses. At that time the streetcars were running from there into San Francisco; consequently they took streetcars in. Then I turned around and came back. I drove the next day from San Mateo back to San Jose, and then in San Jose I loaded up three or four hundred daily papers that had come in that morning and drove back to Santa Cruz. When I drove down Pacific Avenue with those papers, I was pretty near mobbed. Everybody wanted a paper, you know, about the strike. They sold them out just like that, every one of them.

Calciano: What was the strike about?

Cardiff: Oh, the engineers and firemen, I think, and the conductors and all their unions. That was just about

the time the unions started, and their unions demanded more wages or something. So they went on a strike and refused to take trains out. But it was resolved after a while.

Carrying a Concealed Weapon

Calciano: Your mention of the cavalry and their fixed bayonets has made me wonder if very many men wore guns at that time?

Cardiff: Oh yes, everybody carried a gun.

Calciano: Oh really?

Cardiff: Oh yes, nothing against that.

Calciano: Did you ever carry one? Or were you too young?

Cardiff: I wore one only once, and I swore that I'd never carry one again.

Calciano: Why was that?

Cardiff: One night when we had the livery stable here, they had a fiesta, a carnival. I guess it was along over the Fourth of July. And I've forgotten just what the entertainment was, but anyway I know there were a bunch of girls, chorus girls I guess, who came down from San Francisco and put on a show here. And when Saturday night came, why I think the authorities closed it up. There was nothing to see, evidently; I don't know just what it was about. But anyway, these

girls' boyfriends came down from San Francisco for the weekend, and they decided that since they couldn't have their show, they'd all go to Capitola. So they came up and hired a bus. They hired the bus that we used to drive to take passengers to the train.

Calciano: Four-horse type?

Cardiff: No, just two horses. Anyway, they came and wanted to rent the bus. I think there were twelve of them six couples. They wanted to go down to Capitola, and they wanted to know what I'd charge them. Well, I thought I'd charge them five dollars and something, but I told them, "Now we've got to be home by midnight, because the horses, the two horses that we'll use, have to work the next day." (I had to get them back and give them their rest.) This was all right with these people, so I went and got the bus. They were stopping at the old Hagemann Hotel, I remember, on Pacific Avenue. So I drove over there and loaded them up. They were a tough looking bunch. The girls and all, I guess, were pretty tough. So as we came back past the stables, I stopped for a minute. We had an old pistol in there, in the drawer, that don't think had been shot in years. I don't know if it had ever been shot. I don't know whatever made me do it. I was only about

sixteen, seventeen years old then I guess, but I took this gun and put it in my pocket and went back and climbed up on the bus. The seat in front where the driver sits was a couple of feet higher than the rest a the bus. I climbed up on there and took them down to Capitola and unloaded them. They just went wild down there and went out and got drunk and all. But anyway there was one older girl in the bunch, and she seemed to be pretty decent. I don't know, she seemed to me to be kind of an old lady, but chances are she wasn't over twenty-five or so. But she was the oldest one of the bunch of girls, so I got a hold of her about one o'clock and I said, "Now, we've got to get back, because these horses have got to work tomorrow." So she rounded them all up and got them into the bus, and we had just started from Capitola when one of the fellows in the crowd said, "Let's go up to Soquel. I want to get another drink." I said, "No, we're going right straight through up the Capitola road. We're going to come right straight in." And he says, "We want to go through Soquel, and if you don't drive them, I will." So he climbed up on that seat, which was a little higher, and I thought of this pistol, I took the pistol out and hit him over the knuckles with

it. He jumped back and says, "He pulled a pistol on me; he pulled a pistol on me." And by golly, it was a moonlight night, and I think every one of those girls pulled a pistol out of her dress somewhere. They were flashing around there, and I could just see bullets shooting past my head. I was only a kid you know; I was scared plumb to death. I started my horses on the run until they just couldn't run any further and then let them go slower. I got back into Santa Cruz and unloaded those people and went to bed. The next morning I was nervous, and I remember the night man came and said there was a couple that wanted to go to Big Trees, So I got up and drove them to the Big Trees. When I came back my brother said, "Did you pull a pistol on a fellow last night?" And I says, "Well, yes," and I told him how it happened. "Well," he said, "they got a warrant out for you, and I said when you got home I'd bring you up there." Old Judge Gardener was the judge, and I knew him very well. We went up there, and I explained to the judge just how it happened and everything. They had these fellows in there too; they had rounded this bunch up, and he saw what they were. So he just gave them until one o'clock when the train went out; he gave them to one o'clock

to get out of town. Then he turned around to me and said, "Now George, I'm going to let you off. But after this, if you want to carry a pistol, set it out in front." (They had arrested me for carrying a concealed weapon.) "Set it out on the seat; put it where people can see it," he says, "and don't have it concealed." I never saw the summons or anything, but I guess I was arrested all right. But oh, that was a tough bunch.

Calciano: It's a wonder you're around still.

Cardiff: Tough was no name for it. I was just a young fellow, of course, and I was just abhorred. The fellows and those girls and their actions, anything at all, reckless. I had an awful time. That was the only time I was ever arrested.

Calciano: Did you run into very many nasty customers when you were in the livery business?

Cardiff: No, no, I never had very many.

Calciano: I wondered, because they say that taxi drivers nowadays get ...

Cardiff: Oh yes, they have it different, yes.

Calciano: They get to see a lot of life.

Cardiff: Well, of course, it's different; it was different then, because the town around was not settled up. And our principal men about town, married men, lots of



Limes would call -- the mayor called me one time and wanted me to take a horse and buggy and tie it down on a certain street back somewhere, you know, and leave it at a certain time. And then along maybe about midnight or something, the fellow would call up and tell us the horse was left in some place, or he might bring it back in. So I'd go get it, and of course I'd never know where they had been or anything. But they would go out in the country, you know -- the country was unsettled. There was an awful lot of that; in fact that was the principal way that these fellows would hire a horse. And they'd have it so that nobody would see them going out. They'd have it put way off somewhere so that they could go and get it.

Calciano: Pretty smart, I guess.

Cardiff: Yes, it was; lots of them were married men, you know, who didn't want it to be known.

Calciano: I guess you knew quite a few secrets then.

Cardiff: Yes. Well, course I didn't care much because there was good money in it. Those people always paid good, you know.

#### COURTING IN SANTA CRUZ

Calciano: You sold out the livery business in ...

Cardiff: About 1898. In 1896 I got married, in September of 1896, and I went up into Glenn County. My wife's mother owned quite a large ranch up in Glenn County, along the Sacramento River. I went up and took charge of it. I was there for twelve years. So between 1896 and 1908 I wasn't here. But my brother ran the livery business -- that is we hired fellows to run it, and finally he sold it. We got rid of it, and he kept on with the electric light company.

Calciano: You said you were related to C. E. Canfield through your first wife, didn't you?

Cardiff: Yes. She and C. E. Canfield's wife were sisters.

Calciano: Did you meet your first wife through his wife?

Cardiff: No, no, although I did happen to meet her while I was working for Canfield. Canfield's wife's mother lived here in town, and at that time if you left your house alone without somebody in it, why the insurance was no good. So if they happened to go away, why of course they always wanted somebody to stay in the house. So sometimes when Mrs. Bound would go, she'd get me to come and stay in the house, and that's how I happened to meet the family. I never saw Alice very much even then because I was always working late, and if her mother went out of town, Alice, of course, always went

with her. Mrs. Bound had two children at home -- she had a baby too, a little girl. So she'd take them to the ranch they had up in the Sacramento Valley. She'd go up there and be gone quite a while, so I would stay there in the house. Alice's brother and I (he was about my age) used to knock around some together. In fact he worked in the grocery store for a little while during the summer.

Calciano: Was your wife's name Alice Bound?

Cardiff: No, Alice Picknell. Her mother's name was Mrs. Bound because that was her second husband's name.

Calciano: Oh, I see. When people courted back then, I gather parents were much stricter than now about when their daughter had to be home.

Cardiff: Oh, absolutely, yes. Afterwards, when I got to going with her and we got acquainted, I had to be out of the house by ten o'clock. I was never allowed to stay after ten o'clock no matter what.

Calciano: You usually visited her there rather than taking her to the opera house or somewhere?

Cardiff: No, we went out too. They did have shows and such as that. If I took her to a show, of course, her mother knew right where the show was and when the show would be over, and we'd come home and that was all. She knew; she knew where the girl was always. They were very strict at that time; there was no fooling at all. Take an evening there at the house, why the mother sat right there in the room where you were. Oh yes. Yes, they were very particular.

Calciano: Were there ice-cream parlors then, where you could get her a milk shake?

Cardiff: No, no, I never took a girl there. They would never let us take a girl to an ice-cream parlor, or anything like that. That was tabooed. No, no. Not unless you had a chaperone along. If some older member of the family or somebody went along, why you were all right. But otherwise you wouldn't dare to take a girl like they do now, take her and go into an ice-cream parlor instead of taking her home. That wasn't done. At that time it was all chaperoned. They had chaperons at everything. If a party were held, it had two or three chaperons. Believe me they were strict too, yes.

Calciano: It made a good system.

Cardiff: It was a good thing. Maybe there should be a lot more

of that now.

Calciano: Yes. Perhaps we've gone a little too far the other way.

Cardiff: Yes. Well at that time, that was the age when everything was very strict.

Calciano: Were most marriages marriages of love, or were the marriages arranged because the family approved of the man?

Cardiff: Oh, the family had to approve of him. He wasn't allowed to go out to see a girl unless the family approved of him.

Calciano: But were a lot of the marriages sort of arranged between the two families, if they thought that so and so would make a good couple, or

Cardiff: Well, there was an awful lot of that. Of course there was an awful lot, too, where the parents of the two families would get the children together, you know. They'd give parties for them and such as that, you know, to bring them together. That was done an awful lot. Oh yes, take it right here in town, I know of a lot of marriages that were arranged that way, the older girls. There are very few of those older ones left in town, though. Fred McPherson's mother is about the only one. Yes, Fred's mother is about the oldest

one of the crowd here that I know of. She used to be in the crowd that I was in with.

Calciano: What was her maiden name?

Cardiff: Let's see, her father was a policeman here. Oh that's funny, I can't think of it, I can't think of it right now. Her first name is Mattie. Yes, every once in a while we have a get-together and have a visit of old times. I love to meet her; I don't see her out very much any more; I haven't run across her lately. But I used to take them horseback riding, she and another girl, the two of them. When I had the livery stable, I'd take some saddle horses and take the two girls out. They used to wear these habits you know, because at that time they rode sidesaddle.

Calciano: Oh yes.

Cardiff: Yes, they were very strict.

Calciano: Were there very many dances held?

Cardiff: Oh yes, oh yes, we had our clubs. Yea, we had our dances and all.

Calciano: Where would they be?

Cardiff: We had a club here that, I guess there were twenty couples of us, and we had a dance every two weeks, I guess.

Calciano: These were just courting couples?

Cardiff: Oh yes, oh yes. I'd take different girls to that, you know. In other words, at that time the fellows didn't seem to be tied down so much. I know a lot of us fellows would get together and, "Well, who are going to take to the dance Saturday night?" "Well, I think I'll ask so and so." And we'd all arrange it. We'd see that each one of the girls had a partner. And we'd mix around like that.

Calciano: Who would chaperone these dances?

Cardiff: Oh, they always had some of the mothers. Oh yes, there was always some of the mothers there. In fact lots of the mothers would come with their girls. You'd go to get the girl to take her to the dance and her mother would be there. She'd go right with you. If you took a taxi or anything to take her to the dance, why the mother was right there to go with you. They'd stay around through it all. They were strict, but they were pleasant. I don't know, sometimes I had just about as much fun with some of those mothers as I did with the girls. They were very pleasant, very nice, yes. I remember one night I went to take a girl, and the mother came in and said, "Well, I'm not going, but I'll be around later on. I want to go someplace else."

In fact it was the opening of the Santa Cruz Library. This was long before the present library was built, years before. They had an opening; they had just moved. It had moved from where the City Hall was. They moved it upstairs in the Williamson and Garrett Building. And that night the older people were having a sort of a party there, and this mother says, "I'll be around later." So sure enough, I took the girl to the dance, and I remember some of the fellows said, "Well, how'd you get her away from her mother?" But along later in the evening, why the mother and father came to the party and were there until we got ready to go home. I think now the young people would resent having chaperones. We never resented it; in fact we expected it. I don't think we ever thought to the contrary at all.

#### TWELVE YEARS IN GLENN COUNTY

Calciano: After you and your wife were married, you were away ranching for twelve years?

Cardiff: Yes, I went away to that ranch in 1896 in the Sacramento Valley. Along about 1903 my wife died. She got sick about 1902 I guess. We moved up to San



Francisco and went into business there to take her there for doctors and such as that. Then she passed away and I went back on the ranch again. Then in 1906 my second wife and I were married. That's pretty near sixty years ago now.

Calciano: Yes. Did you have any children by your first wife?

Cardiff: No.

Calciano: But you have children now?

Cardiff: Yes, we have two boys.

Calciano: What made you come back to Santa Cruz?

Cardiff: Well, I didn't want to stay up in the Sacramento Valley any longer. I was with my first wife's mother there for twelve years, running her ranch, and finally it got so that she had a chance to sell it at a big price, and she put it up to me. She said, "If you will stay with me and run it like we have been doing, I won't sell. Otherwise I'm going to sell." Of course I had married again, and this made a difference, although I will say this, my first wife's two sisters, Mrs. Canfield and Mrs. Steele, have been closer to my wife than sisters. Just as close as they could possibly be. They just think the world of her. In fact Mrs. Canfield now lives out here at Batterson's and my

wife goes out there every few days to see her. And if she doesn't, Mrs. Canfield is calling up and wanting to know why she is not coming out. It was very pleasant as far as the family is concerned; they both look on me rather as a brother than anything else. Mrs. Canfield and Mrs. Steele both. I have been very close to both of them during all these years. I got married in 1906 -- there were about three or four years that I was a widower. But I wanted to start out for myself, so I came down here, and my brother was here in Santa Cruz and was doing well. He had his family here and all, so I thought I'd rather get down here with the family.

#### STARTING A RETAIL LUMBER COMPANY

##### Austin Houghton

Calciano: So you came down and just looked for an opening?

Cardiff: Yes, I came down and joined in partnership with a man here by the name of Houghton, Houghton & Cardiff. We went into the retail end of the lumber business. Austin Houghton graduated from college back in Maine and went to work as an architect for John D. Rockefeller. He was John D. Rockefeller's head architect. He told me that during the time of the



George Henry Cardiff



Violet Mitchell Cardiff

1918

earthquake in San Francisco, which was in 1906, Rockefeller was building a 14 story building in New York City, and he was the head architect on it. He said he would spend the day there, and at night he would take the 20th Century Limited from New York to Chicago where he would work on the plans of the University of Chicago. Rockefeller was building the new University of Chicago there, and Houghton had charge of that. He said he went back and forth every day between New York and Chicago, and here about two years afterwards he and I went into partnership together. He had a breakdown, nervous breakdown, and came out here to California. He got better and wanted to get into business again, so he and I went into business. We took on the retail end of the San Vicente Lumber Company. They just had started cutting lumber, and we handled the retail end at Santa Cruz, the two of us. We did that for a number of years.

Calciano: What years would that be?

Cardiff: 1903.

Calciano: And you had that ...

Cardiff: I had that a long time. Later on he died and I kept on running it and his widow, of course, had an interest in it. She only died here four or five years ago. But

what I was going to say, one time when we had the livery stable, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., who is the father of Nelson Rockefeller, came in to town, and he called up to the livery stable. I went down there, and he wanted to know if I knew where Mrs. Houghton lived. I told him, "Yes." He wanted to see her, so I took him over there. Mrs. Houghton had raised her family on the Rockefeller estate back there in New York when he was just a kid running around. So I took him out to see her, and they had a wonderful visit.

Calciano: Oh, how nice.

Cardiff: Yes, they had a wonderful visit. That was the first time the Houghtons lived in Santa Cruz. They went back East and moved out here again in 1908. That was when he and I became partners. But this Houghton was a very brilliant man, and one day, after we had started business and things were running very smoothly for us, he gave me a letter to read, and it came from John D. Rockefeller's office offering him his old position back.

Calciano: Really?

Cardiff: I didn't want to lose him because he was the brains of the firm, but I said, "I suppose you'll take it." I think they were paying him ten thousand a year at the

time and at that time it would be the same as forty or fifty thousand now. He said, "George, no, I couldn't take it. I couldn't handle one side of that job now." So he stayed with me. He got to be an alcoholic about the time he finally died.

Calciano: When did he die?

Cardiff: Oh, a good many years ago now. He had one son who turned out to be a very brilliant man. He worked as a chemist for some big firm back in New York. Another one is this fellow Bob Houghton who has the blueberry farm up at Mt. Hermon, you know. He is dead now, and his widow is running it.

Calciano: Was your lumber business quite successful?

Cardiff: Oh, yes. There were nine retail lumberyards here when we took over the retail end of the San Vicente Lumber Company. We and another company bought out seven of them, so it just left the two of us, the East Side Lumber Company and ourselves. Of course that wouldn't be recognized now, but we each took a certain amount of the business. That way we didn't have to compete with each other, so we made good profits.

Calciano: How was this arranged?

Cardiff: The East Side Lumber Company was quite active, so we got together with them. We bought out certain ones and

they bought out certain ones, obliterated them, got them out of the market. Of course there wasn't the market than for lumber that there is now.

Calciano: It was a smaller community and all.

Cardiff: Yes.

Calciano: Did you like the lumbering business?

Cardiff: Yes, very much.

Calciano: What kind of lumber did you sell mostly?

Cardiff: Redwood and pine, just as it came from the hills; whatever it was.

Calciano: And the building materials were cement, tile ...

Cardiff: Yes, cement, lime, plaster, brick -- all things like that.

Calciano: You sold directly to the contractors?

Cardiff: Yes, we'd sell to the contractors.

Calciano: And not to the people?

Cardiff: Well, yes, we'd sell to anybody as far as that goes.

Calciano: You weren't particular. (Laughter)

#### The San Vicente Lumber Company

Calciano: When you ran the lumber yard, did the great majority of your lumber come from the San Vicente mill?

Cardiff: Yes, the San Vicente Lumber Company was right across the street from Facelli's, way out on West Cliff Drive. They had their mill and a mill pond there. And they brought the logs down from up on the top of the Ben Lomond mountains. They came down on their railroad.

Calciano: How did you get the chance to be their outlet?

Cardiff: I knew the people that owned it and got in with them. They were looking for somebody to handle the retail end of it, so I took it over. We stayed with them there for maybe twenty years. It was owned by the Mormon Church of Salt Lake City. They had their money in it, and the president of the company was Bishop Nibley. He was a bishop of the Mormon Church at Salt Lake. The vice-president was named Stoddard. They used to come out here quite often. That was just about the time of this law against polygamy. This Bishop Ville; (I used to see him quite often) came out one day and he had a lady with him, his wife, and two children. I met her and got fairly well acquainted and thought nothing more about it. Then maybe three months afterwards, why he came again, and he had another woman with him, and he introduced her as his wife. And they also had a couple of children with them. I think



altogether I met four different wives. He told me, "You know, when they cut out polygamy, I left home, went to a hotel to live, and I don't live with any of my wives at all. But once a year, on my birthday, I give a dinner for my four wives and all my children. I have sixteen children, four from each one of my wives. The four wives and sixteen children all live in and around Salt Lake City, Utah." I thought it was quite interesting, but of course these Mormons, they seem to be a very fine lot of people. People are looking up to them. Some of them are getting high up in politics. I was going to say, about the lumber company, that they got a body of timber up by Quincy, and Stoddard, the vice-president of the company, said, "I think I'll move the mill up there." So I went up with him, and we got into Quincy one night. I left the car in the garage and went to get a shine and got up on the bootblack stand. A couple of boys came along and asked me, "Is your name Stoddard?" I said, "No, but his is," so they spoke to him, and he got down and told me, "I'm going to talk to them." After we got through and started away he said, "Do you know who those boys were?" I said, "No." He said, "They were a couple of brothers of mine. You see I never saw them before;

this is the first time I ever met them. But they are brothers of mine."

Calciano: Same father?

Cardiff: His father had several wives he told me, four wives or five wives. But these boys were, well, I guess one was about eighteen the other twenty, something like that, and he'd never met them.

Calciano: Isn't that something?

Cardiff: Up there in Quincy he had another half brother by another mother. The brother wanted to go out there and see his mother, and Stoddard and I went with him. They had the best time; Stoddard called her Aunt Laura.

Calciano: It's a different way of life, isn't it! A few minutes ago I was wondering just what type of jobs you supplied limber for?

Cardiff: I furnished the lumber for that wharf that's there now, that was built by the city. That was about 1908, about when I went into the lumber business here. That wharf was the first job that we furnished.

Calciano: Oh really?

Cardiff: Yes. Over 2,000,000 feet of lumber there. The San Vicente Lumber Company manufactured the lumber at their mill and we sold it to the contractor.

Calciano: Did you ever bring in lumber from the north? By steamship, or rail?

Cardiff: Oh yes, oh yes, both ways. We used to buy lumber from up north, a lot of it. In fact the one job where I made the most money that I ever made on a single deal was when a man from Long Beach came up here and wanted to build that merry-go-round at the beach. Well he wanted to build it, and he came into my office here (I hadn't been in the lumber business very long), and he had a list of lumber that he wanted. He wanted clear lumber, and he wanted some of them 50 feet long. Well 36 feet was as long as we could saw out here, so I got a hold of the lumber company in San Francisco, and there was a boat up in Portland at the dock getting ready to come to San Francisco with a load of lumber. We got the order in and they cut the lumber and loaded it on that boat and brought it down, and inside of a week I had the lumber here. I had given the man a price on it for clear lumber. Well that wasn't clear, but it was number one lumber. I forget what the difference in price was -- ten or twelve dollars a thousand, or something like that. Anyway they got the lumber here and got it on the job. He built the place, and finally something happened, I don't know, but he

wanted to sell it. He wasn't going to operate it, and he wanted to sell it. He offered it to me for just what was in it. Well, if I would have taken it, I would have made all kinds of money, but he turned around then and asked how much he owed me for that lumber. Well, I gave him a price of so much, and he turned around and gave me a check for it, for the lumber that went into it. I forget now, we made several hundred dollars there, just on that one deal. And of course it looked big at that time, you know; it looked big to me. I'd say that was about the most money we made out of one deal.

Calciano: What made you decide to sell your business after you'd been in it so many years?

Cardiff: When the San Vicente Lumber Company sold out, I sold out the retail end to Hayward of Salinas, Homer T. Hayward. That was down near where Provenzano is now, and Hamer T. Hayward sold afterwards to Nigh & Hebbbron. But I kept the building supply end of it which was cement, lime, plaster, brick and all that kind of stuff. I just sold the lumber business.

Calciano: Where was your source of brick and stone?

Cardiff: Oh, we'd buy the brick from over in San Jose, from a brick company over there, and haul it in by truck. In

fact we used flatcars, you know, for the brick. We had a spur track into our yard.

Calciano: Did you sell stone too?

Cardiff: No, not very much. Not any more than I sold from the Cowell Company here. I used to buy it from them. Oh yes, I sold quite a lot of rock. Of course I sold cement, principally, you know. Cement mixed with, sand and rock to make the foundation, you see. I sold Cowell cement before I ever went to Cowell.

Calciano: Oh really?

#### S. R. Cowell Buys the Business

Cardiff: That was how I happened to get in with Cowell. You know Mr. Cowell, Mr. Harry Cowell, used to call on me all the time. Then one day he told me, "Well, George, I'd like to buy this business from you and have you go to work for me." And I said, "Well, it's a good business, and I don't want to sell it." He said, "Well, I'm going to buy your business out. I'll take it off your hands, but I want you to go with me." I told him I would think about it, so I talked about it and everything. I was doing very nicely; it was a nice business and I hated to give it up. So finally he got his general manager to send for me. I went up there to

the office in San Francisco, and he told me, "We've made up our minds we're going into Santa Cruz with a retail yard. Now, you either sell to us or we're going to start the same business in Santa Cruz." Well of course they were millionaires, you know, and I couldn't fight them, so I went to work for them. I sold out to them the first of January, 1925. I've been with them ever since. One thing, the general manager in San Francisco was the manager over me, but Harry Cowell always came here himself. He always claimed this was his territory, so I was really under him rather than anybody else. It was very pleasant, very pleasant all those years. I never had an unpleasant word with Harry Cowell in all those years.

Calciano: Didn't it make you kind of mad to be forced out of your own business?

Cardiff: Oh well, it didn't do any good to get mad.

Calciano: That's true.

Cardiff: I thought it was the thing to do. I guess it was, and I'm not sorry now because I have had a very, very pleasant association with the Cowell Company. I have been with them now for thirty-nine years. Of course that general manager was quite a tough one, but I never had to work under him, because if anything came

up I would go directly to Cowell. I always got along all right, and after the general manager died, which was a number of years ago, then this fellow E. H. Connick was put in as manager. He is a very, very fine man. We get along very well. Yes, I've been very happy with them; in fact very few people at my age would be in the employ of a company and doing nothing, you might say. (Laughter)

Calciano: Yes, what with compulsory retirement at 65 and all in so many places.

Cardiff: Yes, but it has made no difference at all as far as I'm concerned.

Calciano: You ran the building supply end of his business for years, didn't you?

Cardiff: Yes, I ran it until Cowell sold out to Provenzano.

Calciano: When was that?

Cardiff: Oh, that was about seven years ago.

#### COMMUNITY SERVICE

##### The Library Board

Calciano: You were involved with quite a few civic duties during the years you worked for Cowell, weren't you?

Cardiff: Yes, I was on the library board. I was on the school

board here too, around 1920 and '21 I guess.

Calciano: Were there any major problems while you were on the school board?

Cardiff: I've forgotten now; that's been 40 years ago or more. Of course times were different. Yes, I was on the library board right after that for a great many years. I resigned from that.

Calciano: I understand that you were the one who hired Mrs. Work.

Cardiff: Yes, I was the one that hired Mrs. Work.

Calciano: Wasn't there some sort of trouble getting her predecessor out?

Cardiff: Yes, there certainly was. She refused to quit. She had worked for the library for 55 years, and she just got so that she wouldn't pay any attention to the library board, so we decided we had to get rid of her and let her know. It was just at that time that they voted on this Civil Service. We had already hired Mrs. Work about April to come to work the first of July. Well, in May they had an election here, and they voted on Civil Service, and by golly, they voted it in. And according to the Civil Service, you couldn't let anybody go that had been with any of the county offices for over three years, except for reason. You



had to have reasons for it. It was put in after we'd already hired Mrs. Work, so the City Clerk notified me that this woman who was in there couldn't be put out. She was holding the position. I said, "We've already hired somebody." "Well," he says, "You can't put her in." I took it up with the board, and we decided that we were going to make a change anyway, and that we would have to bring charges. You had to bring charges against a person to get them out. That's the only way you could. Of course we did have plenty of reasons, so I went to her and told her that we had hired this other woman and all and asked if she would like to give us her resignation, but she said she wouldn't resign. She said we'd have to bring charges against her. I told her we had plenty of reasons for it, which I thought we did have. She still kept very determined that she was going to stay there, and that was all there was to it. It run along until Mrs. Work was just on uneasy street. She wanted to move down; she wanted to get ready to come in. She was a widow, and her younger daughter was nothing but a baby you might say. She had four or five little children. It was hard on her. She had given up her job up there in the city to come down here, so we decided to go ahead with it.

Finally, about a month before the first of July, this woman notified me that she wasn't going to stay. She handed in her resignation, so we got it. And I found out just what people thought of me. The last day of June I went up there to see her. I thought she might want to say something. I hadn't been around her for a month or two. I told her that this was her last day, and if there was anything she would like to tell me, I'd like to hear it. She said she did. She took me way in the back end of the basement, and she got in front of me. I didn't realize I had such a reputation!

Calciano: (Laughter)

Cardiff: I didn't know a woman could talk like that. She called me all the names she could think of. (Laughter) Yes, I found out what I was. I found out what the people of Santa Cruz thought of me.

Calciano: According to her, at any rate!

Cardiff: It took two hours, or I guess a little more than that from five o'clock to pretty near nine. I'd try to get out from in front of her, and she'd stand right in front of me, and she had a tongue. Anybody who knew her knew she had a tongue. Oh boy, she could talk. Of course, a woman, I just had to take it. That was all there was to it. No use making any fuss. I just

listened.

Calciano: What year was this?

Cardiff: Oh, I don't know. Mrs. Work's been here pretty near thirty years, I guess. Yes, Katherine, who was just a little baby, not over two or three years old, she's been married for ten years now. Katherine is her youngest girl.

Calciano: The other woman had been at the library for 55 years?

Cardiff: Yes. She was an old maid. She was a talker.

Calciano: I have just met Mrs. Work a couple times, but she seems so nice.

Cardiff: Oh she's a wonderful woman, yes. We were very fortunate in getting her when we did. Very fortunate. She brought that library up, you might say, from chaos. She was a real organizer, because it was run down something terrible. It was a disgrace to the county, a disgrace to the city.

Calciano: I wonder when they will get the new library?

Cardiff: We worked on it some. I don't know when they'll get the new one. Mrs. Work is working hard on it, and they've got a pretty good board of directors there now. They're very prominent, you know. They'll be able to do a lot.

Calciano: When was the present building built?

Cardiff: That building was built by Carnegie. That must have been built along about 1913.

Calciano: I saw an article in the paper about how much the building tilts. Mrs. Work put the pencil on her desk and it rolled right off onto the floor and down the floor to a corner.

Cardiff: This woman that was librarian before, I used to get a kick out of her. One side was sinking, and she'd take a marble and put it down to see how fast it would roll. That's all filled ground in there. In fact at one time, this was before my time, the river used to run around there they claimed.

Calciano: Really! No wonder it is sinking.

Cardiff: You take where they have the auditorium there; they had to put piles down there. Gee, they drove piles there forty or fifty feet, all under there, that whole thing. They had to support it on piles and fill it up with concrete. Yes, the river used to run right around that way at one time.

Calciano: Are any of the other downtown buildings crooked?

Cardiff: No, I don't think so. I don't know. There are no other large buildings. That was the only one that had a lot of weight to it. There was an awful lot of rock in there. In fact the basement, the foundation, is lime

rock, three or four feet wide, you know. A lot of the weight is there, you see. There is no danger of it going any further, as far as that goes, with those big heavy foundations. But it has served its day.

Calciano: Yes, I hope the library bonds pass!

#### Water Bond Scandal

Cardiff: Do you know anything about that first water bond issue here?

Calciano: No. Can you tell me about that?

Cardiff: There's quite a history to that. In fact I revived it here when they had this last bond issue.

Calciano: Oh, really?

Cardiff: Well the history of it is this. Santa Cruz just had a private water system here. The Hihn Company had their own system and supplied the town. It was a small operation and the people of Santa Cruz got it into their heads that they should have their own water system. So they got up a scheme and went to see what it would cost to build one. So they got figures and everything on it, and they found that for \$360,000 they could build a system to bring the water down from the coast to a reservoir which they bought from Cowell here. For \$300,000 they could bring the water down, and that would give them \$50,000, then, to start

operating. They did it. That was along in 1394, I guess. Well anyway, that's just about the date. The plaque is up there at the reservoir now, up there on that chimney up there. Well anyway, things went along fine. They got the bond issue passed, sold the bonds (the bonds went back to Chicago I believe), and things ran along fine. We used to get water here for 50 cents a month, no meters, all the water you wanted to use. Well, then they decided that they wanted to do some more expanding, so they raised the water rate to 75 cents a month, which was fine. Just about that time some bond broker came here and said, "Well now, you're paying too much interest on those bonds." He said he could get those bonds resold and save the city thirty to forty thousand dollars on the rate of interest. Well, that appealed to the Council. The Councilmen said they would like to do it, so he told them what to do. They had to go to work and pass a set of refunding bonds (they had to have the money, of course, to take up the bonds, if they could get them back that is). So the city passed what they call a refunding bond for \$360,000 to take up this first lot of \$360,000, which was very nice and fine if it worked. Well, of course, then the people from back in Chicago came out here. I

remember Colonel Stanton. I remember his face, and he was all outfitted with kid gloves and a cane. He came out here to get those bonds. He said, "I've got a bonding company back there in Chicago that will bond you against any loss until you get these original bonds back." So he turned over this bonding company to the investigators. The district attorney and somebody else from here went back to Chicago, and they reported that this bonding company was good, fine. So that was all right; they let them have the refunding bonds for \$360,000, and the men went away with them. And it ran along for two or three years until one day the city got a letter from somebody back East saying that the interest was delinquent on some of the bonds and wanting to know what was the matter. So they went to investigating and found out that this company had sold the last lot of refunding bonds for \$360,000, had got the money for it, and hadn't taken up the others. I think that all they took up was thirty or forty thousand dollars of it. So the city officials here went after the bonding company and found out that the bonding company was no good. Consequently, the city had two sets of bonds out for \$360,000 each. So you could possibly say that it doubled the amount that

they should have paid. So they started in then to fight it, the city did, and they lost. They had suit after suit after suit, and they lost every suit. They finally took one to the Supreme Court, and they lost that. Consequently they just had to pay the bonds. So they kept paying them off until finally there was still \$200,000 of ail those bonds left. They had to be paid, so Samuel Leask and Christian Hoffman took money and went back and bought them up and cleared up the bonds. Now, you know, a funny thing happened here just within the last six months or so -- the city here heard something from a bonding company. The company came down from San Francisco and said that they had seen that Santa Cruz had just issued 6 1/2 million dollars worth of water bonds for that Newell Creek Reservoir up there. They came down and said, "Now here, you're paying too much money on those bonds. We can save you a couple hundred thousand dollars if you rebond this." And so the city was considering it. When I heard of it I went to the mayor and to some of the councilmen, and I made a big fuss out of it. I told them about this other experience, and that's the first that they had ever heard about it. They didn't know anything about it, so they went through the



records and found that it cost the city a million and a half before they got through, to clear up those two sets of bonds. Instead of \$360,000, it cost them about a million and a half. One of those councilmen told me that. Now I guess they have got this current rebonding fixed all right, from what I understand, because they tell me that the Bank of America has taken up the bonds, the first bond issue, and will charge them very little, so there won't be trouble with anyone, Anyway, I'm glad of that.

Bank of America Advisory Board

Cardiff: Of course I'm very much interested in that, you know. I'm the chairman of the advisory board here for the Bank of America. I've been with the same bank since 1918. I was a director in the old First National Bank, but we sold out to the Bank of Italy, and the Bank of Italy then sold to the Bank of America. I've been with them right along, 40 some odd years.

Calciano: What does the advisory board do?

Cardiff: We have monthly meetings, and we just check things, that's all, just keep in touch with things.

Calciano: How many of you are there?

Cardiff: Well there's supposed to be five. There's only four

now, because one died here a few months ago. Charlie Bellam passed away.

Calciano: Are you all stockholders?

Cardiff: Oh well, yes, we're stockholders. Of course we own bank stock, we all have that as far as that goes, but not because of this position at all.

Calciano: I see. Do you advise on investments, or do you ...

Cardiff: No, no, that's all done by the manager who handles that. No, it's up to the bank. We don't do anything about that. Oh, of course they consult with us sometimes, on something that they think we know about.

Calciano: When you first started on the advisory board, was it like a board of directors, more or less?

Cardiff: Oh it was a board of directors. Yes, yes, I was on the board of directors of the old First National Bank here.

Calciano: And the board really did the directing then?

Cardiff: Oh yes, we had regular meetings and all. Of course it was just a small affair and we sold out to the Bank of Italy, and then the Bank of Italy sold to the Bank of America. But I stayed with them right along during the whole time.

Calciano: Why did you sell to the Bank of Italy?

Cardiff: Well, the Bank of Italy came in here and wanted to buy us, that's all. A. P. Giannini owned the Bank of Italy, and he was expanding, you know. He wanted a bank here in Santa Cruz, so he came in and made us an offer on it. We accepted his offer because we made money by it. It was just like it is now -- those big banks were taking the small banks. Picking them up. There is often more money made by selling them than by running it themselves. In other words, it is just like anything else, the small firm can't compete with the big firm. Just like Wells Fargo came in here a few months ago, you know, and bought out the Farmers and Merchants Bank here. They made money on it.

Calciano: What building was the Frist National Bank in?

Cardiff: At that time we were where the Building and Loan is now. We owned that building there.

Calciano: When the Bank of America came in ...

Cardiff: When the Bank of America came in, it was there for a while, and then we went down and built that building down there on the corner of Soquel and Pacific Avenue

Calciano: When was that built?

Cardiff: Oh, many years ago now. Probably 20, 25 years ago.

Starting the Chamber of Commerce

Calciano: About the same time you started with the Bank of America, you were on the Chamber of Commerce weren't you? In fact I heard that you were the President of the Chamber?

Cardiff: Oh yes, back in '22. I was one of the organizers of the first Chamber of Commerce here.

Calciano: Oh really? What year was it organized?

Cardiff: Oh, about 1918 or '19, around in there. I'm the oldest president of the Chamber of Commerce in Santa Cruz. In fact the Chamber of Commerce has been wanting me to give them a history of the organizing of the Chamber of Commerce. They want to take it down in tape, but they never have. I gave a talk before the Past Presidents meeting one night. I told them about the history, and since then the President has wanted me to have it taped so they could have a record of it, because I don't think there's anybody that knows anything about it. Yes, I was instrumental in their starting it. In fact the first organization we had here wasn't anything like the Chamber of Commerce; it was called the Board of Trade. Ray Judah, ex-Senator Judah, came in here as a young fellow, and he organized this Board of Trade. Several of the businessmen belonged to it for a long time, but they

found out that it wasn't what they wanted, so they decided to organize a Chamber of Commerce.

Calciano: Can you tell me a little bit about the Board of Trade first?

Cardiff: Well, it was along about the early 1900's when Ray Judah was just out of college that he came here and organized what he called the Board of Trade. He got a lot of the businessmen to join in with him, you know. Afterwards this Ray Judah got to be one of our prominent citizens here; in fact he died here just less than two years ago.

Calciano: That recently?

Cardiff: Yes. He was our state senator here for a while, and then he and another fellow by the name of Ed Devlin started the Santa Cruz Evening News. They were editors here, and they ran that paper for a good many years. Well, Ed died, and afterwards Judah sold out the Evening News to the Sentinel. They bought it.

Calciano: Oh.

Cardiff: So that's how the Sentinel got it. Sometimes they call it the Sentinel Evening News, but theirs was the Evening News and the Sentinel bought it. Well, Judah organized this Board of Trade, which was along the same line, I suppose, as the Chamber of Commerce, but

it didn't fill the bill. The merchants here were not satisfied with it, so a bunch of them got together, and we got a hold of a young lawyer here, Leslie Johnson, to do the legal work on incorporating and starting a Chamber of Commerce. He got it going; he was elected President and got a few of the merchants to join it, and it went along for a year, but the merchants didn't take to it very well. Then the second year Bill Kerrick was elected president. He was the man who owned this Kerrick laundry. He was elected president, but still the merchants didn't take to it; they wouldn't join or something. Then they heard about a firm in San Francisco that made a business of coming out and soliciting for the Chamber of Commerce, showing people what it was, what it would be, such as that. So they entered into an agreement with them on a percentage basis, and they came down here, four or five of them. They made a very intensive trip around, and they got pretty near everybody to join the Chamber, of Commerce. Oh, it was just wonderful, and they raised a lot of money besides. And in their agreement they were supposed to start us off, get the Chamber started as it should be. They took a list of the members, the old and the new members, and they

sent the list out to every one of them and asked them to vote for ten different people for directors for the first year, which they did, and they got the returns on it. Unfortunately I was one of them; in fact I got the highest vote of the ten.

Calciano: Oh, my!

Cardiff: So when we got together and organized, they elected me president. Well, I didn't want it; I tried to get out of it because I had been neglecting my own business. I was sold on this thing, to tell you the truth, and I helped put this thing over, but I had been neglecting my own business.

Calciano: What sold you on the Chamber of Commerce before the other merchants? You apparently thought it was a good idea long before anybody else did.

Cardiff: Well, I felt it was.

Calciano: Had you seen it elsewhere? Or did you ...

Cardiff: Oh, well, I had heard of Chamber of Commerces everywhere, you know, so consequently I was sold on it. At any rate I accepted the presidency. To tell you the truth, I had no business doing it because I had my own business to take care of. I was a member of the Board of Education of Santa Cruz at the time; I was director of the First National Bank; and I had the head office

in two different fraternal organizations.

Calciano: My goodness!

Cardiff: So you see, as my wife said, I never was at home. Saturday night would come and she'd insist on going out, and she said I'd go to sleep on her. She just didn't approve of it. But finally we got the thing going. The first thing we had to do was get a secretary. Well at that time, you know, they didn't have any of these Chamber of Commerce secretaries like they have now, trained in that line. They didn't have any like that, so we had to look around. We had quite a time finding a secretary. We finally found a young fellow who was secretary for the artichoke association up in Pescadero, or Half Moon Bay, and we got him. He was very good, too. So we started in, of course, to do different things. The first thing we did was to have direction signs put around different places to show people how to get to Santa Cruz. At Salinas 101 we had signs showing how to get to Santa Cruz, so many miles. Same thing over at Sunnyvale; same thing over in the San Joaquin Valley and different places. Consequently, that was our first move. I think it was a very good investment; it really was. Then we had a brochure made out, nice literature, you know, of Santa Cruz. Things



were running along very nicely, and it was just at that time, of course, that Los Angeles was advertising in the East as a tourist city. That was before Los Angeles boomed; just when Los Angeles started to boom.

Calciano: This was about 1920 or

Cardiff: Yes, about 1920 I guess. But that was when Los Angeles really started in to boom, and they were advertising through the East extensively you know, very extensively. So finally we conceived the idea of sending a secretary down to Los Angeles to see if we couldn't interest some of these people in Santa Cruz. So he went down, got a stall within the Chamber of Commerce room, and took our literature down there, you know, and gave it out. Then we decided that we needed our secretary here, so we looked around for another man to put down there. There was a fellow here who was a minister at one of the churches here, a very bright, very nice fellow. He wanted to get to Los Angeles, so he struck us for the job. Of course he wanted to get where he could make a little money, you know, and wanted to get down there and get located, so we hired him. So he went down there, and things were going well. We were using up a lot of our literature; we had another lot printed, and another lot; nevertheless it

was going out to all these people in the East, and we had some good returns from it. So just about that time my wife and I and the boys took a trip down to Arizona. She had a sister down there, so we went down to Arizona for a couple of weeks or ten days. Coming back we got into Los Angeles in the morning on the train. So we went around to visit our booth at the Chamber of Commerce, and there was nobody there in the morning. So then we went around again in the afternoon and our secretary was there. But this man that we had hired, the minister, he wasn't there. He had a funeral that afternoon, so he wasn't going to be there.

Calciano: Oh my! He was doing both at once?

Cardiff: He couldn't be there because he had the funeral. Anyway, I came back and I reported it to the Board here, so we let him go and brought the secretary back from Los Angeles and put him to work here. But anyway, the Los Angeles people, the Chamber of Commerce, were very nice. They let us keep our booth there, and we put our literature there and they looked out for it for us, and we got just as good returns as we would have if we had a couple of fellows down there. So that way we got through with that all right.

Calciano: Do you think you brought a number of new citizens here

by doing this?

Cardiff: Oh yes. We got quite a lot of returns from this. There are still some families here in Santa Cruz that came here on account of our literature. So that's the history of the organizing of the Chamber of Commerce. And it's a funny thing, along about two months ago, or less than that, the Chamber of Commerce had a meeting of the Past Presidents. I was President in '21, and there wasn't a one living between then and 1933; there were fourteen years there that were all gone.

Calciano: Oh my. What else did the Chamber do in its early years?

Cardiff: Oh, they answered letters of course. People would come into Santa Cruz, you know, and come into the Chamber to get directions and information and all that. I think they still have two or three clerks here, girls, secretaries, and such as that you know, answering letters and everything like that.

Calciano: Do many professional men belong?

Cardiff: Oh yes, nearly everybody belongs to the Chamber of Commerce here. Oh yes, they have to be. Membership is close to a thousand members. Oh, nearly everybody belongs to the Chamber of Commerce. Of course that was the starting; that was where they began to be shown

what the Chamber of Commerce was. The businessmen didn't know, right up to that time, what a Chamber of Commerce was.

Calciano: Does the Chamber ever have meetings of its members, or do they ...

Cardiff: Oh yes, they had a big dinner down here at the Riverside not over a month ago, and I think they had over 300 at that dinner. They had that dinner there, and they had speakers. I didn't go because I'd been to the Past President's meeting just a few days before that.

Calciano: Just what was wrong with the Board of Trade? Why didn't it work?

Cardiff: I don't know; I don't know much about that at all. I belonged to it, but it, well it just sort of kept in touch with the different things you know, and everything, and if anybody got into financial difficulties, well they'd probably get in and help them out or something.

Calciano: Oh I see.

Cardiff: In fact now the Board of Trade of San Francisco, if somebody gets financially embarrassed you know, the Board takes over and helps out. It either closes the business out for them or helps them go through bank-

ruptcy. The Board of Trade of San Francisco is quite a large one.

Calciano: There isn't any here now though, is there?

Cardiff: Oh no, the Chamber of Commerce changed everything. Oh no, they don't need one here. Well I don't know, it might be a good idea for them to have one here. But you know, people today don't know about those early times.

Calciano: About how many members did the Chamber of Commerce have the first year after this company came in?

Cardiff: I've forgotten. I've forgotten how many, and I've forgotten how much money we collected. I tried to remember, but I couldn't. And it's the funniest thing. I don't know whether they have it or not, but I couldn't get any information from the Chamber here. I had them look back on their records, but they don't seem to have a record of them. They may have and don't want to give it out to me, I don't know. I didn't have any luck at it, but I didn't make much of an effort.

Calciano: How strange. You said you were also President of two fraternal organizations. What were they?

Cardiff: Well the Masons and the Knight Templars Union. It just happened that I got to be the Commander of the Knight Templars that same year I was Master of the Masons. I

was both in the same year.

Calciano: What a job!

Cardiff: Oh yes. Well it took too much of my time, that was all, out every night.

SANTA CRUZ HOSPITALS

Establishing Hanly Hospital

Calciano: I understand you had quite a lot to do with establishing Sisters' Hospital here.

Cardiff: Oh yes. I helped Mary Jane Hanly buy the land for the hospital from Harry Cowell.

Calciano: When did he sell the property?

Cardiff: Well, that was probably along about '24. Hiss Hanly was a nurse here. She had a place there on the beach and had a little hospital there close up on the hill where there's some cottages now. Anyway she wanted to build a hospital because there was no hospital here in Santa Cruz at all.

Calciano: At all? What year was this?

Cardiff: That's not so long ago, along about 1920. There was a big house there on the hill, and she rented that and turned that into a hospital. She had a business dawn at the beach there of giving people baths, and she was quite a noted character. She wanted to build a hospital. She had a little money saved up, so she

called me one day. Of course I was quite a friend of hers; I knew her very well.) She said she wanted to buy or get a place to build a hospital down here, and she said, "I wish you'd come. There's a place out here on the cliff that I think I can buy." So I took a car and went down and got her (she was there at the beach), and we went out and looked at it. Coming back I said, "Why don't you get this acre here (where the Sisters' Hospital is now). Why don't you buy this?" She said, "Oh, that belongs to Cowell. He wouldn't want to sell it." I asked, "Have you ever tried?" and she said, "Yes, but he said no, he wouldn't sell it." So I said, "Let me try it." So the next time he came down (that was before I went to work for him, but he always called on me at my business) I told him what she wanted to do. I said, "If she could get it, she would build a hospital here. He said, "I'll sell it to her." I said, "What do you want for it?" "I'll take \$4,000 for it." So I said I would see about it and I went to less Hanly. She had some money and gave me a check for a thousand dollars. I sent it up to Cowell and the general manager got it. The next day the check came back. He said, "This place isn't for sale." So the next time Hr. Cowell came dawn I told him about

it. I told him what I had done and all. He said, "You send it back, and you tell George I'll sell it." So I did, and she got the property; Miss Hanly paid for it. So then, of course, she wanted to build a hospital. In the first place, well a lot of things went into it: first was to see what the doctors felt about it. At that time it was all an old set of doctors; none of these present doctors were here at all. They were all old-timers -- doctors that never did operating, or if they did it was just makeshift, you might say. I said, "I'll tell you what I'll do. I'll get the doctors all together and see what they think about it." So I went to every doctor in town, and I got them to promise to come to the Chamber of Commerce room for a meeting to see about Miss Hanly building a hospital. I thought they'd all be interested, and you know, every doctor in town except one showed up at that meeting. Dr. Phillips, old P. T. Phillips, conducted the meeting. I guess he was president of the American Medical Association at that time; he was quite a big man. Anyway I told him about the plan, and they all agreed they would help go for a hospital. At eleven o'clock that night they called me up. I was home, and each one of the doctors talked to me -- Dr. Phillips, Dr. Gates



who is dead, and several other doctors talked to me. The next day I started out. I thought, "Now here is the time to get this thing rolling." The first thing to find out was how big a hospital we should build. I went to one doctor and he said, "Oh, if you don't build it at least fifty rooms I won't have anything to do with it, because Dr. Phillips and his gang will have all the rooms unless you have a lot of them." Another doctor said they should call it the Santa Cruz Hospital. He wanted to know what they would call it and I said, "Of course Miss Hanly is giving the money. She is paying for it, so we'll call it the Hanly Hospital." "No, I won't have anything to do with it unless they call it Santa Cruz Hospital." At first one and then the other got out of it -- that is they wouldn't promise, so finally I got a hold of Dr. Phillips. I told him I had an architect in my office (part of the building business there), and I would like to draw up the plans for the hospital. Phillips said, "Well, let's you and I go some day and take a trip through the state and look at the different hospitals in towns about the size of Santa Cruz." I said, "Fine." So we took our wives and we started out. We went to Richmond, Woodland, Santa Rosa, Atascadero

we were gone two or three days. We saw the different hospitals. The hospital that was the nearest to what we wanted was a new hospital that had just been built in Santa Rosa. They gave us their plans, so we brought them down and gave them to the architect. We went to work and drew up a set of plans for a thirty-bed hospital. Then the next thing was to finance it. Well, she had some money, but she also had \$52,000 worth of life insurance. She signed it first to Frank Hoffman, who was the cashier at the County Bank. She signed it over to him to protect those people who would lend money to build a hospital. So I took her out and we went around and we went to ... Well, like Mr. Cowell gave her a couple of thousand dollars, and different people did, The old-timers at that time gave. C. C. Moore gave her a couple of thousand; C. C. Chace gave her a couple thousand; and we kept getting money. Before this she had, I think, two or three thousand dollars after paying for the land, so she wanted to make up the plans and everything and go ahead. I put my architect at it and told them to go ahead and get the foundation in. She wanted to get it started, so we did. Just then my wife and I took a trip East and were gone for three months. I told my architect, "Now when

that money that you have got in the bank is spent, quit." So he did. When we got back the thing was stalled. The first night we were home my wife and I went up to Mrs. Bound, that was my first wife's mother. She wanted to know how the hospital was coming; she was interested in it, and I told her. I told her it was stopped and needed more money now, and she said, "Well, how would a thousand dollars help?" I said, "It certainly would help." She said, "Here is a thousand dollars. Get to work on it." So the next morning I had the men working again. Then we went and got two thousand dollars from somebody else, two thousand from somebody, and three thousand from somebody, and we just kept getting money in like that, and just kept going until we got the hospital built and paid for. Then we got it all built and everything, and we opened it up and it was very busy and everything was fine. But this Dr. Phillips, the other doctors were suspicious of him. Of course he was a big man, you know, and they thought he wanted things his way. Well, Phillips and Cowden (who is the father of this Ambrose Cowden) and several doctors had a firm. It was in the summertime that the hospital opened, and it was running fine, it was full and all, and then

some lady from out of town was taken very sick. They took her there and the doctor was Dr. Dowling. He's dead now; all these old doctors are dead now, you know. So anyway he was waiting out in the hall when the husband came, and the husband wasn't satisfied with the doctor's treatment, so he went and got Cowden. Well, that just started a row started the howling anew. The doctors said the hospital went to work and told the man to get Cowden, and of course Phillips and Cowden together, they were partners. Consequently the other doctors started advocating, or agitating, to try to get another hospital here. The doctors went to work and started the Santa Cruz Hospital and raised money for that.

Calciano: What year was that?

Cardiff: That would be along about '25 I guess. So they built that hospital. Well, then Miss Hanly wanted to leave. Of course she was an old lady, and she said, "I want this hospital to be used for charity. The poor people are the ones who can't get treatment, can't get care, so I am going to deed it to you and turn over my life insurance to you, so when I die you pay off all of these notes to the people who loaned money. Then you give the hospital away to somebody, to some organiza-

tion, that will use it for charitable purposes."

Calciano: Didn't she have any family to give it to?

Cardiff: Oh, yes, but she wanted it to go to charity. She had a sister down here on Washington Street. She had two sisters, and she had a niece who turned out to be a doctor, turned out to be a very eminent doctor. I don't know where she is now.

Calciano: Oh. Did she practice here?

Cardiff: No. She never practiced here. She practiced in Los Angeles or some large city. I don't think she ever got married. I think she just followed the profession. That's as far as I knew, which was just what Mary Jane would tell me. But, anyway, she gave the deed to me and all, and then later she died. When she died then her heirs came in. They tried to make out, you know, that of course it belonged to the heirs. So we had a lawsuit, a big lawsuit, but the judge decided in my favor. He decided right from the bench there that my deed was as good as any that was ever drawn, and that it was very honorable to offer to give it away to somebody to use for charity, because it was mine and I could do as I pleased with it. The same thing with the insurance money. Fifty-two thousand dollars worth of insurance money. He said it was mine; I could keep it.

So I collected that insurance money and paid off all of those bills, and then I did give the estate the rest. There was two or three thousand dollars left of that insurance money, and I gave the heirs that. Then I went looking around to get somebody to take the hospital, to run it for charity. I tried to get the Elks to take it; I thought maybe the Elks would do it, but they weren't interested. They said there was too much trouble and all, so finally Father Galvin here, who was quite an old friend of mine, saw me one day. I used to like to josh with him. I got to know him pretty well; he belonged to the Rotary Club, so I said to Father one day, "Father, you haven't got anybody that you want to run the hospital, do you?" So he said, "I don't know; I might," and I said, "Well, I've got one to give away." "Well," he said, "Let's see." So it was only a week or so until he called me up one day and said, "There are a couple nuns here from Illinois, from an organization in Illinois, and they are interested in the hospital." So I said, come up." So I went up and talked to them. I had quite a little chat with them and all, and they were interested, so I thought it over and said, "Well, I don't expect anything out of it, any more than if my wife and I

ever need a room in a hospital during our lifetime, that we'd be taken care of." That's all I asked out of it. So they called the Mother Superior, and she said, "Well, that could be taken care of." Unfortunately I didn't have it put down in writing, so I don't know anything about it, now that it has changed hands. I guess the same organization has got it, but there's been two or three Mother Superiors since then you know, and none of the same ones here, so consequently I don't suppose there is any record that we should have hospital care if we needed it. Nevertheless, that's all right. I deeded it over to the Sisters, that whole hospital, which was really worth, well today it would be worth two hundred thousand dollars. I deeded it over to them lock, stock, and barrel. I just gave them an out and out deed to it.

Calciano: What year was that?

Cardiff: Probably around about '40.

Mary Jane Hanly

Cardiff: They changed the name to the Sisters' Hospital, for which I was very sorry, because Miss Hanly put all of her money into it. She was the one that paid for it, built it and everything, and it should have been kept in her name, but nevertheless they wanted to change

it. I never made any stipulation; I should have at the time, but really I felt that I was glad to get rid of it. I had it on my hands, and I didn't want to go into the hospital business. Of course afterwards it probably would have made a good deal and all that, but I wasn't looking for that at all. I was glad to have it go as Miss Hanly wanted it. Yes.

Calciano: She sounds like she was a very nice lady.

Cardiff: Yes, she was a fine old lady. She was an English nurse who came out here from England. She had been a trained nurse in England. She was a wonderful woman. Everybody here knew Mary Jane Hanly. She did lots of work. She had a power; I don't know what it was, but I know old man Hihn, who was the father of the head ones of this Hihn family ...

Calciano: The first one? Frederick A.?

Cardiff: The first one, the old man. I know when he was in his late years he couldn't sleep, and she would go up there at night, at nine o'clock, and put him to sleep. He would go to sleep and would sleep all night. She had that power. She had several people that she would go put them to sleep, and they'd sleep all night. Yes. She had a hypnotic power, and doctors told me that when they had an operation, like on the nose, or in



the throat, they would call her in and she would handle it so they wouldn't have to give an anesthetic.

Calciano: Oh my.

Cardiff: Yes, I heard Dr. Phillips say that. He called her many a time and had her take care of the patient.

Dominican Santa Cruz Hospital

Calciano: Which doctors started the Santa Cruz Hospital?

Cardiff: Dr. Nittler was the one. He had a chip on his shoulder. Of course he is dead now, that is the first Dr. Nittler is dead. He was the one that started it, and one thing always sort of rankled in my mind. At that time we had quite a number of men working for us here on the Cowell Ranch, and one of the doctors was the doctor for some of those fellows. He told them, "Now here, they are going to build a hospital, and you will get a percent return on your money. It will end up that you will get about one percent per year on your money. There's big money in the hospitals." I guess it got to be ten thousand dollars that they raised from the men that worked for us here.

Calciano: The men who were up on your ranch?

Cardiff: On the ranch, the Portuguese, these old Portuguese

here. Yes, old Portuguese that couldn't read or write, you know, but they had saved up a little money. Then finally, just lately, as of late years, they sold the hospital to the Sisters, to this same bunch of nuns as have the other hospital, so they got a hold of this one too. They sold it to them, and I think that the people only got a one percent return. They got their money back and one percent on their money for all those years, thirty years or so. That's what they told me.

Calciano: Oh, my. So was Dr. Nittler the main one who started the Santa Cruz Hospital, or were there several others too?

Cardiff: They all thought that Dr. Phillips had the best of what was in the other hospital. Consequently they were willing to go into another hospital.

Calciano: I see. About how many doctors were in town at that point?

Cardiff: I think around fifteen. Today I think there are around eighty or ninety. (Laughter)

Calciano: What did people do before 1920 if they got sick and needed hospital care? Where did they go?

Cardiff: Well, they didn't. Just the homes. They were just taken care of in the homes. They didn't have the

operations that they do now, you know. They didn't have all of this like they have now, all of this X-rays and different things, you know. Back then a doctor did all, or nearly all, of that themselves. We had an X-ray machine down there; Phillips gave an X-ray machine to the Sisters' Hospital down there; he paid five or six thousand dollars for it. I think that was the only X-ray machine in town at that time. Yes. Now I guess there are ten of them, probably, all over town.

Calciano: I imagine the biggest medical group today is Dr. Allegrini's Medical Center.

Cardiff: Yes, that's so.

Calciano: When did Dr. Allegrini come to town?

Cardiff: Well he came in here in late years. He hasn't been here over twenty-five years. He came in here as a young fellow. He was one of the new ones, one of the younger ones.

Calciano: He has quite a number of doctors with him, doesn't he?

Cardiff: Oh yes, he is a big operator. He went right ahead, you know. He is an Italian, and he got in with the Italians and they just flocked to him. You know he was telling me one day many years ago that the first day he struck the town, I don't know how they got a hold

of him, but he said there was a man sick up here on the Cowell Ranch, and they telephoned for him to come up and see him. So he came up and doctored him for whatever it was. Mr. Cowell was here, and Mr. Cowell said to him, "How much do I owe you?" He said, "About three dollars." Cowell took out three dollars and said, "Young man, you'll never get rich at that rate." (Laughter) That was his first introduction here to the Cowell Ranch. He has been a wonderful success though, and I guess he has been a wonderful doctor. I think that an awful lot of people just swear by him. Rightly so, I guess. Of course I always had old P. T. Phillips. He was always my doctor, and then when he couldn't work any longer (he took sick for a long time), then Alfred, his son, was my doctor for a number, of years.

#### Community Hospital

Calciano: Do you know anything about how Community Hospital got started?

Cardiff: Well, no, I don't know anything much about it. Of course this fellow Sundean, I sold him the first piece of property that he got here in town when he got started out. Cowell owned thirteen acres down here on

Highland Avenue, up there on the top. I was up there to San Francisco and Cowell says to me, "How's property down there, George?" "Sell that place of mine down there on High Street." He'd never lived in it, and he had owned it for forty years. Nobody ever lived there at all.

Calciano: Oh, he was going to take his bride there, wasn't he?

Cardiff: Well, that's the story. I don't know. That's before my time and I don't know anything about that, but he never got married anyway and never lived there. He had a beautiful big house there. I said, "What do you want for it?" He said, "Well, you were offered forty thousand dollars for it, weren't you?" and I said, "Yes." (A fellow some time before offered me forty thousand dollars and he turned it down; he wouldn't sell it.) He said, "Well, it ought to be worth as much now." So the next day I met Sundeane and I told him about it. He was looking around for some property, I guess. I guess he went up and looked at it. Anyway he called me up and wanted me to have lunch with him. So I had lunch with him and we talked it over. He wanted to know how much less than that Cowell would take. I said, "That's one thing about Cowell, he'll never take anything less. If he sets a price, that is the price."

Calciano: No bargaining?

Cardiff: No arguing with him, no dickering at all. So he said, "Well, I'll put a deposit on it." So he bought that piece, that thirteen acres up there. That's about the first thing he did. He began expanding after that. I don't know, it seems that he is doing pretty well. Now he has started the Community Hospital, and I don't know how he financed it, but after he got it built he went to work and added a lot more to it. Sundean is a nice fellow.

Calciano: What did people think when he started the hospital over on the east side of town?

Cardiff: I tell you, the people were pretty much fed up with the Sisters, or so I understood; it's maybe hearsay. They were running things to suit themselves. And they were having quite a time of it. In fact, I think there was some trouble out there. I know one of our leading doctors here, Dr. Randall, who was our leading doctor until he died here three or four years ago, why he had trouble with them.

Calciano: Oh really?

Cardiff: Some woman was having some trouble with childbirth. He saved the mother, but he didn't save the child, and they objected. They said to save the child and let the

mother die. The child was what they wanted to save. So word of that, of course, got out. So people thought they were sort of running things into the ground. In other words, it was supposed to be a charitable institution, and I think the ones who were getting the most charity were the priests and the nuns, such as that. I don't think anybody else was getting much charity. And I let them have that hospital with the understanding, of course, that it was to be a charitable institution.

Calciano: Were they to be allowed to charge fees, or was it to be completely charity?

Cardiff: Oh yes, they'd have to charge fees, you know. But Mary Jane Hanly's idea was that no matter who they were, if they didn't have the money or couldn't have the care, to give them the care. The poor people were the ones that needed care. I know when I built the hospital over there, they had the ward there for poor patients drawn up to be placed at the back end of the hospital. She hadn't seen it; in fact she was never up there more than twice or three times during the whole time it was being built. When she came up she asked, "Where's the ward? Where's the ward?" Well I showed her, and she said, "Oh, that'll never do, never do."

The poor people are put away in the back. I want that ward out in front. Give them the best in the house." She was that kind of woman. So to compromise with her I had skylights put in all along the wards, you know. I had skylights put in to make enough light to get all the sunshine and everything. She insisted on it. She was that kind of a woman.

County Hospital

Calciano: Was there a county hospital here before the Hanly Hospital?

Cardiff: Oh yes, there were lots of county hospitals all over the area.

Calciano: Even before the Hanly Hospital?

Cardiff: Oh yes. The Hanly Hospital was only built in '24. The county hospital was just the same as they got now, only at that time we had only one doctor, old Dr. Keck. He gave them part-time duty. He took care of all the patients over there.

Calciano: Oh really?

Cardiff: That was all. He was the whole show. Old Dr. Keck; I knew him very well.

Calciano: How old was he when you knew him?

Cardiff: I don't know; he was an old doctor here. I remember one little incident about him. I belonged to the



Knight Templars here, and of course we had uniforms and plumes and swords and everything you know. One night we were having a Knight Templar party down at the Casino, and Dr. Keck was called out. He went out and came back in about a couple of hours and said, "Well, I think that's about the first case where a baby was born where the man was wearing a Knight Templar uniform!"

Calciano: Oh my goodness!

Cardiff: He had a baby while he was gone. I often laugh about that.

Calciano: I imagine some of the house calls took the doctors a long time since they had to travel by horse.

Cardiff: Oh yes, they made long drives. Yes. These old doctors, they all had horses and buggies you know, to go around. They had to go all over the place. And they never refused. That's one thing, those doctors would be out all night long. When I ran the livery stable, you know, they called for the horses all times of the night.

#### THE COWELL RANCH

Calciano: From time to time we've been mentioning your



Mr. and Mrs. Henry Cowell  
with Frank George  
In front of the Carriage House

association with the Cowell Company, and I am curious to know more about it. Now it was Harry Cowell's father who bought this ranch?

Cardiff: Yes, his father, Henry Cowell.

Calciano: Did he buy it a piece at a time?

Cardiff: Well, he bought the main section first, and then he bought several pieces afterwards. He bought some additional lime quarries, lime kilns. The people who owned them went broke or something, so Cowell, the old man, bought it, because he was always picking up all the lime rock he could.

Calciano: Were they doing the limestone quarrying when you were manager here?

Cardiff: Oh yes.

Calciano: How long did they do that?

Cardiff: Well they always did it until -- I think probably they closed it down about ten years ago.

Calciano: Why did it finally close?

Cardiff: Well, it got to be uneconomical. He couldn't get the help like he had before.

#### Employees -- Portuguese and Italian

Cardiff: Mr. Cowell was a man that was wonderful with his old employees. He had a lot of employees, Portuguese and

Italians, that came out to this country, and there wasn't half of them, a very small percentage of them, that could even speak English. They worked for him, and as the years went along, well working in that lime was awful hard work. Very few people would work in it. These fellows that knew nothing else always worked in it, and of course as time went on, times changed and wages began to advance and all that, you know. As each one quit or died his crew kept getting down, so finally (it was over at Rincon where he was operating) he brought the rest of the men over here to Santa Cruz and worked them here on the ranch. He never let a man go. He lost money the last few years (which didn't mean anything to him), but as he said, those old men had been at that all their life and knew nothing else, and if he didn't keep that running, where would they go? They couldn't get a job any place else, so he just kept them on. Finally they died off, you might say.

Calciano: How many men did they have working up here on the ranch?

Cardiff: Well, while I was here, only four or five men was all we had.

Calciano: What about in 1925 and on?

Cardiff: I don't know. They had a big crew, but I don't know

how many there were. Quite a crew, yes.

Calciano: You said mostly Italians and Portuguese. A lot of immigrants?

Cardiff: Mostly Portuguese. He employed fellows who had come out from the Azores; I've heard some talk about it. I think there was a town someplace back East where they landed. They came out here and they were most of his help, I think. Of course I didn't know much about it.

Calciano: You never really knew Cowell very well before he bought you out then?

Cardiff: No. I knew nothing about him, except when he came in the store.

Calciano: Did he use any Chinese workers? Or Japanese?

Cardiff: I don't think so, no. They were all Portuguese or Italians that Cowell had. In fact, of the men that Cowell had, I don't suppose there were fifty percent of them that could write their own name.

Calciano: My.

Cardiff: An old fellow worked in here for Cowell. He had been with him for fifty years when he died (that was just in the last two years), and he couldn't write his own name; he didn't know a thing about it. And when he died he left an estate of around \$80,000.

Calciano: My goodness.

Cardiff: He had the first dollar he ever made. He put it in the bank, and he never spent a dollar hardly. He'd never go to town; he'd rather stay here. Sundays he was here, all day Sunday, on that front porch or around here. He was a regular watchdog. This granddaughter of ours, now she's fourteen, when she was just going to school first, about six I guess, she tried to teach him to write his name. She'd set out there a half an hour at a time on that porch, you know, just drilling him on how to write his name.

Mrs. C.: He limped when he walked, and he took care of the yard and of the chickens. He was the dirtiest looking thing you ever saw. He never took a bath or changed his shirt unless he had to.

Calciano: Did he have a family to leave his money to?

Mrs. C.: No, he left it to his brothers and sisters. They all liked him when he died.

Cardiff: Yes, he had a lot of brothers and sisters; I think there was seven brothers and sisters.

Calciano: Did they live around here?

Mrs. C.: No, just poor Italians, very poor. He was an awfully good man, but his people were all born in Italy, and he came out here and worked you see. And that's the

reason he saved his money, because he said that in Italy, where they lived, they just barely had enough to live or..

Cardiff: Cowell used to call him "My Joe," and Joe used to call Mr. Cowell "My Father."

Calciano: Oh! How nice.

Mrs. C.: Cowell was good to Joe; he took care of him. Cardiff: He was awful good to him.

#### The Lime Kilns

Calciano: I wanted to ask you about the lime kilns. How did they work them? They used to set the lime rock on top of the fire, is that right?

Cardiff: The rock yes, the limestone rock. You see, they make an arch of the rock there and put the fire in the bottom. Then the fire went up through the rock, you see. The rock was all piled in there, and the fire went up through it. And that rock had to be heated to around, well, they used to heat it to about 2800 degrees, I think. And it took about seventy-two hours. And the way that it burns, you take that lime rock and put it in intense heat, and it throws off what they call, well, a gas. I've forgotten what gas now. But the heat takes that gas away from the rock, right out

of the rock, so there's nothing left but the lime. So that that rack then, after it's been burned, you can take it and put water with it and it will deteriorate. That is it will all go putty you know. That's how they make lime putty.

Calciano: Well now, how do they get the fire made? They arch the rock, you say, so there's room for the fire?

Cardiff: They take that rock, and of course they have a regular archer, a fellow that makes a business out of it. He goes to work and lays a rock here and a rock over here. And then the next rocks will come a little bit closer and a little bit closer and then on the top he'll have one that reaches across and that leaves it hollow underneath there.

Calciano: I see.

Cardiff: Well that's where the fire goes in. That arch goes clear back the length of the kiln. The kiln is probably ten feet deep. And then the top was all filled with rocks. And that heat, the fire goes up through that rock and burns. After they get it started, that gas in the rock will catch fire and will burn.

Calciano: Oh, the gas will catch fire?



Cardiff: The gas, oh yes. The gas burns off. It throws the gas off, but it also burns it. Dioxide.

Calciano: Carbon dioxide?

Cardiff: Yes, that's it. And after the rock is burned, when you put water with it, why it will turn into what you call lime putty that you can use for plastering and such as that.

Calciano: You said they had to cook it for about seventy-two hours?

Cardiff: I think it runs around anywhere from seventy-two to seventy-eight hours.

Calciano: Did someone have to work at night then, to keep the fires going?

Cardiff: Oh yes, we had one man who did the finishing. He stayed right with it, and he could tell when it was done.

Calciano: How could he tell?

Cardiff: I don't know; from the flames I guess. He knew from the flames.

Calciano: And would all the rock be done, or would there be parts that they'd have to fire again?

Cardiff: No, there were always a few that weren't completely done. They drew the lime out through the bottom, you see, and put it into barrels. They drew it out, and

that way it kept going down and down and down until they got it cleaned out. And some days, if there were rocks in there that weren't completely burned, why they were thrown to one side. In fact that was what happened here. When the University put this road up here past where the shop was there, they started to excavate for it and they ran into a lot of lime. That was what it was; it had been thrown out there maybe fifty or sixty years ago, and it was still up there. It was all that loose lime, so they had to go to work and excavate it, and then they had to haul rock in to build the road. It cost the University a lot of money to get that piece through there where that rock had been thrown out. I didn't know it was there, and nobody else, because it's probably been fifty years since that was used as a road, you see. But just as soon as they started to go into it, why there was no foundation to it you know. So they had to excavate it and put in rock to get a foundation for their street.

Calciano: Oh my. Well in the kilns, when the rock started burning it disintegrated. Why didn't the rock just cave in on top of the fire?

Cardiff: Oh no, the rock doesn't deteriorate until after it's burned and you put something with it. In other words,

that rock stays just as it is.

Calciano: Oh, it stays just as it is?

Cardiff: That's the lime. That is the stuff you take out and barrel. As you take it out underneath there, why it keeps coming down and down, and they have shovels, long handles, that they shove in there and pull it back out.

Calciano: Oh. Was it rather hard rock that they had to chip away at?

Cardiff: Well, no. If there was any hard rock there, why they threw it out to one side. That was all waste.

Calciano: But the stuff would never cave in on the fire?

Cardiff: No, no. Oh no, they had no trouble. Mr. Cowell told me that this system they used here now is the same system they were using to burn lime in Rome two thousand years ago.

Calciano: Oh really?

Cardiff: Yes, that's what he said.

Calciano: How many kilns did he have here on the University property? We see about three or four still standing.

Cardiff: I think about that many probably, I don't know. Four or five.

Calciano: Then he had more kilns elsewhere didn't he? Or were these his main ones right here?

Cardiff: Oh they had others everyplace around here. In fact we had kilns over here on Meder Creek. That's on our property off of Bay Street. And then we had kilns up on the IXL, up above Felton. And then we had kilns there in Felton.

Calciano: Were the ones on the University property the earliest kilns?

Cardiff: Oh yes. I think these were in here before Cowell ever bought the place.

Calciano: Oh really?

Cardiff: I think so.

Calciano: When it was Davis and Jordan?

Cardiff: Davis and Jordan, I think Davis and Jordan were the ones who put those kilns in the first place.

Calciano: How interesting. What was that big water tank used for? There's a big empty tank that looks like a water tank standing by the kilns.

Cardiff: Well, that was for oil. You see the limestone was burned with wood until in late years the wood began to get scarce. Then they brought in oil in tanks, and that was the tank. They'd get a carload, you see, and bring it in there. That was before we opened up the kilns at Rincon. Up at Rincon the railroad ran past the kilns and we put tanks in up there. Then a

railroad car would come in, you know, and we'd just empty it right into these tanks. We always used oil in those kilns up there.

Calciano: Didn't there used to be a tram road here from the big quarry down to the lower kilns here?

Cardiff: Yes, that was, well, I guess Cowell used that too. It ran from the quarry down to the kilns. That's how they got the rock. They loaded it onto cars, and I think it came down by gravity. There's a little slope there, you know. It came right over the top of those kilns, you see, and then they could throw the rock right down into the kilns. And then they had an old horse that would pull the car back up to the quarry.

Calciano: I see. Before they got oil they burned long pieces of wood didn't they? Eight-foot chunks?

Cardiff: Eight-foot, yes. They were all eight-foot, you see, because those kilns were about ten feet deep. They could stick the long stick of wood in the full length.

Calciano: Up at the quarry I presume they used blasting powder to blast out the rock. How many men would they have doing the blasting, and then how many loading rocks?

Cardiff: Well, how do you mean?

Calciano: Didn't they have certain people that were skilled in the use of explosives?

Cardiff: Oh, yeah. Only sometimes the explosion would go off when they were not expecting it, you know. Quite often an explosion would be premature.

Calciano: Oh really?

Cardiff: Oh absolutely. That's where all those people were killed in those blasts, because they were premature blasts. I don't think there was ever anybody hurt around where they were getting the blast ready, drilling the hole and packing the powder in there and everything, and putting in the fuse, you see. They don't have any trouble with that. Then, after they got ready to blast, now like over here at this quarry every night at five o'clock they blast. Well, say they have ten blasts in. They'll get off back out of the way where nobody could get hurt, and all the men are warned and are gone. Well then they set those off. They have sort of an electric machine that they just punch, and it sets them off. Well I was there when they were counting those blasts, ten of them. And then when the ten had exploded, why they let me go back around there and go to work again. But that's something they're very careful about. In fact the laws are very strict on this.

Calciano: How did they do it fifty years ago?

Cardiff: Well I think it was similar.

Calciano: But did they have detonating devices way at a distance, or did they just light a fuse and run?

Cardiff: Well I don't know that they ever did that. Of course if they lit a fuse and ran, why the fuse might be twenty feet long. Well they might light it, and before it'd go twenty feet it might be a half an hour, and they could get away and be safe you know.

Calciano: And did they used to do it that way?

Cardiff: Oh I presume they did.

Calciano: Were there very many accidents on a ranch years ago?

Cardiff: Very few.

Calciano: Very few? That's rather marvelous, isn't it, considering the hazards.

Cardiff: Well you know an accident had to be a whole lot for them to pay any attention to it. You know they had those old fellows, and if they'd cut an artery or anything like that, why they'd bandage it up and let it go until it would heal up. The other fellows thought they knew how to do it, and they'd do it. No, I very seldom heard of an accident here.

Calciano: Did Cowell have special men in charge of the blasting?

Cardiff: Oh yes, there was a blasting man. There was a man that did all of that. One man. In fact at that time he

didn't have to have a license, but now these fellows have to have a license from the government you see. They have to pass an examination and all to get the job. Of course they get more money, those fellows.

Calciano: Back when Cowell was doing it, did the men have much machinery with which to move the rock, or was it mainly hand labor with pick and shovel?

Cardiff: It was all hard, yes. Picks and shovels and drills. They didn't even have air hammers. Back then to dig a hole to put a blast in, they'd have a drill and probably hit it with a sledge, you know, and work the hole down. Now, of course, they have air hammers that drill it in a few seconds.

Calciano: What did Cowell sell the rock for? What was the main use and the main outlet for lime?

Cardiff: They used it for plaster work and such as that. They shipped it to San Francisco.

Calciano: It wasn't the kind that was used on the ground as fertilizer?

Cardiff: Well, this was a better grade. That is a second grade that is used on the ground.

Calciano: Oh, I didn't know that. So this was really top grade lime then?

Cardiff: Yes, oh yes. The lime they made was top grade; it was



first-class lime, you know.

Calciano: Are there still lime deposits up there on the University property?

Cardiff: Billions of tons! (Laughter) This ranch is underlaid with lime rock all over it.

Calciano: Really?

Cardiff: Yes, the University, if they wanted to, I don't know whether they will or not, but they could do a lot of their building with rock, because they have lots of rock there, and you could get it just for quarrying it out, you know. Yes, oh yes, lots of lime rock on this ranch.

#### Cowell Oxteams

Calciano: You mentioned the oxen that used to take the lumber down to the kilns. When did Cowell stop using oxen?

Cardiff: He was one of the last. First he had horses take their place; then later he got trucks. But he was a great man to let somebody else pioneer anything, so he used oxen as long as he could. And then he got horses and used horses as long as he could. He used horses up until the time that I worked for him. He wouldn't give them up. He used horses to haul the rock from the Rincon quarry down to Rincon and such as that. Even in

1925 he had about five horse teams hauling rock. And the wagons -- that's what these big old wagons over here in the cooper shop were for. When I went to work for him in '25 I was using a truck in my business down here. So he went to work and sent another truck down from the city for me to use here, which I did. I used it right along, as far as that goes. One day he came in and said, "George, do you know how much rock you can haul in one of those trucks?" "Well," I said, "probably around ten tons or so." He said, "Well, how much cheaper would hauling rock by truck be than it would be with horses, or would it cost much more?" I said, "I don't know." "Well," he said, "bring it up this afternoon to the quarry. We'll load it up and take it down and weigh it to see how much rock is on it. We'll see how long it takes to load it and to make the trip." So we did. We tested it out. We loaded up the truck and weighed it. He kept time to see how long it took and how much we hauled from the quarry down to the kilns so he could tell whether hauling with a truck would pay or not. He worked it out and went and bought a five-ton truck and used the truck with the horses. In fact he sent the horses to the other ranches. They were all workhorses, and he sent them to

other ranches and got trucks. That was along about 1930, I guess.

Calciano: Rather late! (Laughter) I suppose he had a full-time blacksmith then?

Cardiff: Oh yes, he always had a blacksmith. There was lots of blacksmith work to do, so it kept him busy. There were all the wagons and everything that needed repairs, and the horses all had to be shod.

Calciano: Apparently near the front gate of the University here, there's a place where they used to weigh the wagons. What did they do that for?

Cardiff: Oh, well, they kept that for lots of things. They would weigh the stock and sell it by weight.

Calciano: Did you also weigh the lime, or did you just ship it by barrel unit?

Cardiff: Yes, the lime was weighed after it was processed. Any rocks that we sold were hauled out in wagons. Like that rock, you know, all along the river on both sides. That came from this quarry here.

Calciano: The Cowell Company made their own wagons too, didn't they?

Cardiff: Well, I suppose Cowell did; he had a man working here, no he didn't; I don't think he had anything to do with making wagons. These were all bought, I think. He had

a lot of them down here, you know. The University gets five or six great big wagons.

Calciano: On, really? The ones that they used to haul the lime in?

Cardiff: Yes, they're down there. They wanted to keep them so that they could have them. in fact, we're letting them have anything that's on the ranch here that we don't need. In other words, the general manager told me, "Now, George, anything you can sell and get a fair price for, all right, but don't give it away. Don't give it away just because we're going to sell. Leave it to the University; let them have it. So the University has got all kinds of things here, ail kinds of machinery.

Calciano: Oh, my.

Cardiff: Yes.

#### The Ghost Ranch

Calciano: I've heard that there is someplace on Cowell property called the "Ghost Ranch."

Cardiff: It's right above Felton.

Calciano: Oh, above Felton!

Cardiff: Yes, we have two thousand acres right there above Felton, along Fall Creek. It comes right into Felton. In fact Fall Creek is on the Cowell property. One of

the roads comes in right there at the edge of the cemetery. The cemetery people have an uneven piece of property there and they're trying to buy a piece from Cowell to straighten it out. That ghost town is up above Felton.

Calciano: What was it?

Cardiff: Well, they had lime kilns there and burned lime; they used to have several hundred men work there.

Calciano: Oh my.

Cardiff: Oh yes, up there in that town they had a waterwheel that ran the mill. They used to saw barrel staves. We had barrel staves, barrel heads, everything, right in that mill. The mill is still standing there, and the great big waterwheel that would run the whole thing by its water power is still there.

Calciano: Can one drive up to it or is it ...

Cardiff: I don't think you can right now. I think there're two or three bridges that are washed out. But a person can walk up there. If you want to take your lunch along some Sunday and go up there, it'd be a nice place.

Calciano: How do you get there?

Cardiff: Well, right in Felton you turn on Farmer Lane. It takes you right to the entrance to our property there. Either that or you can go on further up Highway 9 and

cross that first bridge, and then come back on Fall Creek Road. That comes in right by the entrance there of our property. An awful lot of people picnic up in there. It's beautiful. But that ghost town is the old kilns, the old buildings, and everything's all torn down, you know. But that was when we had to haul our stuff in and cut and haul everything to Felton. We had to haul oil in from Felton to burn the lime and everything. Se when the earthquake came in 1906, the Cowell Company went to work and put in a plant in at Rincon. They did that because the trains came to Rincon, you see, and we could haul oil in there and haul the stuff out. That's when we opened that quarry up there. In fact first we opened up the quarry that's about half way up this hill here. There's an old quarry there where we started getting rock, and then afterwards it wasn't as good a rock as the other so we moved up to where this big quarry is, and that's where we took most of our rock from.

Calciano: I see.

Cardiff: Oh, we've taken hundreds of thousands of tons out of that quarry up there. You notice that big hole down there? Well that was once level in there. I remember it being level.

Calciano: Are you talking about the quarry on the University property?

Cardiff: Yes, that's the one; that's the Rincon quarry.

Calciano: Oh, it is?

Cardiff: That's the one we call the Rincon quarry.

Calciano: Oh, I see; but the area called Rincon is further up the river; it's not on University property.

Cardiff: No, no, Rincon goes through the property that we gave to the state park.

Calciano: I see.

Cardiff: Rincon is on Highway 9, about a quarter mile past the railroad crossing. It's just past Paradise Park. But the big quarry is called the Rincon quarry because it supplied all the rock for the kilns at Rincon.

Calciano: Thank you for explaining because I was beginning to get confused. Is the railroad still there?

Cardiff: Oh yes, but it's just a switch. You know, there is an interesting thing about that Rincon quarry. Years ago we used to get terrific rains. It would rain steadily for a number of days, and that quarry would fill up with water. It would get eight or ten feet deep in there.

Calciano: Oh my goodness! How long would the water stay there?

Cardiff: Well, it would go away after two or three days. It would drain into the ground. But I saw that happen several times. It hasn't happened, though, in late years. But you know, thousands of years ago there must have been an upheaval through here because you can see how the rock layers in that quarry are all tipped up on edge. It's very clear there along the sides of the quarry. And that's where the water used to go. It would run out the seams, you might say. In two or three days the quarry would be empty again.

Calciano: How interesting! Now what was this quarry down near your house called?

Cardiff: That's H. C., Henry Cowell quarry. That was right down here. But two or three years ago they put rocks down the banks of the river down through town. The government did that. So they came in, and the fellows who got the contract opened that quarry again, and all the rock that went on the river came out of this first quarry here.

Calciano: Oh I see.

Cardiff: Yes, it all came out of this first quarry.

#### The Cowell Wharf

Calciano: Years ago Cowell used to ship his lime from his own



wharf, didn't he?

Cardiff: Oh, yes. In fact that was when Harry Cowell was a young man. He used to tell me that when boats would come down to load the lime, he'd get on the boat and ride to San Francisco.

Calciano: The Cowell wharf was just to the west of the municipal wharf, wasn't it?

Cardiff: Oh yes. His own wharf was down here. In early days Cowell (the old gentleman that is), when he was burning lots of lime, he had three boats all the time hauling lime from Santa Cruz to San Francisco. They were his own boats that he loaded, and he had his wharf here. You see he had that old warehouse here. Of course we sold that about two years ago, so we just tore it down, but he had a warehouse there that ran pretty near a block, more than a block, right at Bay Street, right across from the Sisters' Hospital.

Calciano: Oh yes, where the Dream Inn is now?

Cardiff: Yes. He owned all that Dream Inn land. Cowell owned all that property clear down to the beach and all the way back to where the Sisters' Hospital is. They had this warehouse, and the warehouse ran right across Cliff Drive. You know Cliff Drive had to turn up Bay Street and go back a whole block and go around because

his warehouse was right out to the cliff. The boats would come into the wharf, and he had a track on there and cars. They'd load a load of lime on a car, and it would go down by gravity onto this wharf, and then they'd load the lime onto the boat. He had an old horse that used to follow it down and then hook onto the car and pull it back up. They'd load it while another one went down.

Calciano: The lime was in barrels

Cardiff: In barrels, yes.

#### Making Barrels

Calciano: The Cowell Company used to make some of their own barrels right here on this part of the ranch, didn't they?

Cardiff: Yes, right at the bottom of the hill there, right where you drive through. Well, barrels were made there, and also before we gave this Rincon area to the state we had a barrel shed there. But the staves were made up on this Felton property. We had that old waterwheel in here. The water came right out of the mountain there, nice and steep. It came right out of the top and ran along the hill to opposite where the mill was. I think an eight or ten inch pipe carried

the water across and ran this waterwheel. And that's where we made our staves and heads for the barrels.

Calciano: How did they get the staves to curve the way they do?

Cardiff: They're sawed that way.

Calciano: Oh, they're sawed that way!

Cardiff: Yes.

Calciano: Did they use the redwood lumber in the woods around there?

Cardiff: Oh, yes. We've got some wonderful timber up there; we've got two thousand acres of beautiful timber.

Calciano: What year did they stop sawing the barrel staves?

Cardiff: Oh, I guess it must be twenty years now since we made any up there.

Calciano: Didn't they use the hazel bushes up on the ranch here to make the wands for the barrels?

Cardiff: Oh, they had these willow, or hazel, boughs, yes. Oh yes, that was all cut here on the ranch. Yes, I think they paid a dollar and a quarter a thousand for some of these fellows to cut them. These old Italians would go out there and cut them long enough for the barrels, you know. You could take and throw those in water and you could bend them any old way.

Calciano: How many men did they have making the barrels?

Cardiff: I don't know; I think generally around three or four coopers.

Calciano: How long would it take to make a barrel?

Cardiff: Oh, not very long.

Calciano: Oh, really?

Cardiff: Not very long. You see they were all equipped for it. The staves were all the right size, and they had a frame, you know. They'd just put the staves all around and then put the hoop on and drive it down, you know, and they had a thing that topped it up, and then they'd put the other hoops on.

Calciano: When they shipped barrels full of lime out, were the barrels ever returned?

Cardiff: Oh, yes.

Calciano: Oh, they returned them?

Cardiff: Oh yes. Yes, the railroad company would send them back. They wouldn't charge them anything.

Calciano: Oh, they wouldn't?

Cardiff: No, that was the rule with the railroad company at that time. I don't know if it is now, but at that time they sent lime up to San Francisco in barrels, and after it was used up they put them on a train and sent them right back. Yes, oh, yes, we used the same barrels over and over.

Calciano: You said they sent the lime out by steamship until 1906, and then they used mainly rail after that?

Cardiff: Yes, they sent a lot by rail. In fact, after they got into Rincon, where the train ran right in there, then they shipped it out by cars. Yes, they shipped it all out by cars.

Calciano: Were the men who made the barrel staves mostly Portuguese, or were they other nationalities?

Cardiff: Oh no, they were mostly Portuguese. I don't think we had any, or very rarely had any English speaking person. Of course, the younger fellows spoke pretty good English.

Calciano: Did you hire any Scandinavians?

Cardiff: No, a few Italians. Mostly Italians and Portuguese.

#### Cattle and Hay

Calciano: But were the Portuguese good at handling and breeding cattle?

Cardiff: Well, no, they were more lime drawers. But we didn't need many men for cattle; the cattle just ran. It was all fenced around, so we didn't have to have any cowboys. And to tell you the truth, when we wanted to round up some cattle a lot of young fellows would have horses, and they liked to ride their horses. When we

wanted to round up the cattle, they all wanted to come up and help, bring their horses up and ride. But they were more nuisance than they were worth. We had no trouble getting help. Of course we had a good many saddle horses ourselves -- maybe five or six pretty good horses. We could always pick up a fellow to ride and help us.

Calciano: Was the ranch mainly beef cattle or dairy cattle?

Cardiff: Oh, years ago they had a dairy here, but that was before my time.

Calciano: What was it when you started here?

Cardiff: Well, we just raised stock; beef cattle was all. No dairy, just beef cattle.

Calciano: In wintertime here in California, do you have to have grain cut up and stored for your horses and cows?

Cardiff: Oh yes, sure. We bought our grain, but we farmed the property that the University has now. We used to put that in hay and all. We raised our own hay, and then we'd buy a little grain for them. Oh yes, we always raised our own hay.

Calciano: Yes, but they'd eat it right off the ground, wouldn't they? You never had to cut ...

Cardiff: Oh no, no. Cut it, cure it, bale it, and put it in the barn and all.

Calciano: Why did you have to feed them dry grass when there was all that green grass out there?

Cardiff: Well, of course, the dry feed is much better for the horses when they have to work. You see we had to have horses to do plowing before we had tractors. We did all our plowing with horses. We had probably forty or fifty workhorses here on the ranch, and we'd plow the fields and sow them and everything to raise our own hay.

Calciano: The oxen ate hay too?

Cardiff: The oxen, yes. That was before they had the horses, you see. They used oxen in the early days. They used to plow with oxen you know.

Calciano: Did they have big barns for the oxen?

Cardiff: Oh, yes, yes. There was a barn up there that now belongs to the University. Of course the place where we had stalls for two hundred oxen is torn down now.

Calciano: When the hay was cut, was it put in bales like they do now, or did they make big haystacks?

Cardiff: No, in the early days it was all brought in loose and put in barns. That's why they have so many barns around here. They used to fill them up. In fact, they didn't start baling hay until late years.

Calciano: Oh really?

Cardiff: Yes. It's maybe the last fifteen years that we've been having it baled, and of course then it's easier to handle that way.

Calciano: It must have taken a lot of men to do the haying, didn't it?

Cardiff: Oh no, it didn't take much. We had some mowing machines of course, to cut the hay down, and rakes to rake it. It didn't take so very many men. Of course they probably brought men up from Rincon to help, you know, just some extra men to pitch hay. That was about all. Yes, they'd mow it and rake it and cure it and then haul it into the barn.

Calciano: Did a horse draw the load or ...

Cardiff: Of course horses pulled the mowing machine and the big rake.

Calciano: How many barns did you have?

Cardiff: Oh there's still three or four big barns here.

Calciano: Did you ever have a big haystack just out in the field, or did you get all your hay into the barns?

Cardiff: Oh yes, lots of times. If we had more than we could put in the barn, why they'd make a stack of it and they would feed that out first in the fall, before the rains would come, or maybe get something and cover it,



Of course it was all more or less damaged with the rain.

Calciano: For your hay, did you just use what grew naturally, or did you plant seed of some kind?

Cardiff: Oh yes, we had to plant it.

Calciano: What kind of seed did you use?

Cardiff: Well, it was barley and oats, mostly oats. Oats seem to do better here than any thing else.

Mrs. C.: Oh, you should have seen it some years ago. The hay used to be all over these fields. It was really wonderful because we had so many horses and cattle.

Calciano: Did you harvest the oats first and then stack the straw, or did you stack it all together?

Cardiff: We cut it right down to the ground and baled everything in it.

Calciano: About what month would you plant it?

Cardiff: Why, generally plant it along during the month of November, December. After the first rains would come so that the ground was so we could plow it, you know, and get it in shape. It all depended on when the rains came.

Calciano: About what month would it be ripe?

Cardiff: Oh generally about, well about June, May or June.

Calciano: And what months could the cattle just graze outside?

Cardiff: Well, in the fall. You see after we took off the hay, why then we turned the stock right onto the ground. If there was any left on the ground, why they'd eat that up. If there was none left, then we'd have to feed them hay.

Calciano: I see.

Cardiff: And if another rain came, which often happened, and we'd get a little warm weather, why the grass would start and we wouldn't have to feed them. Some years we didn't have to feed them at all, but then that was rare. And of course we had to have the hay to feed the horses that worked here see. We had around thirty-five or forty head of workhorses before we had tractors. We had to have them to haul rock from the quarry down to the kiln.

Calciano: Along that little track?

Cardiff: Yes. Well, we hauled it in wagons; we'd use those big wagons.

Calciano: I thought they had a track that ran down to these front kilns.

Cardiff: Well that was down to this one kiln, that was all; that was an old kiln. There was no track anyplace

else.

Calciano: How long after the rains came could you turn the livestock into the pasture? For instance, if the rain came in November, would the grass be up by the end of November?

Cardiff: Oh yes, it probably would if it was warm weather; it all depended on whether we had cold days. The seed wouldn't germinate then, you know, and sometimes we wouldn't have any feed all winter long.

Calciano: Did the regular stock just stay outside all year?

Cardiff: Yes.

Calciano: But you put the oxen in barns every night, I guess?

Cardiff: Well the oxen, yes, they were put in the barns because that was the best place to feed them. You see they had stalls, you know, and the hay could be thrown into the mangers, and in that way they could feed them. So they kept them mostly always in the barns.

Calciano: Did you feed a slightly different diet to an ox than you would to a cow or a horse?

Cardiff: No, just the same. Hay, all hay, that's all. And of course sometimes we'd buy some crushed barley.

Calciano: Yes, that gave them more energy, didn't it?

Cardiff: Oh, I don't know. Well, it was just grain, and I'd say it'd give them strength. Yes, I guess it would. In

fact some of them needed it you know. If they worked hard they needed some extra besides what the hay furnished. Most of that hay still had some grain in the heads, you know, and it all depended on what kind of hay you had too. That made a difference.

Calciano: How did you plant the grain? Did somebody just sprinkle it by hand, or did you have machine

Cardiff: Well no, we had a machine. They had things on a wagon that they'd run from the wheel, and there was a thing that whirled around, you know, that would scatter it all around. By just driving along through the field you could plant about forty feet wide at a trip through.

Calciano: Could you plant the same field year after year, or did you have to let it rest once in a while?

Cardiff: Well, it should rest, but they didn't. They planted the same thing here for years, yes. Yes, they planted it all the time. Take it now, if we go to work in this field up here now, it's been two or three years it hasn't had anything on it. If we go to work and plow that this year and plant it and get a big crop, it'd be a good crop.

Calciano: You didn't use any fertilizer or anything?

Cardiff: We never did at that time. They do now, but we never

did.

Calciano: If the cows had been on it, I guess you had some natural fertilizer, is that right?

Cardiff: Yes some, but now they've got this commercial fertilizer. They go to work and take the soil and analyze it, and in analyzing it they can find out what it lacks; otherwise they couldn't determine what it is. And you can buy fertilizer with what's lacking and put that on it. That's the way this fellow Pfyffer does with the fields here. A year ago he gave it all a pretty good crop of fertilizer.

Calciano: He's growing hay too?

Cardiff: Yes, well for pasture you know, that makes a good pasture.

#### The Cookhouse

Calciano: Something I just found out the other day was that there used to be a pigpen right outside the cookhouse.

Cardiff: Oh yes. We used to raise a lot of hogs.

Calciano: Was that for people who ate here? Did you slaughter them yourselves?

Cardiff: Oh yes, the Cowell Company. We'd raise some, you know, and you see we had our own cookhouse down here. We'd kill a hog every once in a while, and we'd kill a beef. We'd feed them, and we had a slaughterhouse up

there you know, the old slaughterhouse.

Calciano: Where is the old slaughterhouse?

Cardiff: Well, when you go up to the upper quarry there, you take the left-hand road instead of going up the right-hand way. Go the left-hand road and go up the hill; it's that house right up on the top of the hill there. I guess it's still standing.

Calciano: How much slaughtering would they do a year?

Cardiff: Oh, just kill a beef every couple of weeks, according to how many men we had.

Calciano: When was the cookhouse closed down?

Cardiff: Oh, they kept the cookhouse going until just a few years ago. I closed that here maybe four or five years ago.

Calciano: On, that recently?

Cardiff: Yes. It got down to where they had only three or four men there. They kept it going which, of course, was just folly. It was just losing money, so finally we just paid the men enough more to pay for their board, you know, and closed it down.

Calciano: I remember reading that Mr. Cowell used to like to eat breakfast with the men when he ...

Cardiff: He always did. He always ate breakfast with the men.

Calciano: That was in the cookhouse right down here?

Cardiff: Yes, yes.

Calciano: Did you have a Chinese cook ever?

Cardiff: Yes, mostly Chinese cooks. Yes. They had a white man there for a while, a white man and his wife, but his wife died and he left pretty quick. Then there was the Chinese again. The Chinese was our cook there for quite a while. The groceryman down here now, on the corner of Mission, he was our cook here for a long time. And then the fellow that owns that fruit stand over on Ocean Street, Jim Lam, Jim's father was a cook for a long time when Jim was just a young fellow, and Jim was just a helper they had Rincon. They used to have both a cook and a helper up there.

Calciano: Up there as well as down here at the ranch entrance?

Cardiff: Oh yes, so that now Jim is the owner of that store over on Ocean Street. He worked for us for years and years. In fact, he started out with Cowell. I guess he made most of his money there. (Laughter)

#### Hunting and Fencing

Calciano: Was there much hunting on the area here?

Cardiff: Oh, of course there was always more or less hunting up here on the ranch. There are quite a lot of deer.

Calciano: Still?

Cardiff: Oh yes. Oh there's a lot of them here on the University property, a lot of deer, and also on the state park. You see the state park joins the University property on the north, and there's seventeen hundred and some odd acres in the park, and this 2,000 here, you see, gives quite a territory right in together. It's pretty well wooded, so there's quite a few deer in there.

Calciano: Are hunters allowed on Cowell property?

Cardiff: No, we never allowed any hunting.

Calciano: They might hit a few cows? (Laughter)

Cardiff: Yes. Well of course from time to time we've had trouble over it, and all that. In fact, a lot of those hunters get pretty mean, so we tried to keep them off the best we could. The trouble was, and the trouble is now, it's so close to town. If you gave one man hunting privileges, the whole town would want it. And you give it like that, the town would move up here. There would be 500 hunters around on the ranch if you threw it open. You can't do it, you know.

Calciano: What other animals are there up here besides deer?

Cardiff: Oh, there are lots of wild animals. An old fellow that



worked for Cowell for fifty years died here a year ago, an old Italian. He used to set traps around here and used to catch foxes. Oh yes, there are lots of them around.

Calciano: Well, now, this land has been fenced for years, hasn't it?

Cardiff: Oh yes. All our property.

Calciano: Did they use barbed wire or redwood fences in the old days?

Cardiff: Oh they used barbed wire. Nothing but barbed wire, of course, at that time, except down below here where they had an awful lot of redwood pickets.

Calciano: Yes. This is what I was wondering.

Cardiff: In fact, a few years ago those pickets were more valuable than what good new pickets were worth then. I had a time here when I could have sold the pickets that are now just rotting out, for all kinds of money.

Calciano: People wanted aged pickets?

Cardiff: People were after them. Of course we had to mend fences, but now, of course, they're rotted off at the bottom and short. About all they're good for now is kindling.

Calciano: Was much redwood cut on the ranch?

Cardiff: Well, it has been cut off some down in here, I think.

This has been cut off at one time, a lot of redwood. The trouble on this ranch was when Mr. Cowell, the senior, started burning lime. Of course he was a lime man, and he went to work and cut down these great big redwood trees to get wood. He'd have a bunch of men every winter cutting up big logs into wood to burn lime. They claimed that lime burned with wood made better lime than that burned with oil. I know when they abandoned the lime kiln up at IXL, they had over a thousand cords of wood piled up there. It's still there. It's all rotted. Oh, probably thirty years ago we were in the wood business here. There was a store downtown that sold quite a lot of wood every year, and I was up there. I thought I could bring a load of that wood down and use it, but even then it was too badly decayed. But I understood that in their inventory they had about a thousand cords up there that they never used.

Calciano: Did Cowell ever saw commercially?

Cardiff: Well, yes, he did. Not on his own, but he did. He and a partner, fellow named Langley, owned about six hundred and forty acres up above Boulder Creek. The company still owns that property. At any rate, they sawed that off here, oh, that's maybe fifty years ago

that they took the timber off it and all. But that was up there -- he wouldn't allow anything to be touched around here. He wouldn't allow any redwood to be taken from this property. He gave the valley here to the city park; its got some of the finest virgin redwoods you ever saw. Beautiful great big trees there, you know. He held that and wouldn't allow it to be touched at all. He just always kept that.

Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park

Calciano: Cowell himself decided to give the redwoods to the state park, didn't he? What made him decide to?

Cardiff: I'll tell you; there is a little history back of that. There was an old fellow by the name of Welch who owned the Big Trees. That is he owned part of it, and Cowell owned the rest. Now a few years ago the County of Santa Cruz wanted to preserve that, and Cowell wouldn't sell his, but he offered to buy Welch's, and old Joe Welch wouldn't sell. He and Cowell were bitter enemies. He wouldn't sell to Cowell. Consequently the county got in and bought the Welch Big Trees from Welch. They formed a corporation. In fact I was one of the directors for that. I put money in and helped to buy it. We gave it to the county. So then it run

along, and Mr. Cowell talked to me about it. One day he said to me, "I'll tell you what. If they'll sell me that property, give them (I think it was \$250,000 or something) for that Welch property, and I'll just deed it to the state. I'll give it to the state along with my Big Trees." I said, "Well, I'll see what I can do," so I spoke to them, and of course they wouldn't think about it at first when I talked to them. Of course the Supervisors had the say, so finally Mrs. Glenn Coolidge, she was married to Stanley Welch, or rather she was his widow, she turned around and bought up all the different stockholders in this. Stanley Welch was old Joe Welch's son. Anyway, she finally got it all. I sold her my stock, and different ones here all sold her stock, so she got all that property. Then they wanted to get it in with Cowell's. They said they would take the County Park part of Big Trees, and if Cowell gave his part, they would throw them both in together to make it one park. Well, that appealed to Cowell all right, and finally the county agreed to it, so they went to work. But Cowell said it had to all go to the state. He wouldn't let it go to the county. And he said it was to be sold in such a way that they could never dispose of it. They have got to keep it.

Cowell insisted on it. So that was how they happened to get it, because the county gave their part that they got to go in with Cowell's part. It has made quite a big state park.

Calciano: I see. Well there still is a county redwood park, though, isn't there?

Cardiff: No. Cowell's have got it now, right here down to the road where you come in. They have "Henry Cowell" on the sign. It is named after the father.

Calciano: Oh, the father. Why did Cowell decide to give up part of his land for this? Did he just feel like preserving some of the redwoods or ...

Cardiff: Well, he knew of course that his days were running out, and he wanted to see it preserved. He never wanted to see those big redwood trees cut up for timber. The logging company would have given all kinds of money for that, you know. He didn't want to see that, so he was willing to give it. He talked it over with me, in fact, and I guess I had as much to do with getting him to do it as anybody, because I used to go up there and visit with him and we'd talk it over. So finally, when he made this proposition, I went to the Board of Supervisors. I got a meeting of the Board of Supervisors and the trustees of that County Park and

told them what Cowell said he would do if they would put theirs in with his. They got the Supervisors there and we had several meetings. We used to go over there evenings, month after month, so finally Cowell (his big trees, of course, didn't come down into the San Lorenzo Valley) said, "Now this San Lorenzo Valley here is a beautiful valley, and everything should be kept intact." So they decided then to go from the Graham Hill Road up over to the top of the hill here. He gave Big Trees, and he gave this whole valley here clear down to Rincon. There were 1700 some odd acres in there. The line went up on the Graham Hill Road, you know.

Calciano: I see.

Cardiff: I got the general manager down here and we went over it several times.

Calciano: The general manager's name is E. H. Connick, isn't it?

Cardiff: Yes, he's the general manager. He's really the whole show. The other two fellows do whatever he says. Of course they don't have to agree, but nevertheless, they say they don't know anything about it. Now like these sales he makes to the different ranches, why they leave it up to him.

Calciano: Who are the other two trustees?

Cardiff: Well one is Mr. Max Thelen, the attorney in San Francisco. He was down here at that dedication that day. And Mr. I. W. Hellman, the President of the Wells Fargo Bank, he's the other one. He's now in Europe at the present time.

#### The Ranch Payroll

Calciano: There were a couple of questions I wanted to finish up about the ranch here. I was looking at the paymaster's house down here the other day, and I was wondering if the bars were on the windows because they used to have gold and silver in there?

Cardiff: Well you see Mr. Cowell senior, that was old Henry Cowell, only paid the men once a year.

Calciano: Oh really!

Cardiff: And he went to San Francisco and he got the gold. At that time he needed from ninety to a hundred thousand dollars, I understand. That was what I have been told. And he'd bring that amount in gold down here. He and his bookkeeper which was with him, they'd go there and stay all night with this money. And the next morning, you see, the men would file through, and he'd pay them off for the year.

Calciano: My goodness!

Mr. C.: But they had the cookhouse, you know.

Cardiff: Oh yes, the men had a place to eat.

Mrs. C.: That took care of their needs and all, and they could draw a little money here and there.

Calciano: Oh, they could get a type of credit on account?

Cardiff: Oh yes, if they needed it. Those fellows, well lots of them lived in these little cabins around here. There were a lot of them that lived in them you know, and fifty cents would go a long ways. They could have a big party on fifty cents.

Calciano: This wasn't very customary, though, was it? To pay just once a year?

Cardiff: I don't know. Oh, yes. It's only in late years that they paid any oftener than that.

Calciano: But when you worked in the grocery store you got paid oftener, didn't you?

Cardiff: Oh yes, I had to have the money to eat. Oh yes, like that, but I was speaking of these big ranches, you know, that had to pay a lot of men working for them.

Calciano: How much would a man get? A regular worker on the ranch?

Cardiff: Why, these fellows here worked around, well, they made



seventy-five cents a day if they did well, I guess. I think around that was pretty good.

Calciano: Weren't some of the men employed only part of the year? A month or two?

Cardiff: Some cut wood by contract, and I think they got a dollar and a half a cord. That would be two cords because it was eight-foot wood.

Calciano: Oh.

Cardiff: And I think they got a dollar and a half a cord. Well, if they did a cord in two days they did pretty good. They had to work hard.

Calciano: When you worked in the material store downtown, how would you hire your employees? Would you put an ad in the paper, or use an employment agency or ...

Cardiff: Oh, just take someone up probably, hear of somebody, or maybe somebody fired someone. We never had much trouble about getting anybody. In fact, nearly all the men that we had were steady men; they just worked through right along.

Calciano: Were there employment agencies back then?

Cardiff: Oh, I guess there were. I never paid any attention in those days. Never had to.

Calciano: When a person graduated from a school like Chestnutwoods, would the school help them find a job

or not?

Cardiff: Oh, I don't know. I guess if the merchants needed anybody like that why they probably found out at Chestnutwoods. I don't know anything about that, of course. I never heard anything about it. The men that I had down there, why they were steady men, the two of them. One of them went to work, I guess it was within a week from the time we bought that place out down there, and he was with me when I quit. It was about thirty-five years that I ran that. And then about a year after Cowell bought it, the company sent me a bookkeeper down from San Francisco, and he didn't pan out so I hired a young fellow here. He was with me for all that time, and he's now manager for the people that bought us out, Provenzano Brothers. Yes, he's been with them all these years. Harold Ritchey is his name.

Calciano: You weren't on the ranch much at that time, were you?

Cardiff: Of course I had more the charge of the book end, you might say, paying the men and such. You see they had a superintendent here, Frank George, who was with them for 55 years. He died only maybe 15 years ago now, and of course he was in charge of all the work or the ranch. Of course everything was brought in to my

office downtown to process. I was there and kept books, and sent the reports and everything to San Francisco. San Francisco was the headquarters.

THE COWELL FAMILY

The Ranch Home

Calciano: Did Frank George and his wife live in this house when he was caretaker?

Cardiff: Oh, yes.

Calciano: How old is this house here?

Cardiff: Oh, about 110 or 112 years old.

Calciano: Oh really! Who built it?

Cardiff: Well, I think this part is the original house -- right through the dining room here and over that way. The newer part is just bedrooms, and a kitchen and all. The opposite end was owned by Davis and Jordan. Jordan's wife had a brother by the name of Ed Perry who lived downtown. I knew him very well. In fact, I used to talk to him and bring him up here to have lunch in this house, and he told me about it. When Mr. Cowell senior bought this property, he had five children so he had to have more room. He built on this section when he came here. Mr. Cowell, Harry that is, told me he was only three years old when the family

came here, and he lived to be 96.

Calciano: So the addition was made quite a long time ago?

Cardiff: Yes.

Calciano: Has it been added on to since, or are there just these two sections?

Cardiff: Just these.

Calciano: Was this the Cowell family home until they moved to San Francisco?

Cardiff: Yes.

Calciano: When did they move up there?

Cardiff: About 1897.

Calciano: Who lived here after the Cowells moved out?

Cardiff: Frank George did. Frank George came out from Massachusetts. Cowell brought him out here as clerk, time-keeper, I guess. Then he sent for his wife, and he and his wife lived here for over fifty years.

Calciano: Did they have any children?

Cardiff: No, no children.

S. H. (Harry) Cowell

Calciano: How, the first Cowell, Henry, was a limestone man, and the second Cowell, Harry, was the one who was all for



S. H. (Harry) Cowell  
With his cousin Edith Cowell Lane  
At the Santa Cruz Ranch

cattle is that right?

Cardiff: Yes.

Calciano: You once told me Harry Cowell was a true cattleman.

Cardiff: Oh yes, he was a cattleman. The other fellows were altogether lime.

Calciano: Had the older Cowell done any work with cattle at all, or just lime?

Cardiff: Oh yes, he had a dairy up here at the top end of the ranch. Yes, he had all kinds of buildings down in there at one time. Of course they're all gone now, or nearly all gone.

Calciano: He sold his dairy products just locally, didn't he?

Cardiff: Oh yes. I don't know if they hauled the milk out or not. I don't know anything about that. I had nothing to do with that and never paid any attention to it. In fact, it was really before I went with them.

Calciano: I've read that Harry Cowell especially liked raising white Herefords? Is that right?

Cardiff: Well, he was a stock man. He loved stock; he loved to be outdoors. He told me one day, "You know, lots of people say to me, 'If I was in your place, I'd travel around the world. I'd go see things and have a good

time." He says, "George, tell me. Where is there any pleasure in going into a strange country, sitting in a hotel lobby not knowing anybody, and just sitting around." He said, "Where is there any pleasure in that? Where can I find any more pleasure than going out into the fields around here and looking at some nice fat cattle, or some nice horses. I'd much rather that than spending my nights sitting in a lobby in a strange town, waiting for time to go to bed." He said, "I like to see these nice fat cattle and everything. I am enjoying myself."

Calciano: He never traveled much then?

Cardiff: He went around the world twice.

Calciano: Oh. But he would just rather be home?

Cardiff: Yes. He traveled. He made a trip around the world twice. There was one little thing that tickled me -- you know he would never go down around the beach here. And of course when he had gone around the beach, years before, the ladies had all had those bathing suits with long stockings, skirts and all, you know. I took him down there one day after they got to wearing these abbreviated swim suits, and I took him out on the boardwalk. There were a lot of women laying around the

side there, and there was one big fat lady there. Oh, she must have been 200 pounds, and she had on a tight suit, and she raised up and was looking around ...

"Let's get out of here, let's get out of here," he said. "I have been all over the world and I never saw such sights as that in Paris or anyplace else. Let's get out of here." He wouldn't even stay. He got out of there as fast as he could. (Laughter) I often joshed him about that afterwards. My wife often laughed because she heard us talk about it too. He wanted none of it.

Calciano: I imagine it was quite a shock! Liking cattle as much as he did, did he experiment with new breeds, importing purebred bulls and things like that?

Cardiff: Oh yes, oh yes. He had the best. The finest kind. He'd go to work and spend 5,000 dollars for a bull and such as that. And the horses -- you know he had the finest horses in the state. He had racehorses, all kinds of racehorses. He sent his trainer back East and brought in a carload of horses that all had records right up to two minutes, which at that time was fast. And one day we were up at the races in Sacramento, and he was winning. These horses he brought in, each one was winning their races right along. I said, "Gee, Mr.



Cowell, it must be wonderful winning all these races." He said, "George, there's absolutely no honor in it. Here I go to work and go out and buy these horses all trained, and they've all got their records, and I bring them here and they win. Now where is there any credit. If I raise a horse, raise a colt, and make it run, and get a record out of it and all that, there would be some honor in it. But there is no honor in this," By the way, right today, the last carload he brought in had thirteen of them, all fast horses. It was about 35 years ago, and there was a little bit of a grey colt, prettiest thing you ever saw, dapple grey. They had just taken it away from its mother. Its sire had a record of less than two minutes, and its mother was around two minutes, and Mr. Cowell expected to make a fast horse out of it. Well, he raised it until it got to be a two-year-old, and put it in training, and the best it would do was two-ten. So he sent it down here and made a saddle horse out of her. It has been on this ranch all these years, for these thirty-five years, until about two or three years ago. There was an old lady who has a place up here above Felton, and she used to say, "If you ever give that horse away, let me have it. I've got a beautiful

pasture up there, and I'll just turn it out and keep it on it." So I did, and that horse is still up there. Everybody knows that horse. His name is Buster. It is white now, of course, on account of its age.

Calciano: Mr. Cowell liked horseback riding, didn't he?

Cardiff: Oh, he was out every day when he was here. He kept two horses here. Yes, Mr. Cowell had a trail cut out around the ranch to go around on. He used to ride his horse right up Sugar Loaf and get up on top.

Calciano: What is Sugar Loaf?

Cardiff: That's around Sand Hill. You can go right up on top, and it's level for about twenty feet on top, just perfectly level. That's on Cowell land. He rode all around there. I went with him several times, in years past. (Chuckle) He was a great roper. He learned when he was a young fellow. He told me that when he was a boy his father gave him two oxen, two calves, a year old. It was his duty to break them to work in a team on the plow, or such as that, and his father gave him two hundred dollars after they were broken. He gave him two hundred dollars, and then he gave him two mere oxen. He said, "That was the only spending money I had when I was a boy."

Calciano: Is it quite a job to break them into team work?

Cardiff: Oh yes, breaking them so they could work was a task. Afterwards, well, not so many years ago now, twenty years ago now, we had twin calves born here to a milk cow. He kept them and had them broken, and the man that worked around the stables there, cleaned up the stables and things like that, used those oxen. He had horses and everything, but he just wanted to have a pair of oxen around. That was of late years. Yes. Oh he was sort of an eccentric old fellow in that way. He loved to see the oxen work.

Calciano: You liked him, didn't you?

Cardiff: Yes. He enjoyed himself. He loved horses and cattle; that was his hobby. And nearly every ranch that had cattle on it, he would look out for them.

Calciano: He was really the outdoor type, wasn't he?

Cardiff: Oh yes, he was an outside man.

Calciano: Why did he never marry? He sounds like the type of person who would.

Cardiff: Well, yes. Well, I don't know anything about his love life. I guess he was like everybody else, he had lots of it too, but I don't know anything about it. He bought a place down here on High Street, on the hill there on High Street. Sundean bought it from him there

a few years ago. He had that for years. He fixed up the house there and spent several thousand dollars on it, and he never lived there a day in his life; he never stayed there. People thought that he was going to get married, you know, but nothing ever came of it.

Calciano: It was sort of a rumor?

Cardiff: Oh yes.

Calciano: Did he rent it out to people, or did it just stand empty?

Cardiff: I think probably for two or three years the fellow that was Cowell's bookkeeper here, he and his wife lived in it. That was all. He always said he was going to come here to live. I had a chance to sell it a number of years ago. A fellow offered me \$40,000, so I spoke to the general manager in San Francisco about seeing Mr. Cowell. The manager said, "Sure, sell it. He never used it." He said, "Get a thousand dollars deposit on it and have a deed made out." So I got the thousand dollars deposit and sent it up to him in San Francisco. Four or five days after, I got this check back and a note saying "Mr. Cowell said he didn't want to sell it." So it ran on then until just a few years ago. I guess not over four or five. Well, he's been dead for about nine years. Just before he died he

wanted to know how his property was here. He said, "You'd better sell that place of mine down there." I said, "Will you sell it?" He said, "Yes, sell it." I happened to meet this fellow Sundean, you know, who built this big hospital over on the East side. I told him about it, and he said, "Let's go up and look at it." So we did, and the next day he telephoned me to come and have lunch with him and I did, and he put a deposit on it and took it.

Calciano: He certainly didn't hesitate.

Cardiff: No, he didn't.

Calciano: Cowell was already in his fifties by the time you started working with him, wasn't he?

Cardiff: Yes, Harry Cowell was a wonderful man. I never regretted working for Harry Cowell.

Calciano: Lie wasn't too interested in the city of Santa Cruz though, was he?

Cardiff: The only thing that Harry Cowell ever said to me was, "You know, George, there's never been a businessman in Santa Cruz that's ever come up to the house here and paid me a friendly visit." He said, "Whenever I come down to Santa Cruz, they call and want to make a date with me, but *it* doesn't take me long to find out they

want something." He said they always wanted something. "Give us this. Give us that. Give us something else." All give. He said there never was a businessman in Santa Cruz that paid him a friendly visit. And he said, "There's nobody that likes people and likes to talk with people more than I do."

Calciano: Do you think people were scared of him because he was so rich and powerful?

Cardiff: Well, because he always turned them down. They always wanted something, you know. They'd have had this whole ranch if he'd have agreed to it, to the things people wanted. I know they wanted to come down with the Big Tree Road, right down by the Pogonip and down in there. They went out and asked him and he said, "No. It isn't feasible. It isn't the place for it." They said, "Well, that's where we want to put the road." He said, "Well, I'll tell you what I'll do, gentlemen." (I heard him say it; it was the Trustees of the County Road) "Go to work and have a survey made through there. I'll give you a couple men to cut trails through for the survey, but before you do anything, I want you to bring the survey to me." So they did and got it through and brought the survey, and they told him, "Mr. Cowell, you're right. This isn't feasible.

The other place is a whole lot better." He said, "Oh, I told you so." But like that, they wanted something all the time from him. That is why Mr. Cowell was the ... Oh, he did have a few friends, but I don't think they ever came up here. Old Fred Walti was a great friend of his, and old Bill Horton, the father of Allen Horton who is tax collector here. He was a great friend of Cowell. Of course he would go into the assessor's office and meet them there, you know. I don't know that they ever came up here.

Calciano: He was by far the biggest landowner around, wasn't he?

Cardiff: Well, of course, the trouble was Mr. Cowell was a big operator. You see he had, when he died, I think over 16 or 13 ranches in the northern part of the state. He would visit all the different ranches at different times, and he said that there would never be enough days in the week, or in the month even, that he could spend one day, hardly, on each of his ranches.

Calciano: How are taxes assessed on a big holding like a Cowell ranch? Are the taxes lower because it's unimproved land?

Cardiff: Mr. Connick told me just yesterday that a number of years ago Cowell gave the Big Trees (and that's seventeen hundred and some odd acres) to the state for

a state park. Of course it was taken off of the tax roll, and he said that the next year their taxes were just as much as they were the year before. Then we sold the two thousand acres to the University, which is the best part of this ranch, and it was taken off of the tax roll, and our taxes last year were just as much as they were before we sold it to the University. And he said that he just got his tax report for this year, and they have doubled his takes from what they were last year.

Calciano: My goodness!

Cardiff: He thinks the reason they're doing it is because they think Cowell is going to give it away and they'd better get it first. That's the way it looks like.

Calciano: It's really something.

Cardiff: I had an experience just two months ago as to our taxes. We have a piece of property down here in town that the taxes were doubled on, and Connick paid then. Finally he got to thinking about it, and he sent me the report on it. He said, "I wish you'd look this up." I looked it up and I found out that all of the property on that street, several pieces, had been doubled. And then the assessors want to work and they put them back to the old price, all of them except



Cowell's. They took and put it in pencil, the old price, and put a ring around it, but all the others they put their taxes back to the old price. Cowell's stayed doubled.

Calciano: That's not fair.

Cardiff: It looks to the Cowell Company that they're just trying to get all they can out of them. Well I took it to the Assessor, I know him well, and he called in his deputy. He gave it to his deputy who took it to another room, and in about five minutes he came back and said, "That's all right, George, you'll get your money back." Never gave an excuse or anything for it. So they made out a bill against the county for this extra money that we paid, and I signed it and we got our money back. Three hundred and some odd dollars.

Calciano: Isn't that something!

Cardiff: It looks as if they're trying to bleed Cowell all the way.

Calciano: Well, I guess they may figure that since the corporation is not a local firm, they won't notice.

Cardiff: Of course they don't talk to me about it, but think they take the attitude that Cowell's going to give that money away anyway, and they might as well get it. Mr. Cowell used to tell me, "Now watch my assessment."

He said, "As long as my land and my property is assessed at the same value as other property along side of it, I've got no objections. But," he says, "I don't want to have to pay more than any others." So that was the way that Mr. Cowell felt about it.

Ernest Cowell

Calciano: I have a picture of Ernest Cowell for you. Mr. Clark sent it.

Cardiff: You know, there wasn't any of his pictures out at all. They had quite a time getting a picture of him. The Cowell family, they're all very backward about having their picture taken.

Calciano: Oh really?

Cardiff: Always were, yes, so I believe.

Calciano: I wonder why?

Cardiff: I don't know. Yes, this looks like him as I knew him.

Calciano: Was he a taller man than his father?

Cardiff: No, his father was a big man. Well thank you, I'm glad to have this.

Calciano: Was he a bigger man than Harry?

Cardiff: No, I don't think so. No, they were both big men. Harry Cowell generally, of course in late years he

didn't, but he was a man that weighed around 235 or 240. He was a big man.

Calciano: About six feet tall or so?

Cardiff: Yes, about six feet I guess.

Calciano: And his father was a big fellow too?

Cardiff: Yes, his father was a big man. Ernest really looks his father. His father had whiskers all around his face. I knew the old gentleman very well.

Calciano: Someone once told me that he remembered Ernest Cowell going up to the lime kilns every once in a while and loading the furnaces with eight-foot lengths of wood. I was told that Ernest would work as hard as he could for a half hour to give the Portuguese a good example.

Cardiff: Well, I guess he did too. I don't know anything much about Ernest Cowell. He was here for a few years, and then when his father died, he went to San Francisco.

Calciano: Well he ran this ranch for a while, didn't he?

Cardiff: Yes, for a while, I guess.

Calciano: I heard that he was the stern brother and that Harry was the friendly one. Is this right?

Cardiff: I never knew him very well. I've only met him; never had any business dealings with him. Of course he was just a little before my time. I was only a young

fellow at that time.

Calciano: He died rather young, didn't he?

Cardiff: Well, not so very young, I don't think. I don't know how old he was. He was married and they lived here, and then they moved from here to San Francisco when he took over the plant up there at San Francisco.

Calciano: He took over what up at San Francisco?

Cardiff: Oh they had their warehouses there, and that's where their headquarters, their main offices, were. The Cowell Company was in San Francisco. And then they built that cement plant over on Mount Diablo.

Calciano: Oh, he had that one!

Cardiff: Oh yes, they owned that. Yes, they built that. I think I understood that Ernest was the superintendent. He had charge of building that plant.

Calciano: Harry was never that much interested in that, though?

Cardiff: Well he was a cattle man. All cattle.

#### Isabella and Helen Cowell

Calciano: The Cowell girls were supposed to have been quite pretty when they were young.

Cardiff: Yes, they were very nice looking girls. They never had beaux. The old man wouldn't allow boys coming around

the house at all. Of course that's all hearsay. That was before my time.

Calciano: It's rather sad that they never had a chance to marry.

Cardiff: Yes. Too bad, yes. Yes, they were nice girls. I guess they had a good time though; they traveled in Europe an awful lot. They could do anything they wanted. They were very pleasant. On Saturdays I quite often used to take Harry Cowell back to the city. He'd want to go back to San Francisco, and I'd drive him over to Menlo Park. His sisters were there at Menlo Park. They had a home there. I'd drive over there to the sisters, and the sisters' chauffeur would take him on to San Francisco, you know, to the office up there. He'd go up in the office for a while, and then he'd go over to Sacramento quite often. The principal Cowell holdings are around Sacramento.

Calciano: Oh they are?

Cardiff: Yes. So I visited several times there at Menlo Park, and the two girls were always very pleasant. I remember one day it was quite warm, and we sat out on the porch there, and they made some lemonade. You know, we had quite a little party sitting on the porch of their house. A couple of awful nice girls. One thing about the Cowells, they were wonderful

linguists, wonderful conversationalists.

Calciano: Oh really?

Cardiff: Yes, they were very entertaining, very interesting. He was too. As far as Harry was concerned, why it was just wonderful. I would go up there to his house during his last years of sickness and spend a couple of hours with him, and he would just talk right along and entertain me. Wonderful, yes. I used to enjoy spending a couple of hours with him. I'd go up there about 11 o'clock (they had a chauffeur over where the office is to drive me to the house), and I'd go up and spend pretty near an hour with him in his room before lunch. And then when it was lunch time, I'd go down and have lunch with the help. Of course Cowell had a nurse and a housekeeper and about three maids. Yes, we always had a nice lunch. And they'd take his lunch up in a tray, of course, and after he had his lunch I'd go up and spend another hour or so with him.

Calciano: The sisters had their house torn down, didn't they?

Cardiff: Well, that was done afterwards. Their will called for that.

Calciano: Oh, that was a shame.

Cardiff: The administrators had to tear it down. A beautiful house, all finished in quarter sawed oak, all through

it, three stories. When you went into the entrance there, there was a stairs about eight feet wide, you know, that went right to the first landing of the first floor and then went on up further to the third floor. It was a big house. There must have been a lot of bedrooms there. I was there before this last sister died, and she had the front room, a large big room like a living room, but that was her place, her bedroom. He was at the other end of the house, overlooking the Golden Gate, and you could see Alcatraz and everything. Oh, it was a beautiful sight. But, they tore the house all down, and I think two or three houses are built on it now. That's what the trustees were telling me.

Calciano: That was the San Francisco home?

Cardiff: Yes. The one in Menlo Park had been torn down before that. That belonged to the other sister who had died before that.

Calciano: I see. The Cowell family all seem to have been very reluctant to have anything known about them.

Cardiff: Well, yes. The one thing Harry Cowell never talked about very much was the family. He very seldom ever said a word about any of his family. They were a very secretive family. Of course the papers would have

considerable about them. Every once in a while you would see an article in the paper, but that's about all I ever knew.

Calciano: I guess if he wouldn't talk with you about his family, he wouldn't talk with anyone else. You and Frank George were his main friends down here, weren't you?

Cardiff: Well, we worked for him of course. Frank George was with him for over fifty years, and I've been with the company about forty. Well he was very friendly with us, yes, but as far as the family were concerned, he never mentioned anything at all. When I met his sisters, they were very, very pleasant. They always invited me in, and I always had a very pleasant visit when I went there, but that's as much as I knew about them.

#### Sarah Cowell

Calciano: The youngest sister, Sarah, died up here on the ranch, didn't she?

Cardiff: She was killed.

Calciano: That was in 1903, wasn't it?

Cardiff: Yes. I believe so. One day I was riding up there on horseback with Mr. Cowell, and he said, "There's where



my sister was killed. See that rock there? That's where she broke her neck."

Calciano: She was driving a cart, wasn't she, and the horses ran away?

Cardiff: Yes. That's what happened.

Calciano: Was it right out here?

Cardiff: Over across from Cave Gulch over here. Yes, they wanted to bury her in San Francisco, so the general manager chartered a special train; it ran down here to get the body.

Calciano: Frank George's wife was with her, wasn't she?

Cardiff: Mrs. George? Yes, Mrs. George was with her. I never did know how badly she was hurt or anything. She was hurt too, but how badly I don't know. In fact, I think she was taken to San Francisco to the hospital. I never knew about those things. Mrs. George never talked very much about it; I've heard her mention it, but that's about all. She was a wonderful woman, Mrs. George. Fifty-five years they lived here. Well no, she died; she was here about fifty years.

Calciano: She died about five years before he did?

Cardiff: I think so. She was right here on the ranch all the

Calciano: Did they have any children?

Cardiff: No, they didn't have any.

THE UNIVERSITY PORTION OF THE COWELL RANCH

Calciano: Your home here is on University property now, isn't it?

Cardiff: Yes, it belongs to the University, but of course it's always been the Cowell home. We didn't know whether we were going to stay here or not when the University bought all this, but Mr. McHenry told me he wanted me to stay, so we decided then to go ahead and fix it up. You know Cowell still has several thousand acres of property around here that I'm supposed to look out for. And then they're tied in with the University. They're going to give them some money to build that Cowell College up there, so I'm sort of a go-between between the Cowell Company and the University.

Acquiring the Property

Calciano: How did the Cowell Foundation and the University get together and settle on the 2000 acre site? It seems to be right in the middle of the ranch.

Cardiff: The way I get it, the University decided they were interested in it, so they had an airplane fly over the property here and take an air picture of it. Then they went to work and took a map and outlined what they

wanted.

Calciano: I see.

Cardiff: Then they asked the company to give them a figure on that outline. I think I can show you a map that maybe would explain it.

Calciano: All right. (Gets map)

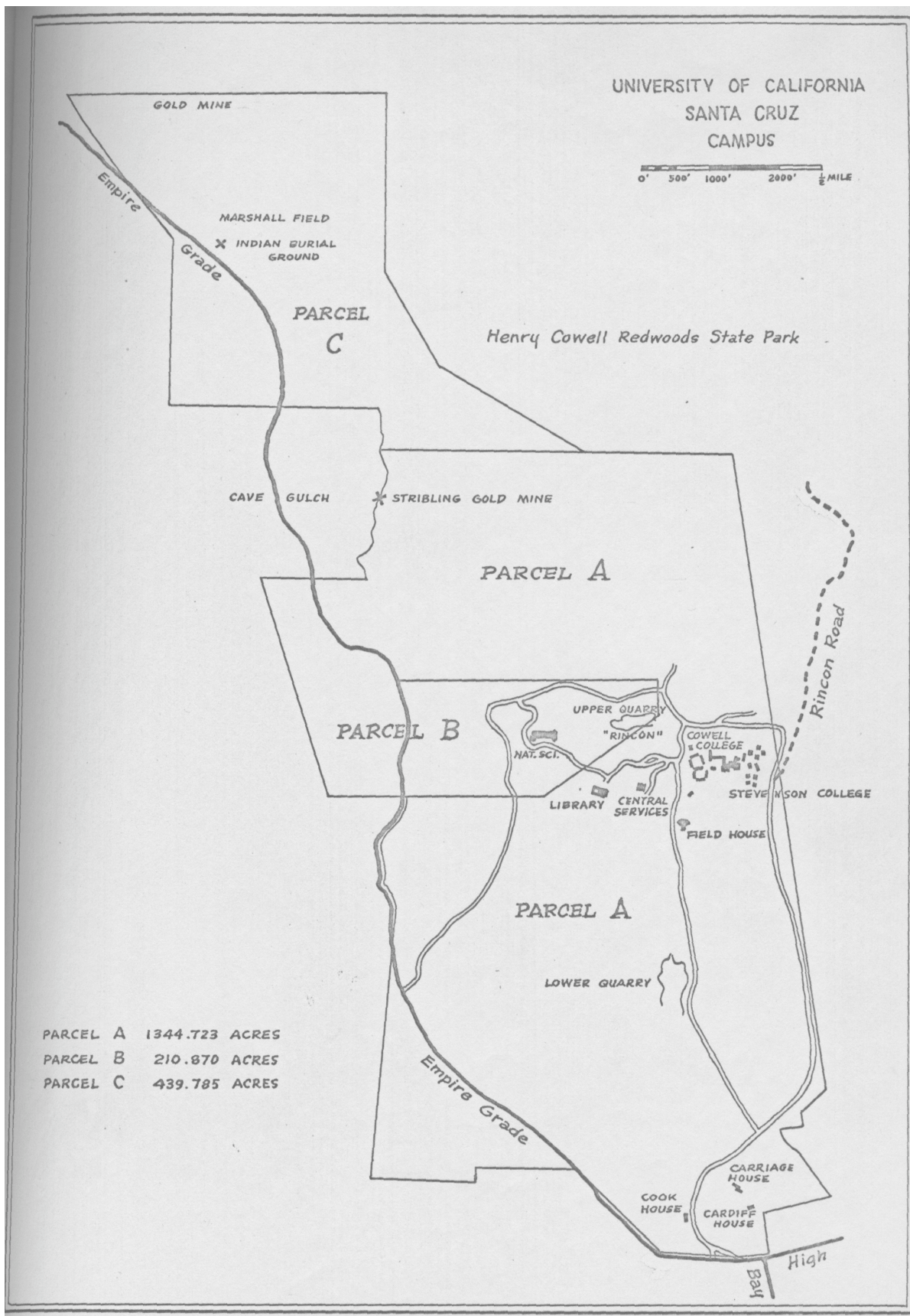
Cardiff: There, this is better. It gives you a better picture. They took an airplane view of the area, and then the University went to work and outlined the sections they were interested in.

Calciano: I see,

Cardiff: So we gave that outline to our estimator, the fellow who was our appraiser, and he went to work and surveyed this area out; that is he ran these lines here according to this map.

Calciano: I see.

Cardiff: Well, his first survey was to here, you see, inside this red line. That was one parcel. He was supposed to give a figure on that. Then this piece in here, you see, this blue, has two hundred and eleven acres. Now how they got that 211 acres I don't know, or why



they went in there, but nevertheless we were asked to give a figure on it to the University which we did. Then this green up here, that was another parcel. There were three parcels -- A, B, and C, and we gave figures on the different ones and then added them all together and they came to 1995 acres, I believe. You see the appraiser, I guess, appraised them at different prices, and whether he gave that to the University or not, he gave that to us. Then we added it together and told the University that for so much money they could have this inside of these lines that they asked for.

Calciano: I see. Was there any reason why Cave Gulch was left out?

Cardiff: That is that area up there on the hill where those houses are as you go up Empire Grade up here there's around a hundred acres up there.

Calciano: Well, how did houses ever get built in the middle of Cowell property?

Cardiff: That was taken up before Cowell or any of these other people got it. There were some people who came here in early days and sort of squatted on it. Cowell always claimed that it belonged to him, but nevertheless, those people had title to it, and their records were

dated long before he had anything to do with it, or even the people he bought from. Consequently, he had no hold on it whatsoever.

#### The Indian Mound

Calciano: There are several items I've seen marked on maps of the University area that have aroused my curiosity. What is the Indian mound?

Cardiff: Oh, yes, the old Indian mound. I bet that's been dug over fifty times in late years, by boy scouts and other people. A lot of people go up there, and they find lots of Indian relics.

Calciano: Where is it?

Cardiff: It's here by Empire Grade. It's been dug and dug and dug.

Calciano: Do people still find things?

Cardiff: Not anything much. I guess they have found some skeletons and bones and arrowheads, and such things as that. But it has been dug over so many times that there's not much left.

Calciano: Why is this area called Cave Gulch?

Cardiff: Because of the big caves there.

Calciano: Limestone caverns?

Cardiff: Yes. That's on University property.

The Gold Mine

Calciano: I've also heard there's an old gold mine on University property.

Cardiff: Yes, although this is hearsay as far as I'm concerned. Along about 1850 I guess it was, maybe a little before 1850, there was a young fellow out hunting on the Cowell property. He sat down to rest and happened to break off a little chunk of rock there, and it looked like gold to him. They used to do sort of a little prospecting too, so he took it downtown and found it was very rich in gold. So he got a couple fellows interested and went up there, and this chunk of raw whatever it was, I don't know how big it was, but anyway these fellows bought it, the other fellows. They dismantled it and sent it up to the smelting works up there out of Oakland, the Selby Smelting Works. They got around \$72,000 worth of gold out of it.

Calciano: My!

Cardiff: I understand that there are still some records about it up at Selby Smelting Works. There was another chunk that was in the fork of the tree, and they got about twenty some odd thousand out of it. They shipped that

up there, too. Of course that was long years ago. It was more of a story as far as I was concerned. I'd always heard about it and all that, although right now along Cave Gulch up here, there used to be a mine there, the Stribling mine. When I was a boy I was working for the grocery store. I used to take groceries up to them. That was along in 1892 or '93, and they got gold there. I guess the University owns half of the creek; the old mine is in that creek. But what I was going to tell you about that gold mine up there on the hill, of course, was that that was all, you might say, talk. Then one day, maybe twenty years ago, it was when Frank George was living here, three fellows, an old man and two boys, young fellows, drove in here. They had got a car somewhere and wanted to know if he knew where there had been a gold mine up in here, a mine up on the hill where a lot of gold had been taken out. He said that he knew. They asked him to show them where it was, so he did. And it developed that this old fellow, he was around 94 I guess, was living back somewhere in the eastern states, and he had told these young fellows about it and how he had found this mine and all, so they paid his way out here. They came out here with him, thinking that maybe



nothing had been done about it or developed around here. They came out here and went up there, and Mr. George showed them where it was. Of course people had dug around there afterwards trying to find more, so there were a lot of holes up there, and they still are up there. The boys said that they were very glad to hear it. They thought that the old gentleman probably was stringing them along and all, and they were glad that he had told them the truth, which he did. He was the fellow who had found this rock, broken it off, and gone downtown and got the fellows that he sold it to. One of them was Hines. So a few years afterwards, which is not so many years ago now, very shortly before Frank died, maybe twelve years ago, there was a big Cadillac drove up here one day. An old lady in it talked to Frank and wanted to know if he knew where there was an old cabin up here on the back of the ranch. She described where it was and Frank said he knew where there had been one. It wasn't there now. "Well," she said, "I am the wife of the man that dismantled that rock where they got all that gold. I'm the wife of that man Hines. I lived there for two years while my husband was breaking that up and getting it ready for shipment. I'd like to go back and

see it, that old cabin, that one-room cabin. I lived in it during that time." So he took her up and showed her where it was. Of course it was nothing like it had been, but nevertheless she saw where it is, and there she had verified this other fellow, you see. This was the wife of the man that dismantled it.

Calciano: It would seem it was just this one area that had the gold in it?

Cardiff: The gold was in the rock, and of course they took it up to the Selby Smelting Works and smelted it.

Calciano: But one always tends to think that if one finds a large chunk of gold, there should be a vein that goes way down into the ground.

Cardiff: That big rock was right on top of the ground, and of course now where that big rock was, there is a hole there that you could pretty near put this building in. People have dug, and dug, and dug, trying to locate more. But you see, people tried to find where this big chunk of gold came from. They tried to dig down, but of course at that time they didn't have the facilities they have now. All they did was dig with a shovel, you see, and throw the dirt out. Well, you know, you couldn't dig a hole very far until it would cave in, you see. Of course I contend, and I tried to get

Cowell to do it, but he never would do it, in fact he never liked to have you say anything about it; he didn't like to have it known that it was up there, but nevertheless, I tried to get him to go in and take a diamond drill and go where that big rock was and drill down in there and go down and see what you might find. I contend that that was an upheaval sometime from years and years ago. That evidently was a piece that was thrown up, you see, broken off from a place probably down below. Now there has never been anything done about it since then. Of course Connick, or the Cowell Company, they didn't want to sell that to the University.

Calciano: Oh they didn't?

Cardiff: It held the deal up for some time. They weren't going to let it go. They weren't going to let the mineral rights go with the property. The University refused to take it without the mineral rights, and the deal was held up for months. Yes. Yes, the deal was held up for quite a while. I understood that was why. Of course I could be mistaken, that's hearsay on my part, but Connick did tell me that the University absolutely wouldn't take it unless they got the mineral rights, which would include that property, too, of course.

Calciano: So the University may have a gold mine? (Laughter)

Cardiff: That is right at the head of Gold Gulch, which runs from there down into Felton, and Gold Gulch has been mined all these years. There's been lots of gold taken out of it, yes. Of course I contend that now with modern machinery and these diamond drills they've got, they could go to work and drill down in and take cores, and they might be able to hit the rock that it was thrown out of. Of course I don't know. A miner would know what to do.

Calciano: We'd better get a department of mineralogy at the University first thing! (Laughter)

Cardiff: When they get going some years from now, they will probably have a mining geology department here. They might get in and work, you know, try to do something with it. If they can. They probably will, you know, because if they get a geology department here, it would be wonderful for the boys that are studying geology to work on it.

Calciano: Yes. Speaking of geology, I've seen indications of petroleum mines on maps of the Cowell Ranch.

Cardiff: Well, yes. Petroleum mines both on Cowell property, and also on neighboring land. That whole section around this upper part of the ranch here is petroleum

deposits.

Calciano: They really have oil then?

Cardiff: They never found oil there, anymore than the oil that is in this petroleum. Now I had some of that out there tested by the chemists up at the cement plant, and it ran about six percent oil. But this petroleum mine, when they were using it they would take it, in later years, and grind it up and add some more oil and sand to it and use it, and it was very satisfactory.

Neighboring Property

Calciano: You mentioned the neighboring land. Does the Wilder property join Cowell's?

Cardiff: Well, Wilder is back of us, back of the University here. The first one who joins us, coming from the city, would be Younger, then Wilder, then Scaroni, and then Pio Scaroni. Those four are all in back of the Cowell property. They don't join University property, see. There is where this trouble is now. They are having a very terrible time over it. You know there are an awful lot of people that are wanting to buy a lot of this property back in here, Scaroni's and different ones there, on account of the University. But, you see, there is a strip between the University

and these others of Cowell Company land. It comes between these other people. In other words, they don't come up to the University property. And the people won't buy. There are some people up at San Jose who are in here every once in a while. They won't buy unless they can buy this property of Cowell's. They want to come up to the University, you see.

Calciano: The Cowell Foundation doesn't want to sell, does it?

Cardiff: They won't sell. The company won't sell any of this; that is they haven't. Probably some day they will. The trouble is that the Cowell company doesn't have to sell. They don't need the money. That's what makes it bad for any of these people that are trying to buy.

#### THE COWELL COMPANY

##### The Fall Creek Property

Calciano: You indicated earlier that the Cowell Company still owns the area around Fall Creek.

Cardiff: Yes. That's a beautiful piece of property. I was a little bit pleased (laughter), I guess I shouldn't say it though

Calciano: Pleased about what?

Cardiff: You see the Cowell Company owns 2200 acres here and

the highway runs through the corner of it. Well, the schools wanted some, so Cowell sold or let them have it. In fact they started to condemn it, twenty-five acres, for an elementary school. Then that wasn't enough; they wanted fifty acres for another school. Then that wasn't enough, so they got finally up to ninety some odd acres. And now it only leaves us about thirty-five or forty acres of level ground there, because the whole area around there is mountains. Now they want that too. And this bond issue that they had, if it had passed they were going to buy that. Now, of course, that's out. You see that's the last piece of level ground that's left there, and the company, they feel that the severance of it would be detrimental to the rest of this.

Calciano: What do you use that for?

Cardiff: Oh, we've got it rented.

Calciano: Oh, I see.

Cardiff: We rent it, yes. I have got it rented to a fellow.

He's got some horses up there. But this Fall Creek (we don't do anything with the land) is the most beautiful stream of water there is in the county. It runs down through there -- timber, all timber all through here,

a beautiful canyon. If you and your husband want to take a trip some Sunday, go up there to Fall Creek and drive in, maybe a quarter of a mile, and get out then and walk. You walk on up, I think it's four or five miles long, right up that canyon. It's beautiful on both sides. But, oh, on Saturday and Sunday the place is just crowded. People from everywhere are up there.

Calciano: Oh, really?

Cardiff: Now there is where that Ghost Town that you asked about is located.

Calciano: Oh, yes. I see.

Cardiff: We had kilns in there; the IXL lime kilns.

Calciano: IXL -- what does that mean?

Cardiff: IXL "I excell." They called it the IXL kilns.

Calciano: (Laughter.)

Cardiff: At least I presume that's what it is.

Calciano: Did Cowell ever own the land in between IXL and Gold Gulch?

Cardiff: No, no, that is Felton in between there.

Calciano: Oh, I see.

Cardiff: Then Gold Gulch runs up there to where that gold mine was. There was something around six thousand acres in this section before we gave the state park land.



Calciano: And then they also had other bits and pieces of property, didn't they?

Cardiff: Oh, yes, a number of other pieces. We own property up on Bonny Doon mountain. When you're going up the Coast road, the Bonny Doon mountain road runs right through there. That's the most beautiful site there is in the county for homes, for residences.

Calciano: Oh, really?

Cardiff: Oh, yes. People are after us all the time for it.

Calciano: This is an immense ranch, isn't it.

Cardiff: Oh yes. There was 10,000 acres in it. Then Cowell gave 1,770 acres to the state park. He still has a lot of land on the other side of the state park, you see. We have 2,000 acres up there at IXL. Then we sold 2,000 acres to the University. Now 2,000 and 1,800, that would be 3,800, and about 100 acres to a fellow on Graham Hill would be 3,900 off the 10,000. So we still have around 6,000 you see. Cowell still has a lot of property in here.

#### Pogonip

Calciano: I understand that Pogonip is on your property?

Cardiff: Oh, yes. We own that.

Calciano: I didn't know that until just recently.

Cardiff: Oh yes. We own four or five hundred acres in there. We also own land on the other side of the river, over there where the Horsemen's Association is.

Calciano: Oh really?

Cardiff: That's Cowell property.

Calciano: Was Paradise Park ever Cowell property?

Cardiff: No, Paradise Park used to be the powder mill. They got hold of that land some way. I don't know how they happened to... It's really on Cowell property, but Cowell, the old gentleman, had a lawsuit for years. He took it back to the Supreme Court, I understand. He won; I don't know how the stand is, but anyway he won part of the property in the suit. He got this pact over here, and I guess Paradise Park, or the Powder Mill, got the other.

Calciano: How did Pogonip get placed on Cowell property?

Cardiff: Well, that's part of our property, part of this ranch.

Calciano: But isn't Pogonip a private club?

Cardiff: Oh, it was a golf links. I understand it was the third golf links that was built in California. That was way back in, oh, it must have been along about in 1904 or five, along in there; I don't know just when. Anyway,

the Santa Cruz Golf Club rented it from Cowell and put a golf course on there. An eighteen hole golf course was there for years -- the first one in Santa Cruz. It was very prosperous. That clubhouse was built then too. Everything went along fine until 1924 or '25, I guess, when Miss Hollins, Marion Hollins, came in and bought Pasatiempo and started to build a golf course up there. Well it was very exclusive at first. I don't know, they charged something high for green fees and everything. But they didn't get anybody to play. So she turned around and reduced them, and finally she put them down lower than what this one was.

Calciano: Oh?

Cardiff: This golf course was thrown into my hands then for, well, I ran it for a year.

Calciano: That's all it lasted?

Cardiff: All of our members left and went over to Pasatiempo, naturally, because that was a new club and very exclusive and all that, so we just closed this one down. Then they turned around and Mrs. Wheeler rented it for polo. She turned it into a polo field, she and Denning Wheeler, her husband. So they played polo for several years, and then that's when Mrs. Wheeler started Pogonip Club. Then after a few years polo

played out, so we fenced it off and started grazing cattle in there.

Calciano: Well, now it's a club, a swimming club, isn't it?

Cardiff: Well, there's that. We let them keep around three or four acres where the clubhouse is, and they rent that from us.

Calciano: Who runs it for them now?

Cardiff: They've got a man and his wife that are living there, a very, very fine couple. They are wonderful people. And they're making a success of it too. They are a German couple who came here about three years ago. She couldn't speak a word of English. Now, why she speaks English just about as well as anybody.

Calciano: Aren't they thinking of expanding the club? It seems to me that I heard that something was going to be done if they got permission. This was long before I knew Cowell had anything to do with it.

Cardiff: Oh, they've been trying all the time, trying to buy it and everything else, but it never amounts to anything. Take it now, some people want to buy the property. They claim they have the money, and guess they have. I guess a lot of people would go in if they could get a price on it, but the Cowell company isn't going to put any price on it at all. So long as they pay the rent,

why we won't bother them.

Calciano: How did they get the name Pogonip?

Cardiff: I asked Mr. Cowell that, and he said it was an old Indian name. Now what it means, I've forgotten. He told me what it means, too.

#### Pfyffer Brothers' Cattle

Calciano: You have cattle running on a lot of the ranch, don't you?

Cardiff: Yes, we have cattle on it. This is all rented to Pfyffer Brothers. There is a problem now, though, with the University. You see we have probably four thousand acres here, surrounding the University property. We have always pastured the whole thing, but the two thousand acres we sold to the University is all in one block, and consequently, you see, we couldn't rent ours because of the fact that the middle belonged to the University. There isn't any fence between; it is all in one parcel. So the University and the Cowell company have got to work together, which we do, of course. McHenry is very nice about it; and in fact the way we do now, as far as this pasture land is concerned, is the Cowell company rents everything to Pfyffer, and then we turn around and pay the

University for the part that Pfyffer uses.

Calciano: How many cows can you have for every acre?

Cardiff: I don't know. It all depends on the seasons, on how the rains come and everything. You can't tell. Take it this year, with the last rain we had, Pfyffer's got lots of grass. His cattle are doing awful well right now; they're fattening up. But it's terrible he told me that these cattle here, all steers, they cost him \$105 or a \$110 for each one. Now he's fed them, and they've put on a couple of hundred or three hundred pounds of meat, each one of them, and he says that if he sold them now he wouldn't get over a \$100 apiece for them.

Calciano: Oh my goodness.

Cardiff: And even at that he can't find a buyer. In other words, meat like that has dropped about ten cents a pound. He's taking a big loss; oh he'll probably lose thirty, forty thousand dollars this year in cattle.

Calciano: That's a lot of money.

Cardiff: Yes, but years when it's good, well he makes it. Take that packing house down there -- of course, that's all that's carrying him. See he's got that packing house down there, and he'll probably make \$50,000 on that.

Calciano: Is this Fred Pfyffer that you're talking about?

Cardiff: Fred Pfyffer, yes.

Calciano: Does he own Walti-Schilling?

Cardiff: No, no, that's somebody else; that's wholesale meat; that's where they kill the meat.

Calciano: Oh. What packing house were you talking about?

Cardiff: Down there where they have vegetables and everything, like broccoli and sprouts and all that. You see all along the coast, all the farmers raise them and bring them in to him. He puts them through a process there, puts them in and loads them in cars and ships them East, or puts them in the packing houses, feeding houses you see. I know a time here when he has sent out as high as ten cars of vegetables a day down here. He's a big operator.

Calciano: What type of fellow is he?

Cardiff: Oh, he's a fine man; he's a Swiss, Italian-Swiss. He speaks four languages fluently. He has those Mexicans here, and you hear him talking to those Mexicans in Spanish you know; and then he has some of these Italians, and he speaks Italian to them. You should hear him rattling away. And of course English, he doesn't have really an accent, hardly, in English.

Yes, he has all different kinds of men working for him, and he can talk to any of them.

Calciano: My goodness.

Cardiff: I think it's four or five languages he speaks. A number of years ago this coast here was bought up by a bunch of Swiss fellows that came out here and had dairies and such as that. So those old-timers had families back in Switzerland, and they all stayed back there, and this fellow came out here to run the whole thing for them. He's the manager of it all, but the owners are really back in Switzerland. Yes, he'll fly back and be gone maybe a week or so, and then come back again. He told me the other day that they called him up from back there on the phone about something, and he said the phone bill was \$385.

Cowell Wharf and Cowell Beach

Calciano: Speaking of the Swiss dairies, I wanted to ask you if Cowell used to allow dairy people and such to ship out produce from his wharf?

Cardiff: Oh yes. Well, there was another wharf here you know, a railroad wharf, at the end of Washington Street.

Calciano: I was talking to Tom Majors the other day, and he said that he used to ship his cheese from Cowell's wharf on



the old steamer Gypsy.

Cardiff: Yes. Oh yes, I guess they did, but there was a wharf at the end of Washington Street. The railroad ran right out from Washington Street. They called it the railroad wharf.

Calciano: What happened to it?

Cardiff: In 1915, no about 1910, they built this other wharf, the one that is there now, the city wharf. The city built that. So then the other wharf wasn't used after that and the railroad company tore it down.

Calciano: Was the public ever allowed to fish off the Cowell wharf?

Cardiff: Oh no, they couldn't on that wharf.

Calciano: What happened to the Cowell wharf?

Cardiff: They tore it down. When Cowell opened up Rincon and could ship stuff by rail right from Rincon (you see the train ran up there), then he didn't have any use for that wharf anymore, so he just let it go to ruin. Some of the old piles are still out there. In fact right today, when the sand goes out, you can see those piles at the end of the wharf sticking up out there. When the tides are just right the sand will wash out.

Calciano: When did the Cowell company move to the Rincon quarry?

Cardiff: In 1906, at the time of the earthquake.

Calciano: Did they tear down the top part of the wharf, or did it just rot away and fall into the ocean?

Cardiff: I don't remember. I think it just rotted away. I think storms just broke it up. I have an idea so; I don't remember. Then you see here about ten years ago we owned there where the Dream Inn is, right along down to Washington Street, down to the other wharf. Cowell sold that property, but not the beach. In other words he sold the whole thing to them, but he reserved the right to deed the beach to the city of Santa Cruz for use for all time. He wouldn't give the deed to the beach to the people that bought it, so the city of Santa Cruz owns that Cowell beach.

Calciano: Was this Cowell, or the Cowell Foundation, who gave it to the city?

Cardiff: It was Harry Cowell. Oh yes, he was still alive.

Calciano: Why did he decide to sell that property?

Cardiff: Well, I don't know. I guess taxes were getting pretty high. I don't know how it happened, but anyway some people came to me and I talked to them about it. I told them to talk to Mr. Connick, the general manager. He was the one that really put it over, and all, so they sold the whole thing there. But Mr. Cowell insisted upon dividing up the deed and giving the deed

to the beach separately to the city of Santa Cruz for all time. They can't ever dispose of it.

Cowell Charities

Calciano: What other charitable gifts has the Cowell family made?

Cardiff: They helped build that hospital up there at Berkeley. That was in memory of Ernest Cowell.

Calciano: Oh?

Cardiff: Yes. You see when Ernest Cowell died, he left money in his will to build that hospital. But as I get it (this may be hearsay, but I guess there's something to it), by the laws of California you could only give a certain amount of your estate away to charity. By giving them as much as it'd take to build the whole hospital, it was more than what his estate would stand. So I think, from what I've heard, that the Cowell company, the rest of them, turned in then and paid the difference over and above that you see. Now since Harry Cowell died, the last one, why one of the first things that the trustees did was give them a million and a half to build a wing to that University hospital there in Berkeley. They gave that right away; that was just a few years ago. In fact, that has already been built. They say they've got one of the

most modern hospitals now, Cowell Hospital at Berkeley.

Calciano: What else has the Cowell Foundation done?

Cardiff: Well, it built this church down here.

Calciano: On, yes. The Congregational Church. And of course they've given money to the University here. I just wondered if they have done good works all around California, or whether they concentrated on Santa Cruz?

Cardiff: I don't think they have at all. They have given \$750,000 towards building an infirmary at Stanford.

Calciano: Oh?

Cardiff: They haven't given it yet, but they have allocated for it.

Calciano: How interesting.

Cardiff: And the general manager saw me the last time he was down and told me that the Ford Company, or one of those big foundations, gave a quarter of it. They gave \$250,000, so it makes a million dollar building.

Calciano: That's right; Ford said they'd match all grants one for three.

Cardiff: Yes, he was telling me about that. He said that they hadn't given any money to it yet. In fact he said that they were holding off. But they haven't given

anything towards this \$800,000 here, either. He said they were holding ready. He'll give it to the University whenever they need it. They'll get it when they get to building.

Calciano: Was it Harry's idea to set up the foundation?

Cardiff: No, no, that's since he died.

Calciano: Well, who decided to make the foundation?

Cardiff: Well the lawyers, the trustees.

Calciano: Oh, I see.

Cardiff: I've got a feeling Thelen is the man who set it up. He's the lawyer in San Francisco. He's one of the trustees and was Cowell's lawyer. You see in that way they don't have to pay any income tax. They save a lot of money.

Calciano: There are no heirs at all, are there?

Cardiff: No, no. No relatives, nobody at all. The trustees have every bit of it.

Calciano: A while ago you mentioned the big Cowell warehouse down by the wharf. It was torn down just in the last few years, wasn't it? Some time after Harry died?

Cardiff: Yes. When I came in 1890 it was Davis and Cowell's Lime and Cement Warehouse. It was on Bay Street. Yes, we tore it down here in the last four or five years. We sold it. It belonged to the Foundation, and we sold

it to a bunch of these fellows here about five or six years ago, and they tore it down. I was going to say that that warehouse ran clear down where West Cliff Drive goes through now. You used to have to go around. Oh, it's not over twenty years ago that Harry Cowell gave part of it to them, and let them open the street up. But the warehouse ran clear to the brow of the hill. We had a track that used to run down to the Cowell wharf, you know. We'd load lime on those schooners down there. But then Cowell let them open a street through there, so they cut a hundred feet off the end of this warehouse; I took care of that. Now it belongs to -- I don't know who it belongs to now, but we sold it to the Haber boys. Louis Haber was the one that bought it from us.

SANTA CRUZ MERCHANTS

The Haber Family

Mrs. C.: We've known these Habers always; they're wonderful people.

Calciano: Oh, that's nice. I know they have a lovely store.

Cardiff: We owned the property on Pacific Avenue where the Habers have their big store. We owned that, and I sold it to Haber, to the old gentleman. You know it was a funny thing -- I knew that they needed it. It was a

big garage that Cowell owned, and it ran from Front Street clear through to Pacific Avenue, sixty some odd feet wide and two hundred and forty feet deep. It was a nice piece of property. So was up in San Francisco one day talking to Mr. Cowell, and he said, "Say, how is property down there," and I said I didn't know. He said, "You'd better sell that garage down there. We've got no use for it." I asked him, "What do you want for it?" and he said, "I'll leave it up to you." So I came back and went up to old man Haber, and I told him, "Now Mr. Cowell says that he's going to sell that property next to you there." (The Habers had about twenty feet along Pacific Avenue, running about halfway through. That was their store then; just a little store there.) So I said to Mr. Haber, "Do you want it?" and he said, "Yes, I do." I asked him, "What will you give for it?" and he said, "I'll leave it up to you." So I called up Cowell and told him Haber wanted it, but that Cowell was to set a price on it. And Cowell said, "Well, it's up to you. What do you want for it?" I think it was sixty or sixty-five thousand I set on it, so I told Mr. Cowell that I thought he ought to get sixty or sixty-five thousand for it. I don't know, it was one or the other. He

said, "Well, I'll leave it up to you." So I went to Haber and told him Cowell said he'd take sixty, sixty-five thousand dollars for that piece of property. He turned around and said, "Al, make out a check for ten thousand dollars, and take it up and put it in escrow." (Laughter) There wasn't a word said between us; he just turned around and said, "Al," (that was his son) "make out a check for ten thousand dollars and take it up." So that's how they got that property. That's really their principal business. That's one of the finest stores there is in Northern California, finest furniture stores.

Calciano: What year as it that they bought the other lot?

Cardiff: Ten or twelve years ago, or something like that.

Calciano: When did the first Haber start his furniture store?

Cardiff: Oh, Dave Haber, the father, had a little bit of a place over on the opposite side of the street, there on the corner of Elm and Pacific Avenue. I think it was principally a secondhand store. I know I went in and bought a stove, a secondhand wood stove, to heat the office down at the lumber company, because we didn't have any heat in the office. That was my first experience with him, and that must have been thirty-five or forty years ago, pretty near. It was shortly



after I went to work for Cowell. As I say, he just had a little secondhand store, and he just kept increasing and increasing, and then he went over and bought that on the opposite side. I think he bought about thirty by maybe a hundred and twenty or so, facing on Pacific Avenue, and adjoining this garage that Cowell owned. He enlarged there some, and he got some regular new furniture and everything in there, but he still has secondhand stuff and always has had.

Mrs. C.: Yes it's the big store across on Front Street.

Calciano: Oh, yes.

Cardiff: Yes, new his secondhand store is across the street. He calls it the Thrift Store, I think.

Calciano: The sign outside Haber's store says Eastern Furniture Company. Did they buy the Eastern Furniture Company, or did they always call it that?

Cardiff: They just called it that themselves. I think the old gentleman named it that. Maybe that's when the boys were little yet, you know. Those boys are old enough, now, to take hold and everything. They're go-getters. They had four boys, but one of them died, got killed.

Mrs. C.: When Mr. Haber died, George was one of the honorary pallbearers.

Calciano: When did he die?

Mrs. C.: About a month ago.

Calciano: Oh, it was the father who died?

Cardiff: Yes, yes. He was the one I did business with.

Mrs. C.: The boys every year bring us doves. They're very fond of George. Well, they're good to me, too, but George is the one the Habers are very fond of.

Cardiff: Oh, the old gentleman and I were very, very close friends. Yes, yes, he was a wonderful man. And they had four fine boys. One of them got killed, but they have the three of them now.

Mrs. C.: Four boys and three daughters.

Cardiff: The one boy, the youngest, was up on the golf course and a golf ball hit him in the head.

Calciano: Oh, no.

Cardiff: He never got over it. I guess they operated on him, but he died shortly. A few days.

Calciano: How terrible!

Cardiff: That was an awful blow to the old gentleman.

Calciano: Was this quite a while ago?

Mrs. C.: Yes, several years.

Morris Abrams

Calciano: Speaking of prominent merchants in town, did you know Morris Abrams?

Cardiff: Oh yes, very well.

Calciano: Morris Abrams was the first one of his family to come to Santa Cruz, wasn't he? His father hadn't lived here, had he?

Cardiff: No, no, he came here. In fact he told his history before the Rotary Club one day. He said, "I came over here, landed in New York, and just had money enough to get to Texas. I had a cousin in Texas I went to. I couldn't speak a word of English, but I was a young fellow, ambitious, and I wanted to do something. My cousin said, I'll set you up in business." So Morris said his cousin started him out as a traveling salesman. At that time, you know, they used to take a cloth, put a lot of stuff in it, tie it up, and put it on their back, you know, and go around and be a traveling salesman. That's what he said when he told us, and he said that that first day, every place he knocked they said no, no, and closed the door on him. He couldn't speak English, so he couldn't tell them what he wanted or anything. So when he got back he told his cousin, "I can't do anything. I can't get

anybody to talk to." "Well," the cousin said, "I'll tell you what you do. You tell them, 'I've got smallpox.' Repeat that; 'I've got smallpox. I've got smallpox.' Then when you go and they open the door, you say 'I've got smallpox,' and they'll probably listen to you." So he said, "The first place I went I said, 'I've got smallpox. I've got smallpox,' and they slammed the door. I went to the next place and said, 'I've got smallpox. I've got smallpox,' and the woman started to scream and ran." (Laughter)

Calciano: That was a dirty trick.

Cardiff: Oh, yes, but that was his introduction. Well, he said that he worked; I don't know what he did there, but anyway he started out and got to Los Angeles. He got a little money and got to Los Angeles and worked with people he could talk to, I guess. They were Jews, I suppose, and he could talk to the people that he had dealings with. But anyway, he said that he went into business, and I think he said he made a hundred dollars. He told us, "I bought a hundred dollars worth of eyeglasses." I don't know if they magnified or not, but they used to have these glasses at ten cents a pair, and such as that. "Well," he said, "I started out in Los Angeles on foot, packing those glasses, and

I think I sold glasses to everybody between Los Angeles and San Francisco." (Laughter) Of course, it wasn't settled up like it is now, at that time, you know, that was 60 or 70 years ago. But anyway, he said, "I got into San Francisco, and I had \$500. I wanted to do something, so I took that \$500 and bought an old horse and wagon, peddling wagon, and went down to the mart where the vegetables are. I ran across A. P. Giannini. (That was before Giannini ever went into the banking business; that's when he had markets right there in San Francisco.) Morris said, "I could talk to him." (I guess he talked German or whatever it was, or Italian; anyway, he could talk to him.) "So I told him that I didn't have any money, but I had that horse and spring wagon, and if I could get a load of vegetables, I'd go out and sell them and come back and pay him the next morning or that night. So he loaded me up with the vegetables, and I went out and peddled them. I sold them all and came back and paid him for them, and he loaded me up again. I did that for a week or so until I got a little money ahead. Then I sold my horse and wagon and came to Santa Cruz and bought a little stock of cheap clothing." I know you could buy a pair of socks from him for five cents.

Calciano: Really? My.

Cardiff: Yes. But they were not any good, much. But anyway, he got a little hole-in-the-wall, right there across from where the Bank of America is now. That building wasn't on the corner there, where that shoe store is now, but it's the next one to it. He got a little place, just a little room (I think it was only eight by ten, or twelve), and put his stuff in there. In the daytime he'd open the door and put his goods out on the sidewalk, you know, so that he could get around inside the store. He went to work and sold out that stock, got another stock, and then more. Then he went to work and got a larger place, and first thing you know he had a store. Before you knew it, he was established.

Calciano: A big business?

Cardiff: Yes. So he got to be a very, very wealthy man. I have an idea he was a millionaire when he died.

Calciano: Oh, really?

Cardiff: Yes, easily. He had all kinds of property here in Santa Cruz.

Calciano: Oh my.

Mrs. C.: Oh, yes. And he always gave George a birthday present every year. A coat or pair of shoes or beautiful

shirt. Lovely things. And Hyman still does it.

Cardiff: When he started with just that little hole in the wall I didn't have much money either, and I bought some little things from him, just cheap, you know, because I didn't have much money either. I was working for wages.

Calciano: how much older was he than you?

Cardiff: Oh, I don't know; I guess about maybe thirty or forty years, that'd be my guess -- twenty anyway. Yes, he was a wonderful man. His life has been wonderful. Somebody ought to write up his life, because it was very interesting.

Calciano: What was his birthplace? Do you know?

Cardiff: No, I don't. Someplace back in Europe. I know he was a Jew; that's all I know.

Calciano: Why did he decide to live in Santa Cruz?

Cardiff: I don't know. I don't know whether A. P. Giannini had something to do with it or not. They got to be great friends, he and A. P. Giannini, that is from what I heard him say. I don't know whether that had anything to do with it or not. The only time I ever heard him tell about his life was that day at the Rotary Club. The way he told about it, it was a scream. I never

laughed harder in my life. He was just telling the funny things, you know, the things he ran into. I tell you now, here a short time ago the president asked me if I wouldn't tell something about the early days of the Rotary, so I told them about Morris Abrams. He was one of our charter members, and Rotary at that time was just starting. I think there was one in San Francisco, one in Oakland, one in Chicago, and these people in San Francisco wanted to come down here and organize one here. So a bunch of them came down to talk to us, you know, businessmen of the Rotarians in San Francisco. They told us that Rotary was just an organization where twenty men, or twenty-five, joined together, and they traded with you and you traded with them, and you worked together, and it was a wonderful thing. It would get business for you and everything. Of course at that time business was pretty keen, you know. So then I believe they organized and had a Rotary Club, and it run along for several years. I guess it pushed folks to be there every day at twelve o'clock for lunch, once a week that is. These lunches were supposed to be the thing that brought the members together, and everybody came. If you didn't come, why you were fined. But anyway, one day along about twelve



o'clock we went into lunch, and Morris wasn't there. About five or ten minutes afterward, he came in, and the President said, "Morris, we've got to fine you. You're late today, and you'll have to pay a fine." Morris said, "Well, I'll tell you gentlemen, I was late. I admit it," he says. "I was late on purpose. You know when I joined this club they told me that if I traded with you, you'd trade with me. We were supposed to help each other out. Now," he says, "I was late today. I went through that hat rack out there in the hat room and," he says, "there wasn't a hat there that had been bought from Morris Abrams." (Laughter) He said, "What kind of an organization is this? I've lived up to it, and I'm disgusted with you fellows." And he meant it, too. Well, after that, of course, right away they got the motto of "Service Above Self," which did away with that "I trade with you, you trade with me."

Calciano: I see.

Cardiff: But that was really one of the funniest things. Of course now we have about 150 members probably, and lots of them had never even heard of Morris, I guess. I told them about this incident, you know, and they all got a great laugh. One of the fellows told me

afterwards that that was the best story he'd ever heard. (Laughter)

Calciano: He was really quite a fellow! Well, you were one of the organizers of Rotary then, weren't you?

Cardiff: Well, I was one of the charter members. In fact, there are only two of us left -- Phil Bliss and myself. Dr. Phil Bliss.

Calciano: Oh, yes. He was a dentist here before his son?

Cardiff: Yes, yes. And his father was a dentist here before him.

Calciano: Oh?

Cardiff: Yes, Dr. Bliss did a lot of work for me years ago, and then Phil was my dentist, and now Barry is taking care of me. All three generations. I knew them all these years. There weren't many dentists then. Dentistry here was different forty, fifty years ago from what it is now.

Calciano: I bet it was!

Cardiff: (Laughter) Yes, yes. Talking about Morris and the Rotary Club reminds me -- you know Morris was an awfully good gambler.

Calciano: Really?

Cardiff: Oh yes. When he came here he just had a hole in the

wall, and he got to gambling, and he made all kinds of money. He once told me, "I've taken lots of money out of my gambling to pay my business debts, but I never took anything out of my business to do gambling." But when the Rotary Club reorganized, the Rotary Club here, I was President. That was about the third or fourth year after we started. That year the international meeting of the Rotary Club was held at Ostend, Belgium. And of course being President, I should have gone over there. Well, I couldn't afford to do it. We were a young club; we didn't have the money to send anybody. We budgeted \$250 to send somebody over there, but there was no chance of course. But I let the different members know that if they could afford to go, they could have the \$250 to make the delegation. So Morris Abrams came forward. He said, "George, you know I think I'll go over to that international meeting over in Belgium. I want to go to Europe anyway, and I think I'll take my daughter Eve." (She's still here, Eve is.) He said, "I'll take Eve, and we'll go over there." So he did; he went over there. We made him a delegate and gave him the \$250 and he went over. He was gone a couple or three months traveling through Europe and all, and when he came

back he handed me the check back for the \$250. I said.

"Well, Morris, this is yours. I don't want it."

"Well," he said, "I'll tell you, George. On the way over I met some friends, and they paid the entire expenses of the trip over for my daughter and myself, so I wasn't out a dollar."

Calciano: Oh, my. He won it all gambling?

Cardiff: Oh, sure. You know at that time there always used to be a gang of gamblers who would ride on the boats back and forth and just pick the fellows. I guess they took him for a sucker, but he was just too much, and they didn't know it, you know. He worked up, and he took the money away from them: (Laughter) So he gave the \$250 back and I put it in the charity box. But he was a wonderful man. He did more good; if there was anybody in trouble, why he was right there, offering them money. I know of one fellow here that was one of our young attorneys. He got sick and they said he had cancer. They wanted to get a specialist from the city, but they couldn't afford it. Morris heard of it and went and told them, "You go ahead and order that specialist down, and I'll pay for it." So they did. Well, the fellow died, of course, but nevertheless, Morris paid it all. Right today that widow has a hard

time, different times, and Morris's daughter, I know, helps her out.

Calciano: Oh, really?

Cardiff: Yes. My wife's a great friend of Morris's daughter. She know them all. Yes, yes, they're wonderful people.

Calciano: What's his daughter's married name?

Cardiff: Oh, Eve isn't married. I think he's got three or four daughters, but none of them are living here. The others are all married. I think one's married to a clothing man in Salinas, another one in Fresno. I haven't seen them in years.

William T. Cope

Calciano: Since we're talking about merchants, I wonder if you knew William T. Cope?

Cardiff: Bill Cope? Yes. He had a clothing store here.

Calciano: Does it still exist, or not?

Cardiff: No. He died years ago; his wife's dead, and he had a daughter, Minny, and a boy, Harry. They're both dead.

Calciano: Where was Mr. Cope's store?

Cardiff: On the corner of Locust and Pacific Avenue.

Calciano: Was it a general clothing store like Leask's?

Cardiff: Yes, it was a general clothing store.

Calciano: As big as Leask's?

Cardiff: Oh, he had only a small store, not much. I remember after I got working here, I got my first suit from him, my first good suit, and I paid \$15 for it. Boy, I thought I had the finest suit in town!

Calciano: Well, I guess you could get a pretty good suit back then for \$15.

F. A. Hihn

Calciano: Did you know F. A. Hihn?

Cardiff: I knew the old gentleman very well... In fact, when we bought out the Hihn-Hammond Lumber Company (he was a partner with Hammond, and we bought out the retail end), Hihn had been in the lumber business here since the year one, I guess; he had always had a lumber business. So he came down to the office one day, one morning, when we bought it out, and he told me, "Now you know the name Hihn has been connected with the lumber business for many, many years, always, and I'm willing to buy some stock in your company. I don't care what it costs," he said. "All I want is the name Hihn put in the company, because a Hihn has been associated with lumber for all these years. I don't care how much of the stock you want me to buy. I'll buy anything you say, and I don't want to take any

interest in running the business at all, but I do want the name Hihn put in it." I guess I talked to him a couple of hours that morning; that was the longest talk I ever had with the old man.

Calciano: But Hihn didn't get his name on your lumber company, did he?

Cardiff: Oh no. No, I took it up with the banker and other people and all, and they said I'd be sorry if I ever let him in on it. I was advised not to do it, so we kept him out of it.

Calciano: Was he somewhat aggressive? Would he have wanted to run things?

Cardiff: Well, I don't know about that. But they didn't seem to think that he would be a good person to have in it as far as being a partner and all, where he'd have the say of it. In fact, when I saw my banker and talked to him about it, he told me (well in fact Hihn held an interest in the bank that this fellow was manager of anyway, he said, "Don't you do it. Don't have anything to do with it. Keep Hihn out of it." So I never did anything about it.

Calciano: What was Mr. Hihn like? Did you like him as a person?

Cardiff: Oh yes. He was all right as far as that was concerned. Mr. Hihn, Senior, was a very nice old man, but he was

a man who would go right out and make money and look after his business, of course. I never had any dealings with him outside of that, but he was quite a wealthy man when he died, I guess.

Calciano: I read a newspaper account that said he was a multimillionaire

Cardiff: I guess he was. In the early days he accumulated a lot of property here in Santa Cruz.

Calciano: What was Hihn's reputation in town?

Cardiff: Oh, I think it was good as far as business was concerned. You see he owned the water system here. The first water system they had, I think. Then when the city got their own water system, why they bought Hihn out after a while. I knew the old gentleman pretty well; I knew all his family, his boys and girls. I danced with his daughters many times, the younger ones.

Calciano: Didn't Hihn keep his water company for a while when the city built theirs?

Cardiff: No, no, as soon as the city opened its own up he quit.

Calciano: Oh. I understood that there was a little while there when people on one side of town got their water from Hihn, and on the other side they got it from the city.



Cardiff: That might be true, I don't know. There was a water system up on Branciforte Creek, and they had a reservoir up there near Pasatiempo somewhere. Of course I don't know; that was all city business you know. But finally the city got to furnishing all the water,

Calciano: A lot of people just had wells in their back yards, didn't they?

Cardiff: Oh yes.

Calciano: I guess you had Chic Sales out there too?

Cardiff: Yes, we had all outside toilets.

Calciano: When did sewers come into town?

Cardiff: Quite a while afterwards. Of course it's been a good many years now since they got to building sanitary places.

Samuel Leask

Calciano: Did you know Mr. Leask when he was a young man? Samuel Leask?

Cardiff: I've know him ever since he came here. I came here before he did.

Calciano: You did! Well, my goodness, I didn't know that.

Cardiff: Oh yes, I knew old Sam Leask when he came here. He and I were great friends. I've been going to see him every

once in a while at his house, but lately I haven't been there because for some time now he's been failing. He's a 102 years old now.

Calciano: Oh my.

Cardiff: It's too bad you couldn't have interviewed him, because he would have been a wonderful man to interview.

Calciano: I wish it were possible,

Cardiff: His knowledge was wonderful. Yes, I've known Sam Leask ever since before he came here. Before he owned it, his store was owned by a man named Place.

Calciano: Oh, Leask bought a store that was already going then; he didn't start the store?

Cardiff: No, no. Place had it before he did; at least I understood that he did. That's my recollection of it. No, no, he didn't start the store, but he has had it for years now. He bought property along there and made a big store out of it. Leask's Seaside Store. No, his family was just small kids when he moved here. I knew them all, every one of Sam's kids. There was Sam Jr., his older son, why I've known him ever since he was just a little kid around here.

Calciano: What year did Leask start the store?

Cardiff: Well, he came around 1895, or somewhere along there I guess, I don't know.

Calciano: What did he look like as a young man? Was he tall or short or

Cardiff: Tall. A big tall man. Yes, a very fine looking fellow. Very smart man. I consider that he was one of the best men on taxation there was in California. The old gentleman made a study of it. He could tell you anything. He traveled all over the United States studying taxation. I was on the Library Board with him, and at that time, of course, we were interested in starting a new library. He went back to different libraries in different places to study, to get information and all. He was a very bright man. He was President of the Board of Trustees; there were five of us. He and Emmett Rittenhouse, Heber Mahood, and Henry Garrett. Have you met Henry Garrett?

Calciano: No, I haven't.

Cardiff: He's the vice-president of the Farmers and Merchants Bank. They sold out to Wells Fargo.

Calciano: Is he still alive?

Cardiff: Yes. He's the manager of the Santa Cruz Lumber Company. He's the President, not the manager. He gave a \$100,000 to that new Methodist church up there on

California Street. He gave it to them with the understanding that when the church was built, it was to be free of debt. For that reason he kept a hold on they money, and as they raised money to pay off the debt, he'd give that much to them. He finally gave them a \$100,000, I guess, and I think his wife, when she died, left \$25,000 too.

Calciano: Oh my.

Cardiff: Yes, he's one of our prominent citizens.

Calciano: You mentioned Leask's family a moment ago. How many children did Leask have?

Cardiff: Well he had four or five boys and a girl.

Calciano: They all grew up?

Cardiff: Yes, yes, they're all married and got families. Yes, some of them, I guess, have got grandchildren. I guess he's a great-great grandfather. I don't know; I've lost track of the smaller members, but I know all of the older ones.

Calciano: Did he belong to the Presbyterian Church?

Cardiff: No, I don't think so. No, I don't know what church he belonged to; I couldn't tell you.

Calciano: He is a Scotsman, though, isn't he?

Cardiff: Yes, oh yes, he's a Scotsman.

Calciano: What made him come to Santa Cruz?

Cardiff: I don't know; I don't remember how that happened. I think he came to Watsonville first, and he married a Watsonville girl. I think she was from a big family over there in Watsonville. I forget what her name was. What was Sam Leask's wife's name over there in Watsonville?

Mrs. C.: Sam Leask, Sr.? Clara Johnson. Her mother's maiden name was Haswell. Her mother was my mother's first teacher. We go way back.

Calciano: Are you a native of Santa Cruz County?

Mrs. C.: No, that was away from here. That was away up in Northern California, far away from here.

Cardiff: Mrs. Leask, Sr., and my wife were very close friends.

Mrs. C.: Yes. Mrs. Leask got me interested in the Red Cross during World War I. I was just a young woman with two little children, and she got me interested in Red Cross at that time.

Cardiff: You've got the forty-year pin, haven't you?

Mrs. C.: Well yes, the forty-year pin. I've worked ever since 1918.

Cardiff: She helped organize it here.

Mrs. C.: I'm still on the board of directors here. We had a

meeting Monday and I brought all this work home.

Calciano: It takes a lot of work, doesn't it, to do these things right.

Mrs. C.: I'm Chairman, so this is hard work like anything else.

Calciano: Getting back to Sam Leask for a moment, was he pretty well liked in the town?

Cardiff: Oh yes, very much so. He was a very kind man, and very civic minded; he took an interest in everything pretty near. He was into nearly everything. Yes, at the time of that water bond issue they had so much trouble over, to finally clean it up he and Christian Hoffman borrowed \$200,000 and went back East and bought up the last of the bonds and cleared them up.

Calciano: That was really quite a service to the community, wasn't it.

Cardiff: Oh, yes.

#### LAWYERS AND JUDGES

##### Bertram Snyder

Calciano: Who were some of the prominent lawyers in town?

Mrs. C.: Well, Bert Snyder. Did anyone ever tell you about him?

Calciano: No.

Mrs. C.: He was a very fine lawyer here, a very outstanding lawyer. He's dead now, but he was another wonderful man in Santa Cruz. His father had a dry goods store here in the early days, and then Bertram went to college. After that he went to Germany and studied. Then he came back here. He was really a very well educated man.

Calciano: Did he start a firm or ...

Mrs. C.: Oh, yes. His son is here now.

Cardiff: His son is Bertram. His widow, the mother of this present Bertram, lives here still.

Mrs. C.: She was brought up in the same town I was. She graduated from the State Normal, Teachers College, at the same time that I did, so I've always known her. But this Mr. Snyder was very outstanding. A fine man.

Cardiff: He was one of our leading lawyers when he died. Judge Skirm was another old-time lawyer.

Calciano: Skirm?

Cardiff: Skirm. S-k-i-r-m. He owned a place up on Mission Street. That brick building on the right-hand side. He was a wonderful old lawyer, and the Youngers were good lawyers. Those were the principal lawyers, fifty or sixty years ago.

Charles Younger

Calciano: Did you know the Younger family very well?

Cardiff: Very, very well.

Calciano: Younger came over early, 1860 or so, didn't he? The first Younger?

Cardiff: Yes, oh yes. Charlie Younger's father, that's right. In fact they are related to the Waddell's, the Waddell up here at Waddell Creek. I think the Waddell daughter was the wife of the old Mr. Younger. I used to know the relationships of all those people you know, knew them all well. I think Donald Younger's mother was Agnes Hain. I've danced with her lots of times.

Calciano: Was she a pretty girl?

Cardiff: Oh yes, a very pretty girl. They were nice girls; there were four or five of those Hihn girls. Lots of them. They married around.

Calciano: Many of the old families seem to be interrelated.

Cardiff: Yes, they are. Charlie Younger was my attorney for years, you know.

Calciano: Oh, really?

Cardiff: Yes. I knew his dad before him, before Charlie ever got to be a lawyer. His dad, of course, was the original one, and then Charlie Younger took over.



Calciano: What was Charlie's father's first name?

Cardiff: Charles, I guess. Charles Younger, I think.

Calciano: You knew him, too, then?

Cardiff: Yes. Oh yes, I knew the old gentleman too. Of course he died years and years ago. He was one of the old-time lawyers.

Mrs. C.: Well, Charles's son lives here, you know; he's Don.

Calciano: Yes.

Mrs. C.: Don's a character; he's a wonderful person, but he's a character.

Calciano: How do you mean?

Mrs. C.: Well, he's just himself. He's an original type of person. He does the things he likes to do -- nothing out of order, but he's just original. He's very interesting some of the time.

Cardiff: He tries to be funny always.

Mrs. C.: He's a lawyer too.

Cardiff: Oh, yes. Donald is a pretty good lawyer, I guess. Seems to have quite a practice here; quite a number of people go to him.

Mrs. C.: He has a darling wife.

Cardiff: Old Charlie, his father, had a case in court here a good many years ago. He was always a great drinker,

and he'd get a recess and go out and get two or three more drinks, and he'd come back in you know, and start back up again. By golly, he won the case too. But he was so darn drunk, I don't know how he ever did it.

Mrs. C.: Everybody knew about it.

Calciano: Really?

Cardiff: Oh yes, oh yes.

Mrs. C.: But he never showed it much. You never realized it.

Calciano: This was Donald's father?

Cardiff: Donald's father. Yes, he was our lawyer for years and years and years. I used to go up to see him every little while. We furnished material on that place down there, on the Sesnon building down there at Aptos, the one that was sold to that Catholic bunch ...

Mrs. C.: Up there on the right as you go around the turn to Cabrillo.

Calciano: Yes, I know where it is.

Cardiff: Yes. Anyway, I furnished material on that, and the contractor went to the bad, so I had to sue to get my money. And the thing was in court there, oh, for quite a while. I think my bill was around six thousand dollars, or something. But anyway, we had to take it to court; we fought it, and finally we got judgment

against Sesnon, against old Bill Sesnon -- that's Porter Sesnon's father.

Calciano: Oh, yes.

Cardiff: We got judgment against him. I'll never forget, the thing had been running along in court, and our bill carried seven percent interest from the time we filed our suit in the first place, so when we went to settle it was quite sizeable. I went up there, at the County Bank, and old Bill Sesnon himself was there. I think the compound interest and everything amounted to over three thousand dollars, and he said, "I don't object to paying that original bill, but I do hate to pay that interest." I remember him saying that. I think I got around seven or eight thousand dollars out of him.

Calciano: Why did he have to pay? It was his contractor that defaulted, wasn't it?

Cardiff: The contractor did, and Sesnon didn't want to stand good for it, you see. But old Judge Smith was the judge, and I remember when he gave his verdict he said to Charlie Younger, "Now write out the judgment." So that's how we got it. Charlie wrote out the judgment, included the interest in the judgment, and that's how we got compound interest on it.

Calciano: How interesting.

Judge Smith

Mrs. C.: That Judge Smith was another character here in town.

Calciano: Oh, really?

Mrs. C.: He was really a wonderful man.

Cardiff: Have you run across him at all? Oh, he was quite a character here. He was the father of Lester Wessendorf's wife and also of Malcolm Sinclair's wife. Old Judge Smith was judge of the Superior Court for many years.

Calciano: Is this Lucas Smith?

Cardiff: Lucas Smith, yes, his name was Lucas Smith. There was also a Judge Lucas here in later years. Harry Lucas's father was judge here for several years.

Calciano: You said Smith was quite a character?

Cardiff: Yes.

Mrs. C.: Yes, he was a very clever lawyer.

Cardiff: You take that family, that Smith family, they were quite prominent here. There were several girls of them. Let's see, was Lucille Moffit the oldest daughter?

Mrs. C.: Yes. And do you know Lucille Canfield?

Calciano: No, I don't.

Mrs. C.: Well Lucille was a cousin of the Smiths. When her

mother died she was brought up by these Smiths. We've always known them. Always. In fact, Mr. Wessendorf and his wife and George and I are the only two old couples left in our whole crowd. There used to be about twenty couples.

Cardiff: Just two couples left. About fifty-five years ago we started that.

Mrs. C.: Yes, we were together just all the time, everywhere we went. You know how couples get together.

Calciano: Oh, yes. It's very interesting to find out a bit about the social life of Santa Cruz years ago.

Mrs. C.: Oh, I think it's interesting to hear about the Smiths.

Cardiff: It would be wonderful if you could get a hold of some of them. You could get a lot of information about old times from Lester Wessendorf; he would be good.

Mrs. C.: Oh, Lester would be fine.

Cardiff: He is about as well posted a fellow as there is in town.

Calciano: Oh, really?

Cardiff: I think he is. You see he's always been here, so he knows everything. Born and raised here.

Mrs. C.: They have that mortuary downtown here -- Wessendorf-Thal.

Cardiff: He'd be glad to talk to you; I know he's that kind of a fellow. Wonderful fellow.

Calciano: I'll have to put him on my list.

Judge Logan

Calciano: Did you know Judge Logan by any chance?

Cardiff: Yes. I say, that's one thing I want to tell you. I don't think anybody knows this: I saw the first loganberry that was ever propagated. I saw it while it was growing, just before it was ripe. I'll tell you the whole history of it.

Calciano: Please do.

Cardiff: Judge Logan owned property up here, up above High Street, and he owned the property down on Pacific Avenue where my brother and I had our livery stable. We were renters from him, and always the first of the month he came in to get his rent.

Calciano: He came to you?

Cardiff: Oh, yes. And the first of July, 1894 or '95, I couldn't say which one, probably 1895, he came in and I paid him his rent. We got to talking, and he said, "George, you know I've got something I think is going to be a world-beater; I have propagated a berry -- it's a cross between a wild blackberry and a ..."

(I've forgotten what the other one was now.) But he said, "I've got one berry now that is just turning ripe, just one, and some others just starting." And he was so enthusiastic over it. He said, "Would you like to see it?" I said, "Yes, I would." "Well," he said, "Hook up a horse and buggy and let's go up there, and I'll show it to you." So I hooked up a horse, drove up there, went right to the spot where it was, and he showed it to me. It was on sort of a side hill, and there was the first loganberry that was ever propagated. Now they have got to propagating more, or rather planting more. The Barsons down here, who owned the Riverside Hotel, they owned several acres in there, you know, fifteen or twenty acres in there where all those houses are now. Old man Barson was a great friend of his, and he gave Berson some of the clippings. Berson started in, and he got them to growing. And there was somebody came down from Oregon who was a friend of Barsons's, and Berson gave him some of the clippings. They took them up to Oregon and now some people in Oregon claim they were the first ones to ever raise the loganberry.

Calciano: Oh my goodness.

Cardiff: But still, the loganberry is named after Judge Logan.

Calciano: Yes, I've read about it.

Cardiff: Yes, that's one thing that I've been very interested in.

Calciano: Was Judge Logan a judge here?

Cardiff: Yes, he was a judge here at one time, a judge in the Superior Court. He was a regular judge, but I don't know how long he was one. He wasn't on the bench for very long, because he went from the bench to the President of the County Bank. And I think when he went there the next judge elected was Judge Smith. But Logan was President of the County Bank for quite a while before he died. And he was the one that subdivided Brookdale up there.

Calciano: Oh, really?

Cardiff: Yes, he owned all Brookdale. He subdivided and got the people in Santa Cruz here interested in going up there and buying lots. Nearly all the businessmen here in town had lots up there in the early days.

Calciano: For summer homes?

Cardiff: For summer homes, yes. That Clear Creek, you know, was a wonderful thing. That hotel was built there, where the water ran right through the dining room, you know. Yes, he subdivided that a good many years ago. Nearly every one in Santa Cruz, that is the old-timers,



bought a lot from him.

Calciano: Did you buy a lot up there?

Cardiff: No, that was really before my time; I wasn't buying property then. No.

Calciano: What sort of man was Judge Logan?

Cardiff: Oh, he was a fine old man. Yes, that loganberry certainly got to be a wonderful berry, you know. He certainly deserves a medal for that. I know that.

Calciano: Did he have any children who are still alive?

Cardiff: No, he never had any. He had a niece, Josie Turro. She married someone in San Francisco.

#### PROMINENT CITIZENS

##### Fred Swanton

Calciano: Did you know Fred Swanton by any chance?

Cardiff: Too well.

Calciano: Too well? What does that mean? (Laughter)

Cardiff: Fred was a promoter; that's all you can say. He was a promoter.

Calciano: Did you ever get stung on any of his deals?

Cardiff: Yes, several times, and I'd come right back and buy it again.

Calciano: What were some of his big schemes?

Cardiff: Oh the Casino. He built that Casino down there that burnt down, and then he built it up again. The Casa del Rey. Right before the fire was out, why he had it financed and all at San Francisco.

Calciano: Those ventures were successful, weren't they?

Cardiff: No, no. People lost their money. More people here in town lost their money on that beach company. He talked them all into it you know. I don't think anything he started was a success.

Calciano: He just had the gift of talk?

Cardiff: Yes. And he could put it over. Oh yes, he was in everything; he was in everything. When they opened that Casa del Rey down there, at the beach there you know, it had an overpass from the hotel. It went from the second floor of the hotel, right across over the tops of the railroad tracks, and right into the dining room of the Casino that overlooked the ocean front. Oh it was classy. It was a wonderful place for people to come and stop.

Calciano: Why wasn't it successful?

Cardiff: Well, it cost too much. Everything was too high I guess, I don't know. My brother ran that for, let's see ... My brother was working for John Martin, who

was the finance man in San Francisco. Things sort of went bad on Swanton, so they put my brother in as manager of the beach company, of the Casa del Rey and the beach cottages all along there. They had the electric railroad here, and he was manager of that, too. He had the whole thing on his shoulders. Oh, that's what broke him down; he had too much to handle. Finally he had to give the whole thing up. But he was manager for quite a while. He had been with the Coast Counties Gas and Electric for 36 years or something. Finally he gave up the managership and went out and bought five or six acres out here by Capitola, just to get out in the country. Then he didn't like that, so after a couple of years he came back to Santa Cruz and went to the Casa del Rey and lived there for the rest of his life. He had an apartment there at the Casa del Rey, he and his wife. He passed away in '41.

Calciano: When did Casa del Rey switch over to a home for retired people?

Cardiff: Oh, just recently. I don't think it's been over two years at the most.

Calciano: Oh really?

Cardiff: Yes, just recently. I guess it's more of a success now than it has been anytime. We've had some wonderful

parties down there at the Casa del Rey. When my brother had it, my wife here used to take charge and get big crowds to go down there and have big parties. Oh, we had some wonderful parties down there.

Calciano: What ever happened to Swanton after all these promotions?

Cardiff: He died.

Calciano: When did he die?

Cardiff: Oh probably about twenty years ago. His widow died about ten years ago I guess. His daughter is still living here. She's the only one. Well, they have a daughter, and then they have a grandson back East somewhere.

Calciano: I guess a lot of people lost money with him?

Cardiff: Oh, he skinned everybody.

Calciano: Did he make money when he skinned other people?

Cardiff: No, no, he always had plenty of money. No, he never got out any more than having a good time. He had a pass on the railroad and rode everywhere and all that, you know. He could talk you into anything. He built that Casa del Ray down there, and John Martin put the money in that. Then he got John Martin to rent this property up there where the Pogonip is now from

Cowell, and they put a golf course in there. That golf course there cost a lot of money, but John Martin paid for it. I furnished the material that went into that old Pogonip Clubhouse there.

Calciano: John Martin was an old-time settler, wasn't he?

Cardiff: He was in San Francisco. John Martin was one of the heavy stockholders, and I guess he was manager of the company which is now the PG&E.

Calciano: Oh. I was thinking of the Martin family up in Glendale.

Cardiff: Oh no, no relation at all. No, he was from San Francisco. He was a utilities man there, and it was really the utility company of San Francisco that built all of this here. It was their money I guess. Yes, that was quite an affair when they built that Casino down there.

William Jeter

Calciano: You knew William Jeter, didn't you?

Mrs. C.: (Laughter) He was my boyfriend.

Calciano: Your boyfriend?

Cardiff: She called him "Bill."

Mrs. C.: He was a great worker for the town, a community

worker. Anything that needed an extra chairman, he'd always call me. The last thing he ever had me do was when he made me the hostess for eleven ships that came in here after World War I. That was the biggest thing I ever did. I was chairman of all the activities for that week for every one of those boats. And I had access to any boat that I wanted to go on to. And who was that little man that we met in Washington later, Washington D. C.?

Cardiff: Admiral Kuntz.

Mrs. C.: Admiral Kuntz, and oh he loved to dance with me. And I was chairman of the big dinner -- fifteen hundred people in Santa Cruz -- so I had Admiral Kuntz sit to my right.

Cardiff: She had the captain's gig at her beck and call. They'd go back and forth to different boats.

Calciano: Oh my. Why did the boats come here to dock?

Mrs. C.: Oh, just to show off what they had.

Cardiff: It was the time the United States fleet made a trip around the world, and when they came into anchor, it was here at Santa Cruz. You know, Cardiff was the name of the ship that Admiral Kuntz commanded up in the North Sea at the time he scuttled the German fleet, so

he called my wife "My old ship Cardiff." (Laughter)

Mrs. C.: And it was Mr. Jeter who made me chairman of that. He often asked me to be chairman of things, and whenever he'd make me chairman, he'd always say, "Now listen, remember, I'm Bill and you're Violet." He'd always say that.

Cardiff: He was a great big tall old gentleman, you know, and her calling him Bill when just everybody called him Mr. Jeter or Governor Jeter, you know. He was Lieutenant Governor once.

Mrs. C.: He was years older than I was; he just happened to like what I did. He said I always put everything over, so he'd always ask me to do it.

Calciano: What can you tell me about him?

Cardiff: Oh, he was just a good businessman, that was all.

Mrs. C.: He was a banker here for years.

Calciano: That was his main business? The bank?

Mrs. C.: Oh yes. And his wife was a wonderful woman.

Cardiff: She only died here a year or two ago.

Mrs. C.: She was an aunt of Phil Bliss.

Calciano: Oh really?

Mrs. C.: Yes. And Mr. Jeter was just a wonderful man. He was a

fine looking man, and he was a great leader. I don't know of anybody that had such dignity and all.

Calciano: Did they have children?

Mrs. C.: No.

Cardiff: No, never had any, I don't think.

Mrs. C.: It does seem too bad, too, because they were both such fine people. She was a beautiful woman. Such wonderful people, and they always had such dignity. You know, you just couldn't help but look up to them. Of course, I was quite a young woman then.

Calciano: Was she quite a bit younger than he?

Mrs. C.: No, I don't think so.

Cardiff: She must have been very old when she died.

Mrs. C.: Oh, she was.

Cardiff: I think she was way up in the nineties when she died.

Mrs. C.: Yes, she was very old. So many times they were asked to lead grand marches at big things, but they were the type that could do it. He might swing her around, but they never danced very much.

Calciano: How did he get to be Lieutenant Governor of the state?

Cardiff: Well, I think the Lieutenant Governor died, or something happened to him, because the Governor or



somebody appointed Mr. Jeter. I know it was only for a few months.

Mrs. C.: It was to fill out the term.

Cardiff: But they always called him "Governor" after that. Yes, I think he was a good Democrat. The Democrats were in at the time.

Mrs. C.: They were just one of the very nice couples in town. They were leaders and community builders -- you just couldn't help but admire them.

John D. Chace

Calciano: Did you know John D. Chace?

Cardiff: Yes. I worked for him.

Calciano: You worked for him?

Cardiff: I worked for Johnny Chace. Do you mean the father or the son?

Calciano: Well, I was referring to John D. Chace, the father. He died shortly after you came to town, I think. Didn't he?

Cardiff: Well, I knew all the Chaces. I knew Johnny Chace's father, then Johnny Chace, then Darrow Chace - three families there. Old man Chace used to be a butcher here in the early days.

Calciano: Was that when you worked for Via?

Cardiff: No. I worked for his son Johnny, John R. Chace. Johnny had the Ocean House and the Sea Beach Hotel. I clerked at the Sea Beach Hotel and handled the livery end of it, you know. He hired somebody to work in the livery stable in my place. Yes, I knew a lot of the old-time families.

Calciano: You seem to have liked most of the people who were the leading citizens fifty years ago, didn't you?

Mrs. C.: Yes. They were all fine people in Santa Cruz, and all friendly people.

Calciano: I have noticed that you have almost no ill words about anyone.

Mrs. C.: No. Of course, we like people. If they're nice to us, we're nice to them. But we've been close to nearly all those people because the town was smaller. When we first came here it had six thousand inhabitants.

Calciano: Oh, my.

Mrs. C.: But it was a good-sized town for that day and age. And we lived here and watched it grow. You take this King Street, for instance, that you come up. When we first came here, all of that was field.

Cardiff: There wasn't a house there. I think two or three was all.

Mrs. C.: You see Mission Street was there, but nothing was built around there.

Cardiff: Pope House was there; that was the principal place.

Mrs. C.: Yes. And nothing on these hills up here. Not a thing. A few houses, but not many. It was a rather small town, but it was a very interesting town, and lots of fine people in it.

William Ely

Calciano: Let me ask you about another person. Did you know William Ely?

Cardiff: Ely, yes. Bill Ely and Frank Ely, yes. Old Bill Ely had quite a bit of property here. He had the first streetcar here. The streetcar ran clear out to Arena Gulch. It was a horsecar.

Calciano: Oh?

Cardiff: He had an old horse pulling it. Yes, old Bill Ely used to drive that years and years ago. That's seventy years ago, I guess. Then his son Frank had a furniture store there where the Palomar Hotel is now, and George Ely was his brother. I knew him well too. I've forgotten what George did. They were old Bill Ely's sons.

Calciano: Was it a prominent family, or not?

Cardiff: No, I don't ... Well, Frank Ely, the one with the

furniture, I think he was. I think Mrs. Ely, his wife, was quite a society lady here. I don't remember much about them. The social part of it.

Fred Howe

Calciano: Are there any other friends of yours who did quite a bit for the city whom I haven't mentioned?

Mrs. C.: Well, Fred Howe, George. Did you ever get Fred Howe's name?

Calciano: He was the mayor once?

Cardiff: Yes.

Calciano: Please tell me a little bit about him.

Cardiff: Fred was a wonderful citizen. He was one of those who helped things go ahead. He was mayor two or three times, I know, and councilman two or three times. He was always in civic life, always taking an interest in everything. Fred was really a go-getter. When he was a boy, I remember, I was going to business college here. That'd be about 1890, and I roomed at a place down on Pacific Avenue, Mts. Langford's. She had a daughter, and Fred's mother, who was a music teacher, would come over and give this girl music lessons. She didn't have any piano at home so she'd go to Mrs. Langford's home,

and she'd bring Fred over (he was just a little fellow) and give him music lessons.

Calciano: Oh?

Cardiff: It was at this house that I got to know Fred. I don't think Fred knew one note from another, hardly; he just had to play it by ear -- a regular jazz player. Then one year a circus, the Norris-Rowe Circus, came here and wintered here, and Fred was quite a lad -- he got together a band. He had a drum, a mouth organ, and all different things -- a one-man band. And he went out with the Norris-Rowe Circus for a season, I think, and then he came back here and opened a little music store and sold music and instruments and all. But anyway, he went on from there as a good citizen. Well, he married a very fine lady here and she died.

Mrs. C.: They had two or three nice children.

Cardiff: Yes. He had two or three nice children. And he went along. Harold McPherson, one of Fred McPherson's brothers, married ...

Mrs. C.: Ilma Fargo -- Harold McPherson married Ilma Fargo.

Cardiff: Fargo, that's right -- Ilma Fargo. Harold married her and Harold died, and then Fred married the widow who is now Mrs. Fred Rowe; she lives here tow.

Mrs. C.: She is one of my very close friends; she is abroad

now. She travels a good deal,

Cardiff: He accumulated quite a lot of property, and I guess he left her in pretty fine circumstances. And she's now on a trip around the world.

Mrs. C.: I got a card the other day; I think they were in Sydney, Australia. They're all over ...

Calciano: Is she traveling with her family?

Mrs. C.: Oh, no. She's with a tour. Oh, she goes every two or three years.

Cardiff: She has a beautiful home up here on High somewhere.

Calciano: When did Mr. Howe die?

Mrs. C.: Oh, he's been dead for quite a long time.

Cardiff: He was a director of the bank here at the same time I was.

Calciano: Oh? Did he have a music store all those years?

Cardiff: No. In late years, I don't know, I guess he was just looking out for his properties.

Mrs. C.: But he had a music and a stationery store for a while.

Cardiff: Yes. That's right.

Mrs. C.: He was a peach. He was a great dancer, and he loved a party. And he was the only person who would ever dance the Charleston with me. My boys taught me how to dance the Charleston when they were in college, because it was so much fun. We used to dance a lot in those days,

and my boys showed me the steps. Well, Fred would get out and dance them with me. He was the only fellow in the crowd who would dance them.

Calciano: What fun!

Mrs. C.: One night we were dancing, and I had a beautiful gown. We were all full dressed, and we looked so grand and everything, and on purpose he slipped and fell down. Just for devilment, that was all. Oh, I was so embarrassed I didn't know what to do. Oh, he apologized and he apologized and made a speech about it, but everyone knew. He was always full of pranks.

Calciano: Oh my goodness.

Mrs. C.: We had him to a party once, a Halloween party, and he dressed up as a ballet girl and nobody knew him. Things like that -- yet he was a wonderful man -- a real leader. He was full of the devil, but there was nothing wrong with him.

Cardiff: No, he was just full of fun.

H. A. Torchiana

Calciano: Did you know H. A. Torchiana, by any chance?

Cardiff: Yes, he used to be here. He had a home up here that is

owned by Mrs. Coolidge. She is the one who has sold it to the Sisters.

Calciano: Did you know him?

Cardiff: Oh yes, I knew him well. He was an attorney here for several years.

Calciano: What type of fellow was he?

Cardiff: There was quite a family of them; very nice people. He was Consul for the Netherlands in San Francisco. I think he had headquarters there and he used to commute down here.

Calciano: I read one of his books that was somewhat autobiographical, and it seemed to me he had quite a bit of self-confidence, almost to the point of conceit. Was he a rather conceited man or not?

Cardiff: Oh, I don't know.

Calciano: Did he ever strike you that way?

Cardiff: No, never did as far as I was concerned, and I knew him very well, was very well acquainted with him. Of course he once had a little trouble, you know; he divorced his wife and married her sister.

Calciano: Oh really?

Cardiff: Yes. I don't know whether they all lived together here or not. But I knew the wife and I knew the sister.



They married, and they had children too. I think their son Henry still lives in San Francisco.

Calciano: How interesting.

Cottardo and Malio Stagnaro

Calciano: When did the Stagnaro family arrive?

Cardiff: Well, they came here along about that time. The first one that came in was, I guess it was the father of Malio Stagnaro. You know Malio Stagnaro?

Calciano: Yes.

Cardiff: I think probably his father was about one of the first ones, and he was only a young fellow. I don't know whether Malio was born here or not. But Malio's no chicken, I tell you, come to think of it. His brother Cottardo died here about ten years ago; he was the one that really started that fish business.

Calciano: Cottardo did?

Cardiff: Cottardo. And Malio, when he got through school, why then he went in with him. Well, this Cottardo had a family. I think he had ten or twelve children. I don't think Malio ever had any children, although he married four or five times.

Calciano: Oh, really?

Cardiff: I guess. I don't know how many times, but he was

married several times I know. But he had a lot of nephews and nieces, and they're all in the business nearly. That girl Estella who's there in the private office downtown, she does the books in there; she is Cottardo's oldest girl. She's just about the same age as my boys. I think they went through school together.

Calciano: Oh?

Cardiff: Yes. They're up in the fifties.

Calciano: Did she marry?

Cardiff: No.

Calciano: Oh. Gilda isn't married either, is she?

Cardiff: Gilde? You know Gilda? I don't think so. Gilda works down in there too, but this Estella is really the head girl. Gilda works there where they sell the things. But the boys work out in the fish department there, and some of the boys, I think, are sea captains on their boats. I don't know -- oh, I know them all I guess, or they all know me, but I don't know one from the other.

Calciano: Who owned the sardine cannery?

Cardiff: Yes, well, that was Vincent Quartararo. It isn't running now; I think he's moved to San Jose or San Francisco. But we did have it here for quite a while.

It was in that building that they tore down there on Chestnut and Laurel Streets. I don't know much about it now.

D. D. Wilder

Calciano: Did you used to buy cheese from the dairy farms up the coast, or would you buy imported cheese?

Cardiff: Oh, no, we all just had local cheese. There was very little imported cheese. Cheese and butter were all made up the coast; several people made it, you know. It was a pretty good cheese. Nothing like the cheese you buy now, of course. I don't think they ever kept it long enough -- aged it, you see.

Calciano: Oh.

Cardiff: Probably not. But nearly all the cheeses and butter were local.

Calciano: Did you know Mr. Wilder, Delos Wilder?

Cardiff: Oh, yes. Knew his father and knew his grandfather. I knew the old man very well, old D. D. Wilder.

Calciano: That was the grandfather of the present Delos?

Cardiff: Yes, D. D.

Calciano: And was there an M. D. Wilder?

Cardiff: Mel yes, Mel Wilder was old D. D. Wilder's son; then

Delos was Mel's son.

Calciano: Oh. What was old Delos D. like?

Cardiff: He was the butter man here, milk and butter.

Calciano: He had one of the best dairies around, didn't he?

Cardiff: Well, there was a lot of them up the coast here. There was a fellow by the name of Filippini who had a very fine dairy, and different ones up there. They sold a lot of butter, and shipped butter, and of course all the butter used here was local butter.

Calciano: What type of man was old Delos Wilder?

Cardiff: Oh, he was a good businessman, a good businessman.

Calciano: I heard he was.

Cardiff: Fine, yes. A good old fellow -- old gray whiskers. Yes, he was a nice old man. Young Delos's son lives there on the ranch now. The great-grandson.

Calciano: What do they use the ranch for now?

Cardiff: Cattle, I think they're just raising cattle. They don't milk anymore and don't have a dairy anymore. There's very few dairies up the coast now, if any. There must be one or so, because every once in awhile you see a big truck with a lot of milk cans on it. They must have one somewhere.

NEWSPAPERS AND POLITICS

The Evening News -- Ray Judah

Calciano: Are there any other people we should mention?

Mrs. C.: Of course Ray Judah was the head of the newspaper here for years.

Calciano: Which newspaper?

Cardiff: The Evening News.

Calciano: Oh?

Cardiff: They sold out to the Sentinel. Now it's the Sentinel Evening News, you know.

Mrs. C.: Ray was a newspaperman here for years, and then after he sold out he went into politics and became a senator. he was a senator two terms. His wife is now out at Batterson's -- he's dead and she's out there.

Calciano: Oh.

Mrs. C.: But, oh, they were wonderful people. He had a gorgeous voice. I used to love to dance with Ray; he'd sing when he was dancing, and everybody would listen to him -- he had a beautiful voice.

Cardiff: He only died a year or so ago.

Mrs. C.: He hasn't been dead for long, no.

Cardiff: He died out there at that Community Hospital, and it hasn't been in operation so long.

The Sentinel -- Duncan McPherson

Calciano: Was Santa Cruz fairly much a Republican city in the earlier days?

Cardiff: It always has been. It's always had a majority of Republicans, but I don't know now. The Democrats seem to be encroaching on them.

Calciano: And was the *Sentinel* a Republican newspaper then, probably?

Cardiff: I don't know that the papers showed any preference, especially the McPherson paper. They don't take any stands on anything at all. They carry water on both shoulders. Fred McPherson is a very clever chap.

Calciano: Do they feel they can sell more newspapers if they don't offend anybody?

Cardiff: Well, I don't know, but they don't want to get into any trouble at all with any of the people. No, they stay friendly with all of them. It's a very nice way to do I guess. Yes, Fred's a very nice fellow. His father was a very clever chap too, and his grandfather was a real newspaperman, old Duncan McPherson.

Calciano: Did you know him?

Cardiff: Yes, for a while.

Calciano: What was he like?

Cardiff: Well, he was a very big man with long whiskers; an

old-timer.

Calciano: Was he a high-living man, or a hard worker or what?

Cardiff: Yes, a pretty hard worker. He was a very good business-man. And then his son Fred took over. I guess he wasn't the newspaperman his father was. And he's the Lather of this Fred. Now this Fred has a couple of boys coming along.

Mrs. C.: But the McPherson family is a grand old family. All wonderful people.

Cardiff: Oh, yes.

Calciano: How did Duncan McPherson get into the newspaper business?

Cardiff: I don't know. He bought the paper, as I understand it, over in Monterey and brought it here years and years ago when it was just a little bit of a paper. He started his newspaper business that way, and he's been carrying it along ever since. Yes, every once in a while they have an article about it.

The Surf -- Arthur Taylor

Calciano: There were several other newspapers in town, weren't there?

Cardiff: Yes, there were several of them there at one time, but now it's down to one.

Calciano: Did you ever read the *Surf*?

Cardiff: Oh yes. Taylor was quite a clever writer; he was really a writer.

Calciano: Oh?

Cardiff: Oh yes. The *Surf* was in competition with the *Sentinel*. He was a little bit of a man. I don't think he was five feet tall.

Calciano: He went broke, didn't he?

Cardiff: I don't know; I guess he did. I think he was running the paper and a Mrs. Raymond worked for him for years and years. She was the backbone of the thing -- that is she carried it along and made a pretty good paper out of it.

#### City Mayors

Calciano: Taylor was mayor for a while, wasn't he?

Cardiff: Taylor? Yes, he was mayor. He beat Fred Howe. I remember that night, counting the vote at the old City Hall. I was there, and nobody had any idea that Taylor would ever win out. I remember now that when the vote began to go towards Taylor, it was quite a surprise to everybody. He was a little bit of a fellow, and he was a fellow who would never appear in public. As a mayor he never would attend any gatherings, or anything like



that.

Calciano: Oh really?

Cardiff: Yes, and he never would give any speeches or anything. Oh, he'd take sides in his paper; he'd write about it, but he wouldn't ever come out in public.

Calciano: Because he was so short? Was that why?

Cardiff: Oh, I don't think so. I think he just had an inferiority complex. I guess you might call it that.

Calciano: How long was he mayor?

Cardiff: Only one term I think. I don't know whether it was two years or four years. I guess Fred ran for mayor again after that and was elected again.

Calciano: Was Taylor a good mayor?

Cardiff: Yes, I think he was. I think he was pretty good.

Calciano: And Howe was a good mayor?

Cardiff: Oh yes, Fred was one of these city boosters, and he made things lively. Fred was always at the bottom of things; he kept things going. Oh yes, he was a good mayor for the town.

Calciano: About what year was he mayor?

Cardiff: I don't remember now. Not so very many years ago. I don't remember just when he was mayor.

Calciano: Does the mayor have quite a bit of power, or not?

Cardiff: Oh yes. Now, of course, they are councilmen, elected

councilmen, and the councilmen elect the mayor from among themselves.

Calciano: Oh?

Cardiff: Now this fellow Norm Lezin who's just been elected, why there are seven of them, and they just voted him in as mayor. You see they just rotate it.

Calciano: So one of the councilmen is always mayor.

Cardiff: Yes. Last year it was John McBain, and next year it will probably be this fellow Walters. He's a music man you know, has the choir in the schools.

Calciano: So the mayor doesn't have as much power as he used to?

Cardiff: Oh no. In other words, he represents the council, and he conducts the meetings and such as that. And of course if the mayor is supposed to show anyplace or something, why it's up to him to go. He has to receive delegations and welcome people to the town and such as that. Lezin will probably do pretty well because he's a pretty active boy.

Calciano: He has the Salz tannery, doesn't he?

Cardiff: Yes, he's the manager in there. He married the Salz girl. His father-in-law is the owner of the tannery.

#### Corruption

Calciano: Have there been any big scandals in the government or

the administration of Santa Cruz over the years?

Cardiff: No, I don't think so. Of course there have been some changes in the cliques, you might say; others would get it through some little thing, you know, that worked them up, and some cliques would get in and change things around a little, but not to any great extent. No, there's always been different cliques that would try to get in control, and once in a while some radicals would get control, you know, but it wasn't long though until it changed. We had a man here by the name of Hinkle, C. D. Hinkle, who was one of our successful businessmen and a wonderful fellow and all. He was mayor here for some years, and there was a certain clique that got in to defeat him. I didn't know anything about it. The man that they put up against him, I never knew him -- well I knew him afterward, when he got to be mayor, but the man they put up against him was just working for Coast Counties, I believe, as an architect or something. But anyway, I would have bet everything I had that Hinkle would beat him three or four to one, and by golly, when the votes were counted, this fellow just snowed Hinkle under.

Calciano: My goodness.

Cardiff: So a different clique entirely took over. But before his term was out, why he pulled away from here. I don't think he even resigned. He went over and went to work somewhere around San Jose or somewhere. And for a while he'd come back here (I think he'd be here one day a week or something), but the thing all blew over and we got back to normal again. It was awful --this fellow Hinkle was a wonderful man and a wonderful mayor and all, but he was badly beaten. I've forgotten now -- there were some reasons for it, but I've forgotten what they were.

Calciano: You mentioned the other day there was a police scandal at one point.

Cardiff: Yes, there was a little of that. Well, you take the time of Prohibition, why there was too much chance for those fellows, those authorities you know, to get a little extra money, like the chief of police and the different ones. They got into some kind of a little difficulty here one time back when John Geyer was one of our Councilmen. He was the father of Elmer Geyer who just now retired from the police force. He's been in it for years as was his father. I've forgotten now what the trouble was, but anyway they caught John Geyer taking bribes. But that was just one fellow.

Some of the other fellows were honest and some of them weren't; some of them were getting all they could out of it. They were getting while the getting was good. Yes, you take at that time, you know, if you were on the inside, why it was no trouble to get a gallon of whiskey from one of those police. But we never had very much scandal, I don't think. I might say the authorities have always been pretty clean; I think they've always been very honest fellows. But during Prohibition there was an awful chance for them to make money, naturally, if they would give in a little bit.

Calciano: I can imagine.

EVERYDAY LIFE AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY

Money and Banking

Calciano: I'd like to spend a while talking about everyday life in Santa Cruz around the turn of the century.

Cardiff: Fine.

Calciano: We might as well start with money and banking. I understand that paper money was disliked and infrequently used; that everything was paid in gold and silver.

Cardiff: Well, yes. I remember that when I was up in the Sacramento Valley, up on that ranch my mother-in-law had, a cousin came out from the East, and we went into

a store up there. That was along about 1902 I guess. He wanted to buy something and gave them a ten dollar bill, and they refused to take it. The store didn't know what it was, and they had an awful time; the clerk went around and got the managers and different ones and they discussed it and all ... So at that time, about 1902, it wasn't common to have it. Of course that was out in the country.

Calciano: One gentleman I talked with said that they didn't use pennies out here very much.

Cardiff: Oh no, never. Never even five cents. Everything was a bit -- a bit was twelve and a half cents, and two bits was a quarter. Two bits was about the smallest change you'd have.

Calciano: I have trouble understanding this because one always hears that a penny would buy so much back then. You'd think there would have been need for smaller change.

Cardiff: No, never. Oh no, it's only in late years that they started using pennies.

Mrs. C.: I remember when they started using pennies. We used to buy candy with pennies. Oh it was such a novelty. For a penny you could buy a great big bunch of candy.

Cardiff: They wouldn't give you change in pennies though. If they had some pennies, why they'd give them to you,

just actually throw them in.

Calciano: But didn't money buy a lot more then?

Mrs. C.: Oh, yes. Back to the early days we were always good eaters at our house. We always had everything that was good to eat, and we used to have lots of steak. My father used to get fifteen cents worth of steak, and that was enough for the family.

Calciano: Oh my.

Mrs. C.: Yes, in those days it was. He'd get a great big, thick round steak for fifteen cents.

Cardiff: Yes, fifteen cents is about all the meat you'd want for a family.

Calciano: Well, if you bought six cents worth of meat, what did you pay them with.

Cardiff: Well, two bits worth was about the least change they had, twenty-five cents.

Calciano: You just had to buy a quarter's worth?

Cardiff: Well, a quarter was two bits, and a short bit was ten cents. That was just as small as they ever got, down to ten cents.

Calciano: About when did they switch over to paper money?

Cardiff: Oh, that was probably, well of course it was a good while ago now. I guess it's over fifty years ago now.

Mrs. C.: I can't remember when they didn't have paper money.

They used to carry fifty dollars and hundred dollars -  
- great big bills.

Cardiff: I know, but I remember when Mrs. Bounds (my first wife's mother) was going back East or going to Europe. She gave me a thousand dollar check to go down to the Bank of California in San Francisco and get her five hundred dollars in gold and five hundred dollars in paper money. She took the paper money and put it in a belt around her body, you know, and carried it that way. But she used to carry the gold with her to use all the time because people were used to it. I remember that because I remember I went into the bank and I gave the check to the cashier and asked him for five hundred dollars in gold and five hundred dollars in paper money. Well, the cashier went to work and brought out a package of bills. He had them done up with a paper around them, and he had marked on it how much money was in the package. That, of course, was a good many years ago, along about 1908 I guess. He took five hundred dollars of paper money out of this package and counted it out and handed it out to me. Then he took and marked on the package that he'd taken out five hundred dollars and subtracted to tell how much was left in that package. Then he turned around



and gave me a thousand dollars in gold. (Laughter) You know at that time there was no mistakes corrected if you left the counter. But I couldn't quite understand it, I wasn't sure, so I took this thousand dollars in gold and the paper money, and I went over to the desk in the bank and counted it. I knew, then, that I had fifteen hundred dollars, so I went back to the window. And as I worked up to the window I said to the fellow, "Didn't you make a mistake?" He said, "We never correct mistakes after you leave the window." I said, "Well, it looks to me like you gave me five hundred dollars too much." And he said, "How's that?" I told him, "Well, here I asked for a thousand dollars, and here you gave me a thousand dollars in gold and five hundred in paper." "Oh, oh, yes, oh," and he grabbed it in.

Calciano: He corrected that mistake!

Cardiff: He corrected it, yes. I'll never forget that; but I could have got away with it, because that's what he told me. He said they never corrected it after it left the window.

Calciano: When did people making payrolls start using checks instead of cash?

Cardiff: Oh, that's of later years. It doesn't seem to be very

many years since they started using checks. That has been a result of modern banking. The banks all sort of insisted on people using checks, you know, when they got into that system, but that is in later years.

Calciano: Was there much use of credit years ago?

Cardiff: Yes, and people would pay with cash. Right today you can find a lot of people who pay in cash, but not so much as before. People who have a lots of bills to pay, first of the month, they'll go to the bank and draw out two hundred dollars or so on one check, and then they go around and pay the different bills.

Calciano: That's what you used to do then?

Cardiff: Yes, I've done that.

Calciano: But with your business?

Cardiff: Of course they got the saying, "A check is a receipt." If you pay a bill, you can pay it with a check and then it's a receipt, which it was, so lots of people got to paying by check, you see, instead of drawing out a lot of money and going around paying to different people.

Calciano: I imagine with your business you used checks long before you did personally, is that right?

Cardiff: Yes.

Mrs. C.: I remember we were married, and for our wedding trip George had a roll of greenbacks that would have knocked your eyes out. Now I wonder, why did he carry so much money with him? But everybody was doing it.

Calciano: Weren't you worried about having it stolen?

Mrs. C.: Well, it just was done.

Charge Accounts

Calciano: I have been wondering if it was customary forty years ago or so, to have a charge account at Leask's, for instance?

Mrs. C.: I've had a charge account at Leask's for fifty-five years. They would think something was wrong with me if I didn't have one.

Calciano: Grocery stores used to have charge accounts too, didn't they?

Cardiff: Yes, oh yes. The first store in Santa Cruz that quit charging was Hinkle's, C. D. Hinkle. He moved up onto where McHugh and Bianchi are today, up on the corner, and he opened a grocery store that was strictly cash. Everybody had to pay cash. And they all said, the different grocery stores that is, said, "Well, he won't last long. He can't last long." Well, it wasn't long until, by golly, he had established that. Now you take these others, nearly all those stores are

strictly cash now.

Mrs. C.: Well you see so many of these chain stores, they don't want to run bills. You wouldn't want to run a bill. The only place we run a grocery bill is at McHugh & Bianchi's, and we've run a grocery bill there for fifty-five years or more, to the different people that owned it. But I call up and they deliver it.

Cardiff: That's why we have a charge account with them.

Mrs. C.: Yes, I run a bill at McHugh & Bianchi because, now like this morning -- I called up and didn't have to go down there at all, and they'll deliver my groceries this afternoon.

Calciano: Do you have to order three dollars worth or five dollars worth or something?

Mrs. C.: No. One time, a couple of years ago, George was ill with the flu. He really was quite ill, and Dick McHugh called up and said, "Now, Mrs. Cardiff, if you just want a loaf of bread or just want anything, let me bring it up to you." He's very fond of George and they worked at Masons together you know. But we're good customers. We run a bill at McHugh & Bianchi, but every two weeks we go to Shopper's Corner. We get all our canned food there.

Cardiff: They're strictly cash, Shopper's Corner.

Mrs. C.: They don't deliver or anything.

Maids and Gardeners

Calciano: Back in the 1890s and 1900s about how much help would there be in the home of a businessman or lawyer or doctor?

Mrs. C.: There was always a maid or two. Everybody had maids in those days.

Calciano: And did everybody have a gardener then?

Mrs. C.: Oh, yes.

Cardiff: They worked the month through, you know.

Mrs. C.: We never paid anybody over a dollar a day; for thirty dollars a month I got the best help you could ever get -- clean the house, serve the dinners and everything. And you had to have somebody to work in the yard; they charged the same.

Cardiff: Now if you get anybody, you pay them \$1.50 or \$2.00 an hour.

Mrs. C.: We pay John \$2.25 now. But he's worth it; he can do more work in one hour than anybody I've ever known.

Calciano: Does he work for other people too?

Mrs. C.: Oh, yes. At Pasatiempo he has all kinds of people he works for, half a day.

Calciano: Would a lot of houses have two maids, or were those days gone?

Cardiff: Very few of them had two.

Mrs. C.: Few of them had two maids because one maid did a lot of work. They had to know how to work. And people sent out their laundry and had a gardener who probably waxed the floors and did the heavy work. We never expected a girl to wax floors or wash windows or anything. The gardener did that.

Calciano: Oh, I didn't know that.

Mrs. C.: But my goodness we used to get so much work done. Oh, think what we paid those girls, and that's all they asked. I just have John, the Japanese, and he's been with me thirty-five years. He cleans and does anything I want him to do, but he doesn't cook or serve. But he's been with us going on thirty-six years.

Calciano: My goodness.

Mrs. C.: He came to us right after he got out of high school, and he worked in the yard first, under another man, Naga. Naga was a Japanese working for us, doing housework, waxing floors, and things like that. Then when Naga got so blind he couldn't do it anymore, he went back to Japan and John took over.

Calciano: Oh.

Mrs. C.: And during the war John had to go away, you know, and oh, we just felt terrible. I had an Italian that tried to help me. Oh, he was a lower class Italian, slovenly! He'd clean up everything and leave all the dirt in the middle of the floor or on the walk. But I had to put up with it. There was no one available. We are very fortunate to have John.

Calciano: What were the favorite foods in the period around 1890 to 1910? If you were entertaining, what food would you prepare?

Mrs. C.: Oh, roast beef or chicken, and about what they have now. I used to use colored help so much, and they always made biscuits or cornbread, and they loved to cook chicken. Oh my, they're wonderful cooks if you get a good one.

Calciano: You mean Southern Negro?

Mrs. C.: Yes.

Cardiff: We used to keep chickens. I used to keep two or three dozen fryers out in the yard. We had a maid there, colored maid, and she'd beg my wife to have a party. She'd go out and kill a chicken or two or three, and come in and cook them you know.

Mrs. C.: She used to come in the morning, "Mrs. Cardruff," (she always called me that) "Would you like to have guests

tonight?" and I'd say, "Oh, I don't know, we just had guests." "Well now, you know you can afford it. You just might as well have guests. I just love to cook for guests." I would say, "All right, go ahead." She'd ask me, "What'll you have?" So I would tell her, "Well, I don't know, you may fix the dinner." She made the best food -- all kinds of cornmeal things you know, and chicken! Oh!

Calciano: Well how did you happen to get her?

Mrs. C.: Oh, I've forgotten now how we did get her.

Cardiff: Yes, I've forgotten now how she did come to us.

Mrs. C.: She loved my children. And you know years later, after she gave up working in a house, she became a nursemaid at San Francisco. I had a cousin in San Francisco who lived right across from where Anita was taking care of some children. Well you know, everybody that'd she'd meet from Santa Cruz or anywhere, she'd say, "Do you know the Cardruffs?" (Laughter) People would come up to us and say, "Well, we met your colored maid. She wanted to know if we knew the Cardruffs."

Calciano: Well Negro help was rather rare in California, wasn't it?

Mrs. C.: Well in a way, yes. But there was some very good help; we had some very good colored help.



Cardiff: Yes, Anita was very good.

Mrs. C.: But we had another little girl after Anita left, that stole us out of house and home. I went down to her house and made her give it up. I told her I was bringing the policeman if she didn't give it back. She'd been stealing, but Anita never did.

Calciano: Oh my.

Mrs. C.: Anita loved to dress the children up and take them down to the beach and tell people that they were the Cardruff's children. Remember, George, how she loved to take Robert and Howard around? We had a lovely old home over in Seabright for twenty-eight years. But when that old cannery came up, we couldn't take it anymore. There was no zoning in those days.

Cardiff: The cannery was only a couple of blocks from there.

Mrs. C.: Oh it was terrible. We had to sell our place to get out of there. But we had a lovely old house there -- a great big living room, and one of these great big gray rock fireplaces. It was such a big room that I used to let my nieces and nephews have dancing parties in there. They'd come over and bring a crowd and have dancing parties, and the mothers would make cakes and pies, and I'd make chocolate, and, oh, those kids had

a wonderful time. And Naga would come over and say, "You let those children dance in here!" And I'd say, "Yea." He'd say, "They scratched my floor all up." But I'd say, "Never mind Naga, that gives you a job to do." (Laughter)

#### Favorite Foods

Calciano: When I asked about the favorite foods, I was wondering what things were particularly hard to get and particularly desirable here.

Mrs. C.: We had lots of fresh vegetables. There were so many Italians who grew vegetables and just went around town to houses. They'd stop at our house and we'd buy their vegetables. We had every kind of vegetable, melons, and all kinds of, things.

Cardiff: Everybody put up their own fruit too. She canned a bunch of string beans once. Somebody gave her a lot of nice string beans. She got them all canned up there and everything, and Dr. Cowden, that's Ambrose's father, came over. I don't know what he came for that day, but he came in and he said, "What have you got here?" She said, "Oh, I just canned a bunch of nice beans." He said, "You take and throw every one of those out. Get them out!" he said. He made her dump

the whole bunch.

Calciano: Botulism?

Cardiff: Botulism, yes. He gave her a lecture, and after that, why she did no more canning of that stuff.

Calciano: When you did canning and preserving, would you usually do it, or would your maid and cook do it?

Mrs. C.: Oh, we used to do peaches and things quite a bit.

Calciano: You'd do it yourself?

Mrs. C.: Oh, I liked to can fruits. It's fun. My mother used to come and visit me, and she'd help me, and we'd put up fruit. Of course I'd have the girl clean up the mess and all, but I like to put up fruit. Now we never put up anything.

Cardiff: About the only thing she makes now is strawberry jam and rhubarb jam.

Calciano: What were some of the delicacies back then?

Mrs. C.: Oh, they were about the same as now. Jellies and jams. Of course we've always had plenty of fish here. Everything in those days had to be prepared; you didn't buy them ready-made.

Calciano: What about candy? Where would you get your candy?

Mrs. C.: Oh, we used to make it. I used to make a little over twenty or twenty-five pounds every Christmas.

Calciano: What kind?

Mrs. C.: Oh, chocolate cream and all.

Calciano: You dipped them and everything?

Mrs. C.: Everything. But then some friends of ours came in and started making it. Orchard's began making it, you remember, and those other people, friends of ours, came here and built up a candy business. So we got so we bought from them.

Calciano: I've heard the phrase "Victoria cream." What's that?

Mrs. C.: Oh, Victories? They're wonderful.

Calciano: What are they?

Mrs. C.: Well, they're great big round chocolates, about four inches across, and they have cream and nuts inside of them. They're about an inch thick. They're called Victories.

Calciano: They sound good!

Mrs. C.: There was a man named Fraizer Lewis that came here and made them, and he never gave anybody the recipe. Oh they had tremendous sales on it, and then he died and left the recipe to the Elks, and they never gave it up.

Cardiff: Of course everybody was afraid to buy it. The Elks wanted to get a big price for it, because these Victories had a reputation in San Francisco and every

place. And of course somebody would have liked to have gotten the recipe you know, providing it amounted to anything. Well, lots of people tried to copy it, which probably they did, I don't know, but anyway the Elks never did sell it. The last I heard they were still hanging on to it.

#### Chinese Vegetable Gardens

Calciano: Could you get fresh vegetables in the wintertime here in the early days?

Cardiff: Yes, they had some because there was a vegetable garden out in Soquel there. Old Charlie Cucis used to have it. He used to raise vegetables and bring them in, so we used to have fresh vegetables right along. Of course I suppose sometimes some of them were short. But that was before they had canned vegetables. But they always had such things as carrots and different things like that you know, roots, root vegetables. So they always had some of those during the winter months. That place out in Soquel was quite a vegetable garden there. And strawberries up here on King Street, the whole length of King Street. There were only two houses on King Street, and that was all a strawberry bed at one time. When I was a young fellow, I'd come

down there at night after dark with the other kids and sneak in there and eat strawberries.

Calciano: (Laughter) Oh, boy!

Mrs. C.: I can remember when the Chinamen used to grow vegetables a lot, and they used to sell them around.

Cardiff: Yes, that's right.

Mrs. C.: They used to go around with cans on their shoulders, a rope thing on their shoulders and two cans swinging down from it. They'd come along the streets calling, "Lettucee, turnipee, pees, letucee, turnipee, pees." We always thought that was so funny.

Cardiff: Yes, that's right. It's only in late years those Chinamen quit that. Oh, maybe ten years ago there was an old Chinaman here. He had a big thing over his shoulder, you know, two big baskets of stuff. He'd go around -- some of those old Chinamen had customers, some old farm families, you know, and they just took care of them.

Calciano: Where did the Chinamen grow their produce? They all lived there on Front Street, didn't they?

Cardiff: Oh, no, not necessarily.

Calciano: Oh, I thought most of the Chinese people lived there.

Cardiff: Well, the Chinamen were there, you know, but they were

burned out in the 1894 fire. The whole thing there burned out, and then they moved onto that other street that runs across where that bridge goes now. What's the name of it?

Calciano: Cooper Street?

Cardiff: Yes, back on Cooper there. That's where the Chinese were afterwards. And then there were also some down on the Blackburn tract, down back of the S. P. depot. Some of them moved down there. There was a joss house down there.

Calciano: What exactly is a joss house?

Cardiff: That was their religious place, like their church,

Calciano: Oh?

Cardiff: Yes, they called it a joss house. There was quite a Chinatown down there in Blackburn Street. And some of them lived around in little shacks on the ranches, you know.

Mrs. C.: You see, until that Immigration law went into effect in 1883 to bannish all the Chinese, they were taking over all the orchards and everything in the country.

Calciano: Oh, really?

Mrs. C.: We had an awful time getting rid of them, you see. They were all sent away, except just those that were born and raised here.

Calciano: Oh, they were sent back?

Mrs. C.: Yes. That's why we don't have so many Chinese here anymore. But if they were born and raised here, they couldn't get them out. But they did send a lot back. That was all over the country. It wasn't just here; it was everywhere. The Chinamen were taking over, you know. All the orchards and everything else.

Cardiff: The Chinese Exclusion Act.

Calciano: Oh, I see.

Cardiff: Oh, at one time the country here was flooded with Chinese. We had a Chinese cook up on the ranch; don't know how he stayed here, but he was one of the old Chinese. They were all cooks.

Mrs. C.: Did you ever have the Chinese people do your laundry.

Calciano: No, I never have.

Mrs. C.: Well, in those days we did. They were very poor; later on they had a lot. Well, do you know how they sprinkled the clothes? They took a swig of water and went whoosh -- they sprayed it with their mouth. But they had to cut that out.

Cardiff: It just made a spray all over the clothes.

Calciano: Oh, my goodness.

Mrs. C.: But I remember as a little girl, there were six in our



family, and they did all of our laundry, and every single thing, for a dollar and six bits a week.

Calciano: What a price!

Mrs. C.: And It was beautifully ironed and laundered and everything. But in those days nobody questioned how they sprinkled their clothes.

#### Chinese Gambling

Calciano: There was a lot of gambling down in Chinatown, wasn't there?

Cardiff: Yes, there always was a lot of gambling there. I never frequented it at all, but some of them used to make pretty good money. The only case that know of, I had a fellow working for me by the name of Dabadie. He's dead now; in fact his wife lives over on Riverside Avenue. He needed some money, and I think I lent him \$330. He bought furniture or something; he had just got married. I let him have the money, and the next day he came to me and gave it back. He said, "Well George, I didn't use it." I asked, "No? What's the matter?" "Well," he said, "I vent over to Chinatown last night, and I got the six spot, so I got about \$400."

Calciano: Oh my!

Cardiff: He got just enough to pay his bills.

Calciano: Is that a particular kind of gambling game or ...

Cardiff: Yes, it was. I don't know just how it went, but they have spots on cards, you know, and they mark so many spots you see. Then *they* have a drawing, and if you get so many spots you get paid for it. If you happen to hit, say, six spots, why you get quite a lot you see.

Calciano: It sounds like Keno. Is that what it was called?

Cardiff: It might be; I don't know. It was a spot game.

Calciano: Did the Chinese run the gambling houses?

Cardiff: Yes. Oh they made them pay well for it, the authorities did, you know.

Calciano: Oh, they had to pay ...

Cardiff: Oh yes, they were protected you know.

Calciano: Oh really?

Cardiff: Oh yes, at that time they were all protected.

Otherwise, if they didn't come through, why they could go to work and arrest them. Oh yes, some *of* these police officers, and chief of police and all, well they lived high. Why the chief of police was taken up several times. They caught him and sent him to San Quentin, I think, for a year. Oh yes, there was a lot of that going on.

Calciano: Was there much prostitution in this city?

Cardiff: Oh yes.

Calciano: Was there any one area that was notorious, or was it just all over the town?

Cardiff: Oh I don't know. No, I understood they had houses different places, you know. Take right where the Palomar Hotel is right now, that was a two-story building, and I remember the upstairs of that was a high-tone place. I think a dozen girls or so were up in there you know. Of course there was a back entrance in there. You could come in off of Front Street and go up.

#### The Japanese

Calciano: The Japanese people immigrated after the Chinese, didn't they?

Cardiff: Yes, they came in here afterwards, yes. Quite a number of Filipinos came in here too, you know, to work. They were allowed in, I think. There are still quite a few Filipinos -- in fact this fellow Pfyffer that's got these vegetables along up the coast here, why he has quite a few Filipinos that work for him.

Calciano: Oh, really? To take care of the crops?

Cardiff: Yes. And since the braceros are going, now he's

getting more Filipinos in to help.

Calciano: The Japanese came into the Watsonville area more than the Santa Cruz area, didn't they?

Cardiff: Yes, I'd say probably they did. There were more Chinese here, I think, than Japanese. There were very few Japanese at one time. Mostly Chinese.

Calciano: One reads in the history books quite a bit about the Japanese influx between 1900 and 1920. There was quite a bit of feeling about it. Was there much racial excitement in Santa Cruz, or not?

Cardiff: No, I don't remember if there was.

Calciano: Was there very much seasonal labor in Santa Cruz back years ago?

Cardiff: I don't think so. Never had any trouble. Never heard anything about people being out of jobs or anything. They could always get work, I think. If they wanted work, they could always get something to do.

Calciano: Santa Cruz was never as much of an agricultural area as ...

Cardiff: No, not so very much. Still there was quite a lot of it around in the country too, you know. Of course Watsonville was more so. They had the apple orchards, and they got to raising lettuce over there too.

WINE, WHISKEY, AND BEERWine-making

Calciano: There was some growing of wine grapes around here, wasn't there?

Cardiff: Oh yes. This was a great place for wine grapes. The hills were full of wine grapes all over. Right at the top of Empire Grade here, there was a big winery, you know.

Calciano: Whose winery was that?

Cardiff: It was called the Ben Lomond Winery.

Calciano: There aren't as many grapes growing now, are there?

Cardiff: No, no. I know there are very few grapes raised.

Calciano: I understand that wineries down in the interior valleys would buy grapes from our mountain vineyards in order to add a certain flavor to their wine. Is that right?

Cardiff: Yes, I think that is true. And you know, there are quite a few of these Italians here. You see nearly all the Italians make their own wine here, even now, the older type wines. That is, they make it just for their own use. They don't make lots. I think that quite a number of them buy some grapes, have some brought in from the Valley, and mix in with the grapes from here. Now three or four of them get together and buy up

three or four tons, and when they get them over here, they each take their share. Then they have a press that they put the wine through, you know, to press it and take the juice out of it. They rent that. Somebody owns it around here. These fellows just rent it you know. A couple of hours is all it'd take to run through enough to do.

Calciano: For a year's supply?

Cardiff: Yes. That reminds me of a real odd experience I had up here on Graham hill. We owned that property up there. We had a fellow by the name of Portuguee Joe at least that was what he was known by. And I was up there one day and went up there to collect rent or something. I drove up there and got to the house and asked his wife if Joe was around. She said he was out in the barn. So I told her I'd go out there and see him. So I went out to where he was in the barn, and he had a big tub just full of grapes. He had his pants rolled up just as far as he could get them, and he was tromping them out with his feet.

Calciano: Oh my.

Cardiff: And every time he lifted his leg up like this, why the flies would just cover it; and as he'd put it down, they'd all go over to the other leg, you know. And

they would just fly back and forth. I went in there, and of course I saw that, and when he saw me he took an old barley sack and stepped out and wiped his feet and legs off and put on his shoes. He left his legs bare, and we went into the house, I guess to pay me. We went into the house, and he wanted to give me a glass of wine. I told him no, that it was shortly after dinner and I never drank any in the afternoon. Well, I could never drink any of his wine afterwards. Boy oh boy, there was a million flies! You couldn't see his leg. When he would raise his Leg up like that, and they'd fly over to it, you couldn't see his leg for the flies; it was a solid mass of flies. Boy, it must have been good wine with all those files mashed into it and all.

Calciano: After hearing this, I don't think I'll ever drink any home brew either!

Cardiff: I never drank any more of Portuguee Joe's wine. We have a friend over here on the street who makes his own wine. He gets a machine to crush it and all. There's a fellow who lives up on Graham Hill; he makes awful good wine. We have him to dinner every once in a while and he brings down a bottle of his wine.

Saloons

Calciano: I have noticed an awful lot of saloons on the old maps of Santa Cruz.

Cardiff: Oh yes, the town had a saloon pretty near every other building.

Calciano: Was there enough business to keep them going?

Cardiff: Oh yes, there seemed to be plenty of business for them all.

Calciano: Were any of them the kind of saloons that you see in Western movies? The kind that has a man at the piano and a lady walking around?

Cardiff: Well I was a young fellow, and I never patronized those places at that time. I guess I was a good boy. I don't know, I got in with a pretty good crowd here and nice families. I was alone and had to make my own living working. The boys and girls I got in with were all nice, from nice families, and all went straight. If a person was seen going into a saloon at that time, you know, why their reputation was ruined.

Calciano: Oh really!

Cardiff: Yes. That was a good many years ago. But that was true you know. Some of the young fellows hung on around the saloons, and they were looked down on.



Prohibition

Calciano: If people wanted to drink socially at home, where would they buy their liquor? Were there liquor stores, or did they have to go to a saloon to buy it?

Cardiff: Oh yes, they had bars, I guess. I guess they could buy it anyplace, whether it had a license or not. I guess they did; I don't know anything about that. Oh yes, they could get all the liquor they wanted to drink. But there wasn't the drinking here until after the First World War. Until prohibition into effect.

Calciano: That's when it started?

Cardiff: Prohibition was what put drinking here and started these cocktail parties. I never drank a cocktail in my life until after the First World War.

Calciano: My goodness. Well did the families like the Hihns and the Chaces and so forth drink socially at all?

Cardiff: No. No liquor at all. We never had liquor at our parties. Never did till late years. We had a crowd here, a club that you might say ran together, and we never thought of having a drink before dinner. Never did. If we had people come to the house, come to our house, why we never would think of serving anything. After the First World War, why that was the whole thing. Yes. Wouldn't think of doing otherwise now. I

think that's the only time we ever serve any of it though, is when we have company.

Calciano: So Prohibition made quite an impact on Santa Cruz?

Cardiff: Yes. Yes it did. People made their own gin and their own liquor, made their own alcohol.

Calciano: Did you ever see anybody make any?

Cardiff: Oh yes.

Calciano: How did they do it?

Cardiff: Well, they had a still; they'd distill it, you know, distill wine.

Calciano: In their back bedroom or where?

Cardiff: They'd take the alcohol out of the wine you know. They generally had it in the kitchen or someplace else. But afterwards, then they got more particular. But take it up here on the ranch, there was an old fellow they used to buy charcoal from; he made charcoal up there on the Scaroni ranch, and he had a still down there. He made charcoal as a blind; he used to sell liquor, alcohol.

Calciano: My. Were there a lot of speakeasies in town?

Cardiff: I don't know. No, I never knew anything about them. I don't think so. If there was, I never knew it. The crowd we ran with were a little different crowd, you know; they didn't drink liquor. They were more or less

businessmen and all, so they didn't patronize those places so very much.

Calciano: It certainly wasn't a very successful law, was it?

Cardiff: No, we never thought to have liquor until after Prohibition.

Calciano: Were most of the bootleggers like this man with the charcoal? People who lived out in the woods?

Cardiff: Oh, no. Generally these people would have winerie They'd have wine to sell, which they had a right to do, but they'd distill wine too, and that's how they got their alcohol.

Calciano: One didn't go into a store downtown and buy it, or anything?

Cardiff: Oh no.

#### Beer Breweries

Calciano: One thing I was wondering about: there used to be three beer breweries in Santa Cruz. Whatever happened to them?

Cardiff: The brewery business run out I guess, I don't know. Yes, we used to have several breweries here.

Calciano: Were they connected up with national concerns, or were they just small ones?

Cardiff: Oh, just small ones.

Calciano: Where did they get their hops?

Cardiff: No trouble about that I guess; there was lots of hops on the market.

Calciano: Oh really?

Mrs. C.: I have a whole fence full of hops out here.

Calciano: You're kidding!

Mrs. C.: They're awfully pretty, have you ever seen them grow?

Calciano: No.

Mrs. C.: When they gat in bloom on the side of the fence, they're awfully pretty.

Cardiff: One day I was out with Mr. Cowell and E. Clemens Horst who was the biggest hop man in the state and had been for years. I heard them talking and then Clemens Horst told Mr. Cowell, "Mr. Cowell, I consider that I hold the record of renting the same piece of land for cash rent for the most number of years of anybody in California." Cowell owned four hundred and fifty some odd acres just outside of Sacramento and that was a hop farm.

Calciano: Oh really?

Cardiff: Four hundred and some odd acres. And Horst had rented that from Cowell for, I think at that time it was forty some odd years. He paid Cowell cash rent for it

every year. And he said, "I will keep on renting it from you as long as you rent it to me, Harry." Of course Horst is dead now, and the property has been sold for a subdivision; it was right outside Sacramento, just outside the city of Sacramento, and it's now a subdivision and all covered with houses, the whole thing.

Calciano: I always thought that hops were grown in the Middle West.

Cardiff: Oh this E. Clemens Horst, he had other fields besides this one of Cowell's. They had poles up all over; I guess they must have been ten to twelve feet tall. The hops run up them, you know, and just hang down off of those poles. Some people string strings across from the poles that the hops hang on to. And then they'd take and harvest them; and they had kilns, hop kilns, that they dried them in. Hot air someway circulated through and dried the hops. And then they baled them and sold them in the market. It was quite an industry.

Calciano: How interesting. When did the breweries fold up in Santa Cruz?

Cardiff: Oh, I don't think there's been a brewery here for forty years.

Calciano: Oh really?

Cardiff: I don't know. Yes, I guess it's been forty years since they've had one here. They had one way down here in back of the Central Supply, back there by Neary's Lagoon. I've forgotten the street. And there was one over on the corner of Ocean and Soquel.

Calciano: Oh, that's right.

Cardiff: There is some sort of a drive-in there now. It's a good many years since that left because a couple of boys, the Burnett brothers, had a feed store there for a good many years, and I think both of the boys are dead. So I think it's maybe forty years or more since that was in operation.

#### ENTERTAINMENT

##### The Opera House

Calciano: What did people do in the 1890s and 1900s for entertainment?

Cardiff: Oh, I don't know. They had an old opera house here, and they used to have plays in it every once in a while. That was before we moved down here. We came back to Santa Cruz about 1908. But they seemed to have plenty of amusements.

Calciano: Did you ever go to the old opera house during the

years before you left Santa Cruz?

Cardiff: Oh yes, I used to go every once in a while. They had plays there.

Calciano: Were they pretty good plays, or fairly average?

Cardiff: No, regular companies would come in, you know, and put on a play.

Calciano: Was the opera house mainly a place for the upper class of Santa Cruz, or did everybody go?

Cardiff: Anybody could go. They had an upstairs that the kids would all go up to, you know, the balcony.

Calciano: Was there ever any vaudeville in Santa Cruz?

Cardiff: No, they didn't have much vaudeville. We used to have to go to San Francisco for vaudeville. Every time old Ferris Hartman would show up in San Francisco, I always went up to see him. He was the old Scotch singer, you know. Ferris Hartman had a troupe; he and this woman that acted with him, Annie Myers. I remember the two of them. And then Colt Dill came there to San Francisco and we went up to that. We used to go to those different shows you know, just like a lot of them do today.

Mrs. C.: We used to have some swanky parties here, but the town has grown so big that everybody has kind of their own

little group.

Cardiff: We had a regular dancing club here in our younger days, and every year we'd have about, oh, I've forgotten. How many dances would we have during the winter months?

Mrs. C.: Oh, I don't know. Four I guess. They were all full dress. The men would wear white gloves and tails and the ladies wore long dresses.

Calciano: Oh my!

Cardiff: Oh yes. I've still got my tails, and my white gloves are still in the other room.

Calciano: This was after you were married, wasn't it?

Cardiff: Oh yes.

Mrs. C.: Oh yes, we used to have some wonderful parties.

Calciano: Were there any bands in town?

Cardiff: Yes, yes. George Hastings had a band. I saw a picture of them a short time ago in the Sentinel. Of course all the old-timers were in that band. I only know of one, now, and he is still here. He plays for the Elks now -- he's pretty well along in years. I can't think of his name now, but he was in Hastings band when he was just a boy. And there is a girl here who lives up on High Street; she was the only girl in the band. She used to wear a sort of a skirt, a blue skirt, and it



came about half way between her knees and her feet.  
People used to question it, you know. They used to  
wonder at that short dress. (Laughter)

Calciano: Scandalous!

Cardiff: Yes.

#### Venetian Water Carnivals

Calciano: Did they have Venetian water carnivals here for a few  
years?

Cardiff: Yes.

Calciano: Were they quite sizable festivals?

Mrs. C.: Oh. yes!

Cardiff: Yes, they'd dam the river up, you know, and have boats  
on the river there.

Mrs. C.: I remember one year Clara Walti was queen, and there  
were four of us from Santa Cruz that were her  
attendants. We had very pretty clothes, and I was one  
of the attendants.

Cardiff: But Clara Walti, Clara Pearson now, she still lives  
here in Santa Cruz. She was queen of the last carnival  
they had.

Calciano: Why did they stop having the Carnivals?

Cardiff: Oh, I don't know. Financially it was no success; it

cost too much money. I helped it back there; I furnished lumber for seats. They had seats along the river you know, and they charged admission for seats to see the Carnival. They thought they'd make some money out of them, but instead of that they didn't get enough money to pay for the lumber. Of course I took the lumber back. I was in the lumber business at the time, so I took the lumber back.

Calciano: What year did they stop?

Cardiff: Oh, I don't know. That'd be about 1910 or 1911, or somewhere around in there, 1912 maybe.

Calciano: Did they have any chautauquas here in the Santa Cruz area?

Cardiff: Never known any. I don't know that there ever were.

Calciano: Somebody told me that they had some at Walnut and Chestnut Streets. They put a tent at Walnut and Chestnut. It might have been during the years you were away from Santa Cruz.

Cardiff: No, I don't know that they had any chautauquas here. The only chautauqua I ever attended, my wife and one time were up in Shasta Retreat, up above Dunsmuir, spending a couple of weeks. I owned a cabin up there. We took a train one morning and went over the mountain into Oregon, into Medford. We spent the afternoon

there and there was a chautauqua; it was William Jennings Bryan who was the speaker.

Calciano: Oh?

Cardiff: So we attended that. That was the only chautauqua I ever attended.

Calciano: He must have been quite something to hear, wasn't he?

Cardiff: Oh yes, he was a dynamic speaker.

Calciano: About what year was that?

Cardiff: Oh, that was along about 1907 or 1908 -- 1908 I guess.

Calciano: Did the people of Santa Cruz do much in the way of family picnics?

Cardiff: Oh, I suppose so; I don't know. I never heard of very much. Of course we didn't have a place to picnic like we had after I went to work for Cowell. Then we had the ranch here you know. Of course we always knew the superintendent who was here before, Frank George and his wife. We used to come up and 'see them quite a little. But I went to work for Cowell in '25, and of course after '25, why I had access to everything then you know. I used to go horseback riding, and we'd go out picnicking.

Calciano: Apparently there was a lot of camping done around the turn of the century. Is that right?

Cardiff: I don't know about that. In the summertime people used to come over from San Jose and San Francisco and get cabins and such as that. Yes, you might call it camping. They'd spend a month or two at a time. They'd bring their rigs with them and such as that, you know.

Mineral Baths

Calciano: From what I've read, there were a number of mineral springs and health spas around the county late in the last century. Were places to bathe quite popular back then?.

Cardiff: Oh yes. The Paraiso Springs seemed to be about the most popular one, and Tassajara Springs over in Monterey County, it was very popular. The railroad stopped at Soledad in earlier days, and that was the end of the road to go up to Paraiso Springs. They used to run a stage from where the train had come in up to the Paraiso Springs.

Calciano: Where were these springs?

Cardiff: Out of Soledad; I'd guess it was ten or twelve miles up there. I remember when I was a young fellow, was there in Soledad when the stage came in, six horses and a stagecoach, and they had come into Soledad to meet the train. And the driver, when he just hit the outskirts of Soledad he started the horses on a run,

and he came down the main street, all six horses on the run you know, and swung around in front of the depot and then came to a stop. It used to be quite a sight; I remember that. A fellow by the name of Shady Brown was the driver. And afterwards, when my brother and I had the livery stable (it was just about that time or shortly afterwards), why when we'd send out a six-in-hand from the livery stable, Shady Brown would drive it for us. He came to Santa Cruz to live right after that. He was a six-horse driver, a wonderful teamster. But Soledad was the town that had those springs. And then they had the Tassajara Springs which were out of Salinas. A great many people used to go there, and that's just a mineral springs.

Calciano: Were there any up in the northern part of our county?

Cardiff: No. That was over in Monterey County. I never knew of any springs in our county; I don't remember any whether there were or not, I couldn't say. I don't think there were any here that were at all popular; nothing like those two. Most of the springs were up in the northern part of the state, like Richardson Springs out at Chico. It was a very popular place. I was there as a young fellow, spent some time there. In the early days here, you know, in the Sacramento

Valley, there were an awful lot of people had malaria, and these springs were supposed to be good for malaria.

Calciano: They were all hot springs?

Cardiff: Yes, yes, the water was quite hot. Natural heat. There's nothing like that in Santa Cruz county that I ever remember.

#### Resort Hotels

Calciano: What were some of the fashionable resort hotels here in the '90's, and around the turn of the century?

Cardiff: Well, the Sea Beach Hotel; I clerked there the last summer it was there.

Calciano: Oh, really?

Cardiff: Yes, the summer of 1895.

Calciano: Did it burn?

Cardiff: Yes, it burned down.

Mrs. C.: That was really a very ritzy place.

Cardiff: Yes, that was a ritzy place. You see we had the livery stables at the time, and the owner of the Beach Note, the fellow in charge of it, he hired a man to work in the livery stable in my place, and I clerked there in the hotel for him. I used to have charge of the dances

at night. They had a hall there, and they used to have music. I had charge of the dances there for the guests.

Mrs. C.: But he danced all the time.

Calciano: You danced? (Laughter)

Cardiff: I had a pretty good time -- that was part of my duty. Then of course I clerked in the afternoons when they'd nearly all be on the beach. There was about three or four hundred in the hotel, and they'd be at the beach in the afternoon.

Calciano: How could you do both the livery business and the work in the Sea Beach? Wasn't there a conflict there?

Cardiff: No. You see they used a lot of livery in the hotel, so I was there to take care of them, to give them horses. I could call up the stable and know what was going on.

Calciano: I see.

Cardiff: And in that way I took care of the livery end of the hotel. At that time it was a big business, because, well, lots of times picnic parties would go out. They'd get the four-in-hand to carry all they had there and go out for the day to picnic somewhere, you know. Well, I'd take care of that. That was all arranged.

Calciano: What exactly were your duties at night, then?

Cardiff: I ran the dances.

Calciano: Yes, but what were you supposed to be doing instead of dancing?

Cardiff: Oh, well, sort of manager of the dances. I made arrangements about the music. That is, I'd find out what the guests would want and then make the requests and such as that. I'd tell the musicians what they wanted them to play, and all. It was just a case of coordination, you might say.

Calciano: You also did the livery business for the Ocean House, didn't you?

Cardiff: Oh, yes. Well, that was in the Wintertime. In the wintertime, you see, the Sea Beach would close. It only ran about three months in the summer. But yes, we had the bus. At that time there were about five or six passenger trains that came in every day and went out, you see, and we had to have a bus take the passengers from the train up to the hotel and from the hotel back again. The Ocean House was the leading hotel at that time.

Calciano: Oh it was? Was it a big hotel, or just exclusive?

Cardiff: Oh, they had a lot of rooms there, and it was quite a well run hotel.



Calciano: How did they run them then? Quite differently from now? Did they have bellhops and ...

Cardiff: Oh yes, they had bellhops.

Calciano: Did they give more service than now?

Cardiff: You were pretty well taken care of; they were always right there to help. Oh, about like it's like now though, looking for tips you know.

Calciano: Speaking of big hotels, the St. George Hotel was fairly important, wasn't it?

Cardiff: Oh yes, and the St. George is still here. It belongs to the Hotalings of San Francisco.

Calciano: Was it considered one of the best hotels in town?

Cardiff: Oh probably the Palomar was the best hotel. But the St. George was until the Palomar was built. So then the Palomar took its place.

Calciano: Do you remember the Pope House?

Cardiff: The Pope House? I tore it down.

Calciano: You tore it down? My goodness. When was that?

Cardiff: It was after 1913 I guess, because I went on as a director of the bank in 1913. The bank had to take over that property, so they had me tend to the tearing down. I had it torn down, and they sold what they could of it for the bank. The bank had a loan on it.

Calciano: Who owned it?

Cardiff: Mrs. Pope.

Calciano: Still the Pope family?

Cardiff: I guess it was. Oh it used to be a very fancy hotel. They had a lot of cottages there, and people would come down and stay all summer long -- people from San Francisco and other places. Yes, we took and tore all the buildings down, and the cashier of the bank and I laid out that tract now, those lots, to get all we could out of selling them.

Calciano: Oh. Where was it? What street?

Cardiff: Well, It was on the corner of King and Mission.

Calciano: What happened to the Pope family?

Cardiff: Well, she had no family. I think she had a couple of girls that she'd adopted. You know on Mission Street there was an old tree, a very big heavy tree, and they had to have it cut down to make room to get through there, and they had to get the roots out. This other man was digging it and digging it, and it was an awful job. He happened to be a powder man; he knew how to handle powder, so he said that he would put a blast in it. So I said all right. That was before we had to have any permits or anything. So he put a blast in it,

and that root went out, and it went across the street. It went across Mission Street and just missed a big new house. Fred Baldwin had just built a new home there (it's an old home now), and it went between that and his stable and landed way over there.

Calciano: Oh, for goodness sakes.

Cardiff: Oh, that scared me nearly to death. I had told him to go ahead and do it. It wouldn't be allowed at all now, you know.

Calciano: It's no wonder that you were scared! You know, there are two other places I've also heard mention of -- the Swiss Hotel and the Garibaldi. Were they less fashionable?

Mrs. C.: Oh, yes.

Calciano: They were the workingmen's hotels?

Cardiff: Yes. We used to get Italian dinners there, raviolis and all that, you know. Crowds would go over there and all. Then after, when Prohibition went into effect (of course that was later years), they had a place you could go and get your drinks and everything, bootleg lots of bootleggers. So they had a big business.

Mrs. C.: That Swiss Hotel was quite a place. That's where everybody used to get their help. They'd come from

Italy to there, and you'd tell them what you wanted, and they'd find you a girl.

Calciano: Was the Railroad Exchange also a workingman's hotel?

Cardiff: The Railroad Exchange? Yes. That was right next to the depot. Yes, that was a tough place down there.

Calciano: Oh really?

Mrs. C.: All the men drinking. But that Swiss Hotel was pretty good. They gave wonderful meals, and they were clean. But they weren't what you'd call high class.

Calciano: Were boardinghouses common back then?

Cardiff: Yes, I guess so.

Mrs. C.: Oh yes, they were quite common in Santa Cruz when we first came here, but they're outmoded now. There's no such a thing as a boardinghouse any more. They have hotels. Some of these Italian hotels take them.

Calciano: If a man were widowed and had children, would he hire a housekeeper or live in a boardinghouse?

Mrs. C.: Oh, he'd hire a housekeeper, and try and marry again.

Calciano: I guess that would be the best solution! Incidentally, what was the Wilkins House?

Cardiff: Wilkins House? That was a hotel, or a rooming house, down on Pacific Avenue, pretty near where Cathcart comes in to Pacific Avenue, tight in there.

Calciano: What kind of people did it cater to?

Cardiff: Oh, it had a nice class of people. Oh, yes, a good class. There were a couple of daughters there, or step-daughters, that were very prominent girls.

Calciano: What was the Duncan house?

Cardiff: That's where the Morris Abrams' store is today; it was upstairs there.

Calciano: Oh. What was it?

Cardiff: It was a rooming house. People had rooms there.

Mrs. C.: Those rooming houses were kind of tough places. People would go up there and get a room so they wouldn't be caught you know.

Cardiff: Nearly all the stores had rooms upstairs.

Calciano: Oh really.

#### SANTA CRUZ IN THE 1890s

##### The 1894 Fire

Calciano: I wonder if you could describe some of the businesses in the downtown area during the nineties.

Cardiff: All right.

Calciano: I have some old maps here that show the downtown area.

(Looking At Maps)

Cardiff: See Chinatown was all down here on Front Street.

Calciano: Oh. All along here?

Cardiff: Yes, in 1894 though, they had a fire, and it just wiped that whole thing out.

Calciano: Oh really? What happened?

Cardiff: It was a big fire, and it also wiped out the Courthouse, and all the buildings there where the County Bank is. That whole block burnt down clear up to, well, the St. George Hotel; it took that in too.

Calciano: It burned that too?

Cardiff: Yes, most of it.

Calciano: Do you know what started the fire?

Cardiff: Yes. There was a fellow by the name of Finkeldey; it started in his store. And afterwards he never came out in public; we never saw him again. It just broke his heart.

Calciano: Oh really?

Cardiff: Stella Finkeldey was his daughter. She was a school-teacher here, never married. She died here four or five years ago, a very old lady.

Calciano: Where was his store?

Cardiff: Well, it was on Pacific Avenue.

Calciano: A dry goods store, or what?

Cardiff: I guess it must have been; I don't remember just what it was. I know it was in Finkeldey's store where it started. They say that old man Finkeldey never appeared in public again. I guess he felt responsible for it probably. But it just wiped out half the town. It took the Courthouse, and I guess part of the Odd Fellows Building was gutted, and it took all down Front Street over there, Chinatown, cleaned that all out. They ran a train over from San Jose with a fire department.

Calciano: Oh really?

Cardiff: Yes. It came in here, and I remember those horses. They had horses on the cars that they unloaded, and the horses came up Front Street. It was just blazing, fire hot and everything, and those horses whisked that fire engine right up through the fire and never hesitated. I remember that. Yes, pulling the fire engine.

Calciano: How long did it burn?

Cardiff: Most of the night; it was in the night.

Calciano: Were your stables hurt?

Cardiff: No, no, we were way down the avenue.

Calciano: Here's Bonner Stables at the end of Elm.

Cardiff: That's it.

Calciano: Was that your stable?

Cardiff: That's it, yes, it was the Bonner Stables.

Calciano: What's this pavilion off Bridge Street? Bridge Street is now Soquel, isn't it?

Cardiff: Yes. Oh, the mechanics pavilion, that was sort of a big hall back there on the corner of Front Street and Soquel. That's where they used to hold their crowds, you know. Used to dance in that building, too.

Calciano: This building behind it says "stalls." Is that where they put their horses?

Cardiff: Yes, there was a livery stable back there. Yes, that belonged to Bill Elson; Elson Stables was right in there. This pavilion burned down one night in a big fire. I think that there had been a party earlier in the night there.

Calciano: What year was that?

Cardiff: Oh, that must have been along about in 1900 or earlier than 1900, I guess.

Dr. Crystal's Office

Cardiff: Here's where Tanner's drugstore was. There was a doctor by the name of Crystal. He had his doctor's office in with the drugstore.



Calciano: Right in with the drugstore? Wasn't that rather unusual?

Cardiff: No, no. I think nearly all of the druggists had a doctor around there.

Calciano: Oh really? Real M.D.'s?

Cardiff: Yes, all M.D.'s. Those were old-timers, you know. They weren't like the doctors there are today. You know at that time, if anything happened, you just got a standard remedy. Like I heard somebody say when some fellow broke his leg and they took him to the doctor, he said, "I'll tell you what the doctor will prescribe. He'll give him a dose of calomel."

(Laughter) And sure enough he did! He gave him a dose of calomel.

Calciano: Oh no. For a broken leg!

Cardiff: That was about all the doctors at that time used to do you know. "Dr. Calomel." At that time everybody who knew anything at all, the first thing they did if they got sick was take calomel. At that time you know, this country here had an awful lot of ague -- chills and fever. And that was what they prescribed. They'd take and give you a big dose of calomel. I had many of them as a boy. A big dose of calomel and a bottle of some fizz stuff to take afterwards. That's quite a

prominent drug, you know. I think even today the doctors prescribe it. But that was the only thing that would knock this chills and fever. You know it used to be that a person would take a chill and just shake and everything, and when it'd break, then he'd have a fever, a high fever afterwards. That's the ague. And you never went to the doctor; you just went to a drugstore and told them you had a chill, They'd give you a dose of calomel and one of these bottles of fizz, soda pop, to follow up the Calomel, you see. And that was the prescription. You could get it in any drugstore; I got some.

Calciano: They used to sell a lot of paregoric too, didn't they?

Cardiff: Yes. That was for children, I think. Children's paregoric. A fellow by the name of Dave Cohen had a cigar store over here on the avenue. That was a great place for all the fellows to congregate, and they used to shake dice for cigars and things like that. He had quite a gathering of businessmen, you know. When they had-a few minutes off they'd go to Cohen's and shake dice and pay for each other's cigars.

#### Fashionable Residential Streets

Calciano: What was the most fashionable street to live on when you first came in 1890? Where were the big homes?

Cardiff: Mostly down on the flat. Down along on Chestnut Avenue, between there and Pacific Avenue.

Calciano: Right near the main street then?

Cardiff: Oh, yes. That's where most people preferred. The big businessmen, you might say, preferred to be there. Some lived across the river; there were some big houses over there. There's still some of those old houses over there yet on Ocean View Avenue.

Calciano: Did most of the people have their own horses back then, in barns behind their houses?

Cardiff: Oh, they had stables and everything. In fact, they all had their own stables.

Calciano: How big would the lot usually be? Now you see houses crowded in on each side of the old homes.

Cardiff: Oh, no, no. They were probably on half an acre or more. Always seemed to be plenty of room around the houses.

Calciano: Where did the fashionable area of town shift to when automobiles became common?

Cardiff: Well, after that King Street began to build up.

Calciano: King Street?

Cardiff: Yes. It's all nice houses up in there now.

Calciano: Oh. Now, I guess, Pasatiempo is the fashionable area, isn't it?

Cardiff: Yes, they've been building over there in late years. That's now supposed to be the fashionable part of Santa Cruz.

Calciano: Where did you live before you moved to the ranch here?

Cardiff: Well, in several places. The first place I bought was over on Wood Street. We had a place over there. We sold that and bought a place out in Seacliff. Know where the ship is?

Calciano: Yes.

Cardiff: Well, we owned that house right up on the point, right up on the hill overlooking the ship. I owned that house there for a number of years. We were there during the time of the Second World War, and we had blackouts you know.

Calciano: Did you build that house?

Cardiff: No, no, I bought it. We moved out there because I wanted to get away from getting in things too deep here in Santa Cruz. Then the war came and the doctor told me, "You ought to get close to town where you can get a doctor. You can never tell. At your age you should be close to town." So we lived there for nine years, and then we rented over on East Santa Cruz. We

were there for a number of years. Then when Frank George died we moved in here.

Calciano: What was the year that you moved from Seacliff?

Cardiff: Oh, I don't know. Let's see, it must be seventeen years ago.

Calciano: That was considered pretty far out, wasn't it? Not many Santa Cruz people lived out in Aptos and Seacliff at that time, did they?

Cardiff: No. There was hardly anybody there when we were there.

Calciano: Was your house right on the cliff?

Cardiff: Yes. Yes, right out on the point, on the right-hand side as you went towards the ship. I was one of the few people that was fortunate in the sewage business. The man that owned this place before we did was a well-driller. He drilled a hole out in the front yard, a 14 inch hole, clear down to the ocean level. So they ran the sewers and everything right into that hole. Then he had it covered up, so he had no trouble with the sewage.

Calciano: So you never had to get a septic tank?

Cardiff: No, no trouble at all. That was one of the troubles there with Seacliff; there was no sewage. Terrible.

#### Floods

Calciano: Switching back to Santa Cruz, we've all heard of the

1955 flood in Santa Cruz. Were there a lot of other bad floods periodically through the years, or not?

Cardiff: The first flood that I ever remember was in 1894. I think it was probably just as big a flood as any of them. That year they had a 120 inches of rain reported in Boulder Creek.

Calciano: My goodness!

Cardiff: And the water! I was in the livery business at the time, and I was out that night with the team. The train coming over from Watsonville wouldn't come across the bridge into Santa Cruz. In fact the first train didn't come from Watsonville at all. They wouldn't come through; they just sent a bus with the people from Watsonville, and we took our bus and went over and met them at Aptos.

Calciano: Oh.

Cardiff: We brought the passengers from Aptos in -- that was the first bus. That was after the flood of course. While the flood was on, we couldn't get through at all, but this was after the flood. That was the first group of people who got into Santa Cruz. Well, then the train got to coming as far as Seabright, but the train wouldn't come across the bridge down there. It wouldn't cross the San Lorenzo into Santa Cruz. I took

the bus and went over to Seabright to bring the passengers in. And as I went out of Santa Cruz, between where the Bank of America is now and the Soquel bridge, along Front Street, the water was right up on the sides of the horses going through there; they were almost swimming.

Calciano: My goodness.

Cardiff: It was running down Front Street there towards the ocean. That was the big flood of 1894. Now afterwards there was another flood; I've forgotten just what year it was because it wasn't as big as that. But that time the water went there where the post office is. The water came down River Street and came right around the post office. It went right through there and way back in by Chestnut Avenue where the railroad is. The water ran down from there through that way; that was lower ground. I've forgotten now just what the circumstances were, or why I was so impressed with it. Then there was this one here in '55. Those are the three floods that I knew.

Calciano: About what year was the middle one, do you remember?

Cardiff: I don't remember; it was probably around in the early 1900s sometime I suppose. I've forgotten now. I predict we'll have another one -- it'll happen again

when they have big rains. Sometimes I've known it here where we've had rain for forty days. We'd have some rain every day, some time during the day, and the ground would get thoroughly soaked with water. Then would come a big heavy rain up in the San Lorenzo Valley. Everything would be full of water, and of course this big rain would have to run off, so it would come down the San Lorenzo. When that happens and it hits Santa Cruz, if we have a high tide it backs the water up there at the mouth and it can't get out, so consequently it's got to go around through Santa Cruz.

Calciano: Oh my.

Cardiff: Now that's what happened in '55.

Calciano: The high tide did it?

Cardiff: High tide. But the tide goes down generally in five or six or seven hours and it all runs off. You wouldn't know that you've had a flood hardly, except that everybody's basement is full of water and such as that. And then there's the damage left. But that's why it runs off quickly. In fact I remember that time was speaking about, when I went through from the Bank of America across the Sequel bridge there and the water was up on the sides of the horses. When I came back



about two hours later, why it was just a little trickle running down Front Street. It had all run off -- the tide had gone down and it had run out. The high tide, you see, had backed it right up pretty near to Water Street.

#### Early Automobiles

Calciano: When you mentioned your horse-drawn bus taking passengers across the San Lorenzo, I remembered that I've been wanting to ask you about the first cars to appear in Santa Cruz.

Cardiff: Old Mel Wilder had the first car here. It was an old Knox. They've still got it up there on their ranch, in the shed. I saw it one day not very long ago; Delos showed it to me. It's still running too, he tells me. Of course the tires have deteriorated, so he's got it up on blocks. But it was made about 1901 I think. Yes, I remember I rode in it one day. They had a parade downtown here, and Mel brought it down. His father and Tom McCreary, who was cashier of the First National Bank here, and I, all rode in it. The extra seat was up in front, and we sat on that seat as we came down Pacific Avenue in the parade. I'll never forget that - - we still have a picture of it. That was about 1904 I

guess. I think that was before I had mine.

Calciano: When did you get your first car?

Cardiff: I came here with my first one in 1904, and there was an old fellow here that had a candy store. He had a little car that he was running around in -- quite a curiosity. And then before that a couple of the doctors and my partner Houghten had cars. He brought a White Steamer from the East.

Mrs. C.: George's was quite curious. That's the summer I met him; I didn't know him, but I was down here. His sister-in-law had a sort of a hotel and I was staying there. It was two or three years later that we became interested.

Calciano: You were just visiting when you had this car down here in 1904?

Cardiff: Yes. In 1904 I brought my car down here; the first two-cylinder in Santa Cruz. And my brother (he was an electrician here and had charge of the city electric works), he had a one-cylinder Rambler. Those were among the first cars. A fellow by the name of Harry Irish had a car too. That was about all the cars that were here, I guess.

Calciano: What kind was yours?

Cardiff: A Rambler. Yes, I drove it down from up in Glenn County; I was living up in Glenn County at the time. I bought it up there in the Sacramento Valley, and I was a widower at the time. I drove it down, and my sister-in-law came with me. It took us three days to get down here. We came to Sacramento one day, came to San Jose the next, and came down here the third.

Calciano: Did you come around by Watsonville?

Cardiff: Yes. We weren't allowed to come over the mountains.

Mrs. C.: We had lots of fun. We used to scare the cows. Before we were married he used to take me out and it was lots of fun. The cows in the fields, you know, would see this thing coming, and they would run! Oh, and the chickens would crow and run!

Cardiff: When we met horses, we'd have to get onto the side of the road until the lead horses passed the car. They were scared to death of a car.

Calciano: When you bought yours, did you think that the car would soon displace the horse?

Cardiff: No, never thought of it.

Calciano: Was it a novelty to you, or why did you buy it?

Cardiff: Well, I don't know. Of course the temptation was to grab anything at all you could get around in, you

know. You could drive teams, you know, if you had good driving horses, but to go to Chico, twenty-six miles, it was about a two or three hour drive. It would take all day to drive up and let your horse rest and then drive back. So with an automobile you could drive it in an hour or an hour and a half probably.

Calciano: How fast would the car go?

Cardiff: Oh, about twenty miles. That was pretty near the limit.

Calciano: It must have been pretty bumpy.

Cardiff: Yes it was. Oh there was no roads, you know. Just dirt roads, and the dirt just blew everywhere. You know, there was one thing I don't know whether you'd be interested in or not. I remember when I came here first in 1890, it was all the talk of the town. They had just built this railroad trough the mountains. It was a narrow-gauge road from San Jose over to Santa Cruz. They just got the narrow-gauge built, and they gave an excursion here in Santa Cruz. They didn't have any passenger cars, so they took flatcars and put rails around the edges and put seats on them. The excursion went up the hill; that'd be up past where the powder mill was, up by Rincon. It was going along this side of Rincon that the engine and cars jumped

the track and rolled right down the hill there. I don't remember whether there were several killed or what, but it was an awful accident. I have talked afterwards to some of the people who were in that accident, who were hurt but weren't killed. I suppose the papers will have a record of that. There is no doubt but what that was a terrible thing for the town.

Calciano: Thank you. I'll try to look it up sometime.

The Powder Works

Calciano: Speaking of terrible accidents, I understand the old powder works had several severe explosions.

Cardiff: Oh, yes. There was an accident up here where there were thirteen fellows killed. An explosion. I saw the corpses after they were in the undertakers. I went in there to see them -- I was only a young fellow then. The powder that was used in the First World War was made up here at the powder mill -- that is where Paradise Park is now. That was the California Powder Company. I saw the first prismatic powder, brown powder, that was ever manufactured. Every at midnight I would take a horse and buggy and go to a restaurant and get a lot of food and take it up to the fellows who were working there. The fellows were working all night long. You see they couldn't work on the

machinery in the daytime on account of the powder was very dangerous, you know. And at 6 o'clock when the powder mill would shut down, then these fellows from San Francisco that were making this machinery that would make this new powder, then they would start to work. They would work all night long and sleep in the daytime. So they were there, oh, I don't know, for a month or two, working on this machinery to make this powder. Anyway, I would take out dinner to the men at night, at midnight, and one night I went out there and they wouldn't stop. They were just getting ready to start the machine to make this first lot of powder. They never ate till about half past two, after they got the machine going. I stood there and watched them, and I saw the first prismatic powder that was made up there.

Calciano: What year was this?

Cardiff: Well, that'd be along about 1894 or '95.

Calciano: Later this mill was moved to Pinola, wasn't it?

Cardiff: Oh, yes, the Hercules Powder Works bought them out and moved it up there.

Calciano: Was it local people who started the powder works, or was it an outside company?

Cardiff: Oh, I don't know. I think Bernard Peyton was the man

who came here. He was the president of the California Powder Works Company. Now I don't know who financed it or anything, but his son, Bill, married one of these powder people back in Delaware, what's their name?

Calciano: Was it the DuPonts?

Cardiff: Yes, DuPont. Yes, he married one of the DuPont girls. Then the Peytons sold the California Powder Works. You see they used willow wood to make the powder out of. They got that soft willow up in that canyon there.

Calciano: Oh, I see.

Cardiff: That's what they made the base of the powder out of. Then, of course, they used it all up; consequently when there was no more of that wood there, they sold out. See?

Calciano: Yes.

Cardiff: Now, of course, it's Paradise Park. Masonic homes are in there.

SANTA CRUZ -- THEN AND NOW

The "Retirement" City

Calciano: Paradise Park is for retired Masons, isn't it?

Cardiff: That's right.

Calciano: When did Santa Cruz first become noted as a city of retired people?

Cardiff: Oh, I don't know. I guess probably the climate attracted them and it was a good place for people on limited means to live. Up to a number of years ago Santa Cruz was a really nice place to live on account of the climate. You see we never had very cold winters and not warm summers either. And people came here on account of the beach, you know. An awful lot of people would come to Santa Cruz and spend the summer months. In fact years ago people came from San Jose and brought their horses and carriages. They moved over here and lived for probably a month or so. It was the same thing with people from San Francisco. I remember some of these big people who came, like Charlie Fair. He was the son of Senator Fair who was a very prominent man, and he was a sort of a playboy. He used to come over here to Santa Cruz, he and his wife, and spend a month. They used to have a big dog, and they'd bring it down to the stable every night. I had a box stall that they put that dog in, and then he'd come down in the morning and get it. And they'd get a horse and carriage and use it for the daytime, just have it to drive around. They would drive down to the beach with it and such as that. But they lived in the hotel uptown. He and his wife, I think, were both killed



afterwards in an automobile accident back in Paris. That was just the time of the start of the automobiles, and of course he was wealthy, and his father was a millionaire, so he had one of these fast automobiles. He didn't make the turn or something, and hit an obstruction of some kind and they both were killed.

Calciano: Santa Cruz is still considered a resort town, but it doesn't seem to be until the forties that it acquired the reputation of a retirement city. I just wondered if you noticed when this change came?

Cardiff: I never realized that. Although when prices began going up and such as that, I heard lots of older people say, "Well we have a limited income. We came here and expected to live here, and now prices are going up; it's pretty hard." In fact right now you hear them talk about taxes getting so high and their income is limited. Those people sold their little homes and came here and retired and their income isn't enough, now, to pay these extra expenses. I think that this is true, probably. I've heard quite a number of people say that.

Social Welfare

Calciano: Was there ever very much poverty in Santa Cruz? Was there a poor side of town or a wrong side of the tracks or anything?

Cardiff: No, I don't know if there was. Everybody seemed to get along pretty good. I never knew of any hardships at all; of course there might have been some though.

Calciano: If a woman was widowed or something, who helped her family out? Did she have to depend on friends or her church, or was there some kind of organized welfare?

Cardiff: Well, they didn't have any welfare at all, at that time.

Calciano: What would a widow with five or six children do then?

Cardiff: She went out to work, and people gave her things. I guess there was just different people who would do something to keep them going. I knew at Christmastime they always fixed up a lot of baskets and things, you know, and gave it to the poor people. I remember that. But, I don't know, people seemed to get along pretty good. Take it at Christmastime, the Elks always do an awful lot of charity work, and I know they always went out and hunted poor families. They raised the funds and took the children and bought them clothes and shoes and such as that. Why they still do it now, but at that time that was about all I ever heard about

this Social Welfare. The organizations like the Elks and the other ones, the Salvation Army. We used to give a good deal to the Salvation Army, and they took care of nearly all charitable cases. Now, of course, with this Social Welfare, you know, the county takes care of it. It's got to be a big thing here in the county.

#### The Depression

Calciano: What happened to Santa Cruz during the Depression? How was this town affected?

Cardiff: I don't know. I couldn't say. One thing, it never did much as far as I was concerned. Of course we is knew there was a depression on, but Santa Cruz seemed to get through it without any trouble and all. I don't remember that it affected us so much.

Calciano: You were already working for Cowell then, weren't you?

Cardiff: Yes.

Calciano: So you didn't have to worry very much about your business falling off.

Cardiff: No, no. See I was working for salary and all, and of course I had no trouble at all about finances. I mean in running the business office you need money to meet all the expenses and everything, and the Cowell

Company supplied that. So I guess I didn't realize the importance of the depression like some others did, people who had their own businesses and everything. Of course as far as Cowell was concerned, why there never was any trouble with financing.

Calciano: Did you see a lot of people out of work in this area?

Cardiff: Well, I don't know. I don't think it was as bad then as it's been lately.

Calciano: Oh?

Cardiff: Of course I had no trouble like that because I had regular men, steady men and all, and I didn't know anything much about the unemployment.

Calciano: During the thirties there were a lot of social welfare schemes that went skipping through the state, such as "Ham and Eggs" and the Townsend Plan. Do you remember the "Thirty Dollars every Thursday" plan?

Cardiff: I heard about it, but I don't know anything about it, to tell you the truth.

Calciano: Or the Townsend Plan?

Cardiff: No, I don't know anything about it.

Calciano: So you wouldn't know how they affected Santa Cruz people? How popular they were?

Cardiff: No, no. I knew nothing about that at all. Of course

I've heard about "Ham and Eggs," but people seemed to get by. There didn't seem to be so many people in poverty or anything like that. I think it's worse right now than it was then, to tell you the truth -- I'd say so. This Social Welfare, I think, with the load that they've got now, it seems to me it's a whole lot worse than it has ever been. The people seemed to be all taken care of without any trouble.

#### Crime Rate

Calciano: Returning to the 1890s for a few minutes, was there very much crime then, do you think?

Cardiff: There didn't seem to be. I never heard of any crimes to amount to anything. Oh, there was always little things. I remember one instance, I often laugh about it. There was an old judge here, his name was Judge Craighill. He's been dead a great many years, but he was judge for quite a while. And I remember when I was a boy, while he was judge, there was one boy in our crowd who was called before him. A bunch of us would always meet more or less, I don't know, just a friendly lot of boys. But there was one fellow who got

into some difficulty, I've forgotten what it was, and he was arrested. Of course we all felt badly about it and wanted to help get him out. The judge fined him and said that he would let him off by fining him thirty dollars. Well that was a lot of money at that time, but we all chipped in and raised the thirty dollars for him and gave them to this fellow. And I remember I was in court there and the old judge told the boy to stand up, so he got up. The judge said, "I fine you thirty dollars..." and the fellow said, "Oh Judge, I've got that right here in my jeans..." and thirty days. Have you got that in your jeans too?" (Laughter) I'll never forget that. That was years and years and years ago. That was Judge Craighill. He was a rough old fellow, and the boy was a smarty. I've often laughed about that. But there never seemed to be much crime at that time. I don't know, we never heard about it. Oh, there'd be some fights or something like that, you know, but there never seemed to be any murders or anything like that to amount to anything. I suppose maybe there was some of them. You know, I think that everybody was pretty law-abiding. I really feel that everybody was really quite law-abiding; they wanted to be. The parents looked out for their

children pretty well too. And I think this was quite a religious town -- that is the boys and girls went to Sunday School, and the parents would go to church,

Calciano: There was a lot less divorce in the earlier days. Do you think it was just because it was harder to get a divorce, or because people didn't believe in it. I'm sure there was fighting and bickering.

Cardiff: Oh, I don't know. Of course, it looks to me that these people who get a divorce, they just don't look ahead, because they have to pay alimony. It must be awful hard on them, because they can't really get married again, you know, and have two families to keep up, unless they have a good income. That's why you'd think that would stop some of them getting divorces. But that's the funny thing -- in our crowd here, oh there were maybe fifteen or twenty couples of us here that sort of ran together, very close friends, and I don't believe there was a divorce in the whole bunch.

Calciano: It used to be somewhat of a disgrace in the earlier days, and now it isn't.

Cardiff: Yes, now people don't think anything about it.

Calciano: What about illegitimate children; there seems to be so much of this problem now. Was there much problem then?

Cardiff: I don't know as I ever heard very much about it. It doesn't seem to me as there was. If there were any, why it was sort of hushed up I guess.

#### Church Attendance

Calciano: You said that you thought people went to church a little more than they do now.

Cardiff: I think they did. Well, for the number of people that were here, I think the percentage was greater.

Calciano: Do you think it was an interest in religion, or was it also a social function.

Cardiff: Well, it probably was, because they didn't have so many other things to attract their attention. There is probably something in that.

Calciano: Did people meet many of their friends through the church?

Cardiff: Quite a number of them, I think. Yes I think so.

Calciano: Were there a number of little churches as well as the big ones such as Methodist, Presbyterian, and so forth? Now there seems to be a lot of Fundamentalist churches.

Cardiff: Well, a lot of these were started since. I don't know, the Advent has had one for a long time, I guess; I'd



forgotten about that. But there weren't so very many churches at that time. No, not so very many. There was a church up on Mission Hill where Wessendorf's residence is now, right on the corner. That was the Methodist church, I guess, and it was moved down there on Church Street. It's just been demolished lately, or sold, and they built a church up on California Street. But the Methodist church was the principal church at that time. And I guess there was a Congregational church downtown somewhere. Mr. Cowell told me that his father used to take them when he was only about five years old. He used to take a spring wagon and take the family down to Sunday School.

Calciano: Oh really?

Cardiff: He laughed about it one day. That was shortly before he died that he told me that. He said, "You didn't know that I ever went to Sunday School." (Laughter) But that was a good many years ago. That was how the Foundation happened to give this church to the Congregationalists -- all because Mr. Cowell's father used to take them to that church. And when they built that church down there on, well it's just been demolished this last year or so, there on the corner of Lincoln and Center, why he gave them a thousand

dollars towards building that, the old gentleman did, Harry's father. And Harry said, "Now if the Congregationalists want to build on that property they own up there, why do the right thing by them." That was all there was. That's what he told them. Then when the church talked about wanting to build up there where they did, up here on High Street, why the Foundation told the church trustees to go ahead and find out what it would cost and let them know. So they got their plans out, and the contract for the whole thing was \$350,000, so the Foundation told them to go ahead and build it. By the time they got it built it cost over \$450,000. The Cowell Foundation paid for it just the same; the whole thing.

#### Religious Camps

Calciano: One thing I wanted to ask you about, I have noticed that Santa Cruz County has a million religious camps scattered around -- Beulah Park, Mount Hermon, St. Clares, the Seventh-Day Adventist's camp, and so forth.

Cardiff: Oh yes, yes.

Calciano: Has this county always had a lot of these?

Cardiff: Well, yes, I guess they always have more or less.

Seems to have been a lot of them around. I don't know,

of course; I never knew much about them. But they have increased quite a lot in the last few years.

Calciano: Oh really? I wondered if they had.

Cardiff: I think they have. These Adventists have had that place out there out of Soquel for quite a while. It's past the new high school out on the Old San Jose Road. I see where they're going to have a meeting there next week, or the week after next, and they're expecting several thousand people there.

Calciano: Oh my goodness.

Cardiff: Yes, but this has increased now to quite a large affair. Here at the time of the Second World War, out from La Selva beach down there, the government had a piece of property. I don't know if it was a place for soldiers or what. But anyway they got a good many acres, and then it was declared surplus, they didn't need it. So the Adventist bought that, and it's now the Monterey Bay Academy. I think they only paid two or three hundred dollars for it or something, and that's where they've got their Academy. Well they have branched out all over, and they've got a place up here on the road going out by Scotts Valley, on the left; there's another college there. Then the Catholics have got several places. They have what they call the Poor

Glares; that's the first one I knew they had. Now they have a place between Soquel and Capitola, along the bank there, that probably belonged to -- oh, I've forgotten his name; I knew him too. Now they've built a place just before you go into Aptos, on the right hand side; you can see it from the freeway there, you know.

Calciano: Oh yes.

Cardiff: They built a big place there. And they've bought the resort up here out from Soquel. It used to be a great summer resort with a lot of cabins there. Now they have the retreats up in there and all.

Calciano: Which place is that?

Cardiff: Mountain View.

Mrs. C.: Yes, it's where the old Mountain View Hotel used to be. The Catholics go up there, they don't talk, they just go up there and live and say nothing. They're perfectly mute all the time they're there.

Calciano: Oh really? Are these priests and nuns, or are these lay people?

Mrs. C.: Just the regular people. The Catholics.

Cardiff: Yes, they aren't allowed to speak to each other or anything. One of them that used to go there, she's

been telling us about it. When she went up there they weren't allowed to speak to anybody at all. At meals they weren't even allowed to speak to the one sitting next to them at the table.

Calciano: That might be a relief from our hectic everyday life, you know! (Laughter)

Cardiff: Yes. There's a lot of those places that have sprung up; oh, there's a lot of them I guess. But I think that it's in late years that's happened. I know I never heard anything about them here twenty years ago. I'll tell you when a lot of this started. You know they voted on it, and they passed an ordinance I guess, or law, that these religious groups didn't have to pay any taxes on any land or anything that any of these people owned. So they began acquiring land you see, because they didn't have to pay any taxes on it. It didn't cost them anything.

Calciano: Is this a California law?

Cardiff: I think it's a California law. I guess it's true of all California.

Calciano: That was quite a windfall, wasn't it?

Cardiff: Yes. So now all these churches have bought property, you know, because it doesn't cost them anything to

keep it.

Calciano: When did this get passed?

Cardiff: In the last ten years probably; I don't know. I guess at that Mountain View place they have cabins there to sleep maybe 500 people. So they bought that.

Calciano: There's also a seminary, isn't there, over near Watsonville?

Cardiff: Yes. And now they're buying this Torchiana property up here on High Street you know, and they won't have to pay any tax on that. When they buy a piece of property like that, it's taken off the tax roll.

Calciano: That's right. So other people's taxes have to be raised.

Cardiff: That's what the complaint is.

#### Lighthouse Point Breakwater

Calciano: Oh, something that I heard a while back was that Santa Cruz had a chance, back in the thirties, to get a breakwater built out from Lighthouse Point, It would have made a small-craft harbor.

Cardiff: I don't know whether they had a chance to get it or not, but they worked on it. There was quite a lot of agitation about it. I know I was quite interested in

it, and I advocated it on account of the way that Cowell is situated here. With the rock here on the Cowell ranch, they could very easily make a breakwater from Lighthouse Point. There was lots of lime rock that would go right down by gravity, you know, and it wouldn't be such a very expensive affair. That was one of Fred Swanton's ideas. He was going to build a harbor and have a breakwater out there, you know, and have a place to bring in ships and all. But think that was killed on account of they found out that the changing of the currents took the sand around, and they were afraid that the sand would wash in and wash back there and fill it up. I remember that that was one of the arguments at that time. Of course there may be some truth to it, because here at certain times of the year the tide gets just right and the currents get right and it'll take and wash out all the sand from the Santa Cruz beaches. Cowell's beach and the Santa Cruz beach have all their sand washed right out. Now I don't know whether you can still see it or not, but where Cowell had his wharf down there from Bay Street, there were three or four of the piles left. Well those piles would be completely covered with sand. But at that time of the year, when this sand was washed out,

why those piles stood way up there you know. And then alter maybe a few weeks, why the sand would all wash in, and the whole thing would be covered up again. That was one of the things I think they've been a little afraid of out there at Twin Lakes.

Calciano: Oh really?

Cardiff: Yes. That the sand might wash around and fill up in there. Of course the engineers talked about it, and I guess worked on it. Now I don't know just what the situation is, what they've found in late years, because I haven't been in close touch for the last four or five years.

Calciano: I was told that C. E. Canfield was one of the men opposed to the Lighthouse Point project. Canfield was on the city council then, wasn't he?

Cardiff: Well, I couldn't say; I've forgotten. Charlie was always very progressive, but I don't remember now how he felt about this.

Calciano: Was there any chance at that time, of getting Federal money for the project?

Cardiff: I don't know. I think that Federal money is something in late years. I don't think we got very much Federal money up until the last few years. Yes, I guess that's one of the things these Senators and Congressmen have



worked on you know, to get votes and all.

Calciano: Who owns the land opposite the Lighthouse? There's a great deal of empty land on the other side of West Cliff Drive across from Lighthouse Point.

Cardiff: Well that belonged to Senator Phelan.

Calciano: Oh really?

Cardiff: Oh yes, he owned that whole section there, acres and acres of it. That's Phelan's Park. In the early days he used to come down here himself. He had quite a large family, lots of relatives and all, and they had several of the cottages in there you know. But that probably all belonged to him, and then they began subdividing it, selling off a piece here and there. Now I guess it's all being occupied.

Calciano: There's still one great big empty area though. Does the government own part of that?

Cardiff: Oh, the government still has that point there.

Calciano: But they don't own across the street?

Cardiff: I don't think so.

#### Board of Supervisors

Calciano: Has the County Board of Supervisors become more important lately than it used to be?

Cardiff: Oh no. It's different now; they have changed it now.

It used to be that each supervisor had a certain district, and they had charge of that, took care of it. Now they have an officer that handles the whole thing, and he just reports to the Supervisors. So it's different than what it used to be. Just like a commanding officer in the Army.

Calciano: There seems to be a lot of friction in the Board of Supervisors lately.

Cardiff: Oh well, they have it in for this fellow Burton. You see he spent eight years on the City Council, and he was a "no" man there. He's the fellow that always wanted to keep down the taxes and keep down these salaries and such as that, you know. They called him a "no" man, and of course he wasn't popular. And then he got in and ran for supervisor, and he was elected. Now he's serving out his four years. June second he'll come up again in the primaries, you see. Whether he's going to run for another election now they don't know. They're going to try awfully hard to beat him, but I think the more they try to beat him, the more votes he'll get. I don't know; that's the way I feel about it. Of course he's a particular friend of mine. I think he's trying to do right and everything, and I think he has saved the county a lot of money. I think

he's a good supervisor. But businessmen don't like him because he fights a lot of things that cost money. Anything that costs money, why, he fights it. In other words he's thinking about the taxpayers, and for that reason a lot of these taxpayers, especially these that are living on a limited income, why they'll vote for him. Naturally they would.

Calciano: You say he's only been a supervisor one term?

Cardiff: Oh, he's only been on this for four years, but I think he'll be re-elected. He was a city councilman for eight years. And before that he was a teacher in the high school for years here thirty-five years. He was an agriculture teacher, and then during the Second World War the government sent him down to New Guinea and those islands. They loaded a boat with agricultural machinery and seeds and everything and sent him down there, and he trained the natives and raised enough vegetables to take care of the officers in the Army down there.

Calciano: Oh really?

Cardiff: He'd break in a bunch of the natives one place, and then he'd move on to the next island and do the same thing there. The government made a colonel out of him.

Calciano: Oh my.

Cardiff: Oh yes, he was wonderful in that Second World War.

Calciano: What kind of a supervisor is Locatelli?

Cardiff: Oh wonderful. He's the best one in the bunch. In my opinion, Vince Locatelli is the best supervisor we've got.

Calciano: What makes him so good?

Cardiff: He's a down to the earth man. He's a fellow that I don't think ever went through high school even. He's had no education -- he's just a self-made man, a self-made businessman. He's 100% business, and he's got a good, keen, level head. I've known Vince ever since he was a little kid, and I knew his father before him. His father had a big family; I think there are five boys and two girls, and Vince is the oldest one of the bunch. And he's done very well. Vince got into the supervisor business and he's made a success of himself. One of his brothers was telling me that Vince is the oldest one in the family, and his father, who was one of these old Italian men, followed the Italian custom that the oldest son inherits everything. So when the father died, why Vince came into all the property. The father didn't leave anything to any of the rest of the family. But fortunately, with Vince with them, they got into the sawmill business and got

a tract of land up on China Grade. There was a lot of timberland, and they all went in on it. They made a little money and turned around and bought that property up there that belonged to the Coast Counties, up there on top of Eagle Rock where the Lockheed Missile plant is now. They bought that for just a nominal sum, maybe \$30,000 or so, and then when the missile plant come in here, I think it paid them somewhere around three or four hundred thousand dollars. So that's the way they all got their money. I don't know how much it paid them, but I know it paid them a big enormous sum.

Calciano: Somebody told me that the Locatellis were one of the big bootlegging families in the Prohibition years.

Cardiff: Well, they probably were. Old Joe made wine up there in the hills -- Joe's given me many a jug of wine. I knew the old fellow well. Yes, I often went up there and all. You see my brother was the general manager of the Coast Counties Gas and Electric here, and they owned that property where the missile plant is now, Coast Counties did. They were the ones that sold it to the Locatellis. And I used to be up there a good deal when my brother was the manager here. They had a lake up there, Mill Creek Lake, and my brother let me stock

it with trout. I and another fellow by the name of Stoddard, who was one of these Mormons from Salt Lake that had the sawmill out there, he and I got some small trout. We got three or four thousand head of trout and put them in this lake. So that was the start of the fishing up there. The next year this Stoddard and I and my two boys, and his two boys, went up there fishing. Oh, we had some wonderful fishing the first of May. The next year we stocked it again, and that first of May, why we couldn't get near the place there were so many cars. (Laughter) People had heard of it. They came all the way from San Francisco. Of course the owners of the Coast Counties were up in San Francisco, and they gave permits to their friends in San Francisco who had heard about it.

Calciano: What a problem!

Cardiff: I had built a cabin up there, and I couldn't get near it. I used to keep my bedding and stove and such as that in there. We'd go up there week-ends (that was before I was with Cowell), and that first of May we couldn't get near our cabin. Now that all belongs to the missile plant.

Trans: Aileen Sanders

Victor Kimura

Phyllis Morris

Carolyn Sakamoto

Typed: Carolyn Sakamoto

Digitized: TriAxial Data Systems