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Elizabeth Spedding Calciano: Founding Director of the Regional History Project, UCSC Library

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***Elizabeth Spedding Calciano:
Founding Director of the Regional History Project,
UCSC Library***

Interviewed by Cameron Vanderscoff
Edited by Irene Reti

Santa Cruz
University of California, Santa Cruz
University Library
2020

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UCSC - History to 1964

UCSC Is Recording County's History

From Henry VII To Transistors

By Margaret Koch

It's a big historical leap — from Henry VIII of England in his satin knee britches to early-day Santa Cruz county woodsmen.

Making the leap — with transistor tape recorder in hand — is Elizabeth Calciano, Radcliffe cum laude history graduate whose childhood fancy was "captured by the Tudor kings and queens."

She is recording Santa Cruz "grass roots" history for the library-to-be of the University of California at Santa Cruz. The logging industry is first in the series which will include other early-day industries and, eventually, will cover all areas of the county.

The taping project was organized by Chancellor Dean McHenry and Librarian Don Clark, both of whom are greatly interested in preserving the history of the county which is going to contain the new university.

"At present we are concentrating on taping the recollections of living people," explained Clark. "Later on we hope to cover social as well as economic aspects."

Mrs. Calciano sets up interview dates, does reading, research, and prepares sets of questions ahead of time.

"Interviews usually last about an hour and a half," she said. "But occasionally several sessions are required."

The tape information will be typed, edited, indexed and cross-filed before being re-typed, bound and placed in library archives at the University of California at Santa Cruz.

"We plan to preserve five or ten minutes of the original tape — merely for the 'flavor' of the voice," she added.

The University of California at Berkeley has conducted a similar

historical project for the past ten years, according to Clark.

Mrs. Calciano's part-time job of recording local history grew out of talks with Dr. McHenry, after hearing him speak last year at Watsonville.

"History has always fascinated me. My mother taught it for a number of years. I wrote my undergraduate thesis on the Scottish Reformation," she said.

She is a native of Ames, Iowa, where her father directs the atomic energy commission laboratory. After graduating from Radcliffe she earned her master's degree (also in history) at Stanford University in 1962.

Her husband, Dr. Anthony J. Calciano, is a practicing physician who also teaches one day each week at Stanford. And in between tape recorder sessions, Mrs. Calciano is the busy mother of 18-month-old Andrew.

"I believe that being a newcomer to Santa Cruz county has made me more keenly aware of the importance of recording its historical information," she said. "This work has certainly made me feel a part of the community already."

Many newcomers to California — and to Santa Cruz county in particular — know next to nothing about its colorful past. But if they are interested in finding out — local information will be available at the library of University of California at Santa Cruz.

To quote Simeon Strunsky: "The years by themselves do not make a place historic. It is men who give the color of history to a place by their deeds there or by merely having lived there."

These are the men — and women — Mrs. Calciano is seeking out.

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Eisenhov in an inter porter from



Santa Cruz county history "on a tape" — that's the first step in a local operation project recently begun by University of California at Santa Cruz. Mrs.

Anthony J. Calciano of Aptos, housewife-history major, is making the tape recordings with a small transistor machine that measures about 6 by 8 inches.

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CONTENTS

Interview History	1
Early Life, Childhood, and Education	7
Family Life during World War II	20
Education	34
College Years	56
A Few More Childhood Memories	61
Radcliffe College	64
Graduate School at Stanford University	87
Moving to Santa Cruz and Opening a Medical Practice	95
Applying for the Position of Oral Historian at UC Santa Cruz	100
The Early University of California, Santa Cruz	105
The Early Years of the Regional History Project	116
The Changing 1960s	139
UC Santa Cruz Students	151
Editing and Publishing Oral Histories	153
“A Couple of Loose Ends”	165
Recording Technologies of the Early Regional History Project	166
Creating Archival Oral Histories for the Historical Record: Audience, Access and Technologies	170
The Library’s Original Location in the Central Services Building	185
Getting off the Hill: Regional History and Outreach to the Santa Cruz Community	188
Regional History’s Place in the UCSC Library	192
<i>The Campus Guide</i>	203
Relationship with Chancellor Dean McHenry	206
The Changing Scope of the Regional History Project	210
Changing Attitudes Towards Women in the Workplace	231
Teaching for University Extension	243
“The Changing Culture of Santa Cruz County”	249
Student Protests at UC Santa Cruz	262
Ansel Adams	273
Civic Activities in Santa Cruz	279
Editing <i>Oh, That Reminds Me . . .</i>	296
The Early Days of the Oral History Association	298
The Impact of Watergate & Interviewing Page Smith	326
The Decision to Leave the Regional History Project	334

Interview History

This set of interviews with Elizabeth Spedding Calciano make up the rare project that is not just a life history, but an oral history of and about oral history itself. While Calciano has thrived in multiple professions and jobs, including a forty-plus year career as a lawyer, this volume focuses on her years as the founding head of the Regional History Project at UC Santa Cruz from 1963 to 1974. While the weight of our running time was about her life and work, in places the tables turned and she interviewed me about interviewing. More than once, sessions diverted into lively sidebars about the changing methods, technologies, and values of our shared practice, and as a result, this volume is both a life narrative and a meta oral history, telling the story and perspective of someone who arrived to UC Santa Cruz and the oral history field at emergent historical moments. Beyond being a record of the origins of the Regional History Project, these are the memories of a participant and witness to beginnings.

Our sessions start with her own beginnings, leading into an extensive discussion of her family history and early years growing up in Ames, Iowa. Calciano is the daughter of Ethel Anne MacFarlane Spedding, a teacher and homemaker, and Frank Spedding, a professor at Iowa State University whose work on uranium extraction played an important role in the Manhattan Project. In this environment, she recounts the assumption and expectation that she would go to school, following her studies through her undergraduate years at Radcliffe and her MA work at Stanford. The primary emphasis of our conversations comes into focus with her move to Santa Cruz, California in 1962, where her then-husband began a medical

practice in anticipation of the new University of California campus opening in 1965. Calciano recounts getting a job in oral history at the fledgling university; she was only the thirteenth employee brought aboard in 1963, starting when UCSC offices were still housed off-site at Cabrillo College.

Working alongside campus founders such as Chancellor Dean McHenry and University Librarian Donald Clark, Calciano discusses her time as the founding head of the Regional History Project (RHP), where she began when she was only twenty-four. At this juncture, the mission of the Project was documenting local history as a community outreach venture. Donald Clark and Dean McHenry were inspired by the oral history programs at UCLA and UC Berkeley to create and fund this position of oral historian in the new library even before the library opened its doors. Calciano later expanded this purview into university history, inaugurating the two thematic traditions of RHP projects that continue to the present, as the Project divides its focus between the campus and the region and seeks to serve as a bridge between these sometimes alienated communities. In conducting oral histories with working-class narrators, Calciano was years ahead of much of the oral history profession of that time, which was primarily doing oral histories with elites and would not venture into the world of social history for another decade. Today, her community interviews comprise a remarkable life history collection that illumines a now long-gone period of California history and have been invaluable to local history researchers. Her interviewees, then in their eighties and nineties, relate their experiences in late 19th and early 20th century local industries and trades, such as lumbering, dairying, blacksmithing, and apple farming. One of her oldest narrators

was born in 1873, and another tells family stories dating back to the early days of Spanish California. For anyone who is struck by the behind-the-scenes stories Calciano recalls in these sessions, it's well worth consulting her interviews directly online; they detail a complex and unvarnished social history of the area as well as economic lifeways.

My sessions with Calciano track the growth of the Regional History Project and UCSC, covering her relationships with key figures in early campus history, her experiences as an interviewer and editor, and her recollections of the advent of the counterculture for both town and gown. From her days at Radcliffe through her time in Santa Cruz and beyond to her later law practice in Los Angeles, a recurring theme is gender bias and the different pressures and expectations placed on working women. As Calciano notes, "...post-World War II women had this envelope of expectations around us. So I'm proud that I was able to break through that." Calciano is a detailed commentator on this dynamic in her life and work, and this volume constitutes a valuable account of professional and social life in Santa Cruz and on campus in the sixties and seventies.

Calciano—who is also socially known as Elizabeth Georgeon—further reviews other responsibilities and involvements from this time, including guest lecturing in Ansel Adams' class, her civic engagement in the city, and her role in the Oral History Association. She relates attending the first-ever Association conference in 1966, and her subsequent involvement in that organization as a presenter, conference organizer, and council member, including making a remark in a session that made the front page of *The Wall Street Journal*. Our sessions conclude with her relaying the events that led her to leave Santa Cruz in

the mid-70s and transition to a new career in law. In many ways, these interviews marked her return to her first vocational home of oral history.

The idea for this project first arose in 2014, when current Regional History Project Director Irene Reti and I were discussing the value of documenting the history of the Project. As oral historians, we spend most of our time looking out at the lives of others, but our own life histories shape the work that we do, imbue the questions we ask, and determine what we think of as historically important. These forces and questions change across biographies and generations; in interviewing Calciano, we were hoping to not only learn about the unique perspective of a pioneer UCSC staff member as the campus was approaching the commemoration of its 50th anniversary, but to help ourselves and future users of the collection better understand the formation of the Project. For us, this initiative became an exercise in both inquiry and reflexivity.

Interviewing an oral historian brings with it unique challenges. Working closely with Irene, I read Calciano's corpus of interviews, sifted through her correspondence and other ephemera from Project archives, and dug up Oral History Association conference agendas from the late 1960s. All of this preparation proved to be essential; as an experienced and therefore self-aware practitioner, Calciano often would break the fourth wall of the interview, considering how a transcriber might render something she'd just said, or debating the merits of our varying interview styles, editing approaches, or how the evolving role of technology has changed oral history norms. At one point she directly addressed Irene, knowing she would ultimately listen to the audio: "...I have thought, I hope that Irene doesn't

chastise him for not having control of the interviewee.... But first, Irene, I'm a hard one to control.... And second, Irene, he *does* have control of all the rest of the session." I had to practice a heightened level of self-awareness myself, because I knew she was not just listening to the questions I was asking, but comparing the manner and pattern in which I was asking them. Even in writing this interview history, I know I'm working in a preface tradition that she started in 1963 with the Project's first interview.

The sessions themselves transpired across 2015, initially at Calciano's residence in La Cañada-Flintridge, and then at Calciano's son's house in Soquel, California. Since then the editing process has been extensive, as the current and former heads of the Project—Irene is only the third person to have held that title over 56 years—have sent drafts back and forth across the state to get this to a final polish. During these interviewing and editing periods, two important landmarks came and went. The first was UCSC's 50th anniversary celebration, a part of which happened the same week as our final sessions in Soquel, giving our conversation a rich and relevant context of on-campus talks, events, and reflections. The second was the 50th anniversary of the Oral History Association. In advance of that event, Irene and I contacted the association, who agreed that Calciano should be recognized for her pioneering service. Calciano was then invited as a special guest to the proceedings in Long Beach, the first meeting she'd been to in almost forty years, where she received an award for her involvement and leadership as a founding member and reconnected with old colleagues and friends. In this way, this interview project became part of a larger convergence of events that acknowledged Calciano's contributions as an oral historian and UCSC staffer. If she is, as I've mentioned in this preface, a

participant and witness to beginnings, these sessions are also a testament to her lasting impact.

As is always true, this project is the product of a community. A special thanks to Irene Reti for her patience and support as we embarked on this special project on a subject close to home. I'd also like to thank Ron Grele and Charlie Morrissey, two of Calciano's oral history contemporaries who gave me helpful pointers about the field in the sixties and seventies. Once again, much gratitude to the staff of UCSC Special Collections for their kindness and their knowledge in assisting my preparation, and to Mary Larson, Doug Boyd, Kristine Navarro-McElhaney, Gayle Knight, and all the folks at the Oral History Association who worked to honor Calciano at the 50th anniversary celebration. Thanks also to my Ventura County family and especially my aunts, Peggy and Elizabeth Henjum, who hosted me when I was out west doing interviews and steadfastly got me to the sessions in La Cañada. And last, thanks to Elizabeth Spedding Calciano herself for the oral history tradition she started at UCSC, which we now have the opportunity to carry on.

Copies of this volume are on deposit in Special Collections and in the circulating stacks at the UCSC Library, as well as on the library's website. The Regional History Project is supported administratively by Teresa Mora, Head of Special Collections and Archives, and University Librarian Elizabeth Cowell.

-Cameron Vanderscoff, Interviewer & Co-Editor

New York, New York

Early Life, Childhood, and Education

Vanderscoff: Today is Monday, January 12th, and it's 2015. This is Cameron Vanderscoff here for the Regional History Project with Elizabeth Spedding Calciano, and we are here to talk about her life and specifically about her work founding the Regional History Project. Our focus today is going to be her early life, childhood, and education.

Calciano: Can I just say I *am* Elizabeth Spedding Calciano, and that's my professional name, but I married my husband, who's now deceased, about twenty-some years ago. So socially I'm Elizabeth Georgeon [pronounced like Georgian].¹ So, you know, if you're phoning some places, they know me as Elizabeth Georgeon; others, as Elizabeth Calciano.

Vanderscoff: Perfect.

Calciano: Okay.

Vanderscoff: And so would you mind, then, stating the date that you were born and just a little bit about your childhood.

Calciano: Well, I was born July 28, 1939. I always lived in Ames, Iowa but I was born in Des Moines. I grew up in Ames. They lived in an apartment near Campustown the first year, but then moved out to a small Cape-Cod house, 1240 Orchard Drive, when

¹In France, where he was born, it is pronounced as a two-syllable name and definitely sounded French, but in the United States "Georgian" is a good approximation.

I was one, I guess. My father worked at the campus. It was Iowa State College then; now, of course, Iowa State University.

My father had grown up in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Went to the University of Michigan. He started out in engineering because he wanted to build bridges, suspension bridges and so forth. But his lettering was no good and he didn't like being marked down on his drawings because of his lettering. His lettering caused him to switch to chemical engineering and then he found chemistry very interesting. He got his master's degree there in chemistry. And then one of his professors said, "Don't tell anybody around here that I told you, but you should go to the University of California, Berkeley, and study under Gilbert N. Lewis because he is the best chemist in the country." And so, Dad did. He worked on a number of different things as a graduate student and then as a postdoc. I think the first couple of things were G. N. Lewis's ideas that didn't pan out.

I don't really remember what his thesis was, but he was interested in the rare-earth metals and in using spectroscopy, which is where you put it through a machine that's like a prism, but much more exact, and it shows all the various lines of different elements and so forth.

Interestingly enough, much later when I did the oral history interview with Dr. Charles Donald Shane, who was director of the Lick Observatory—and I did that because Lick Observatory had been transferred to the Santa Cruz campus and was part of our campus—I found out that he and my father had worked together. I think

they published a paper together, but I'm not certain of that. Dr. Shane was interested in spectroscopy—stars and the starlight and what does it tell us.²

Vanderscoff: Tell me a bit more about that.

Calciano: When he was in Berkeley, E. O. Lawrence, who I think everybody pretty much knows because of the Lawrence Laboratories, he must have been a postdoc, and my dad was a postdoc. Lawrence had a big, powerful magnet because it was the beginnings of seeing if you could get particles going in a cyclotron. And my father wanted to borrow it for an experiment. He cleared it with the chief of Buildings and Grounds because it drew a great deal of power and so could only be used on the weekends, because otherwise it could blow out the main circuit on campus and all the lights would go out, and all the machines. And, of course, there weren't computers and things like that, but there were light bulbs and stuff that you needed to have electricity for.

So, he'd cleared it that he could use it on a Sunday afternoon, and he got his experiment, whatever it was, all set up. He threw it on, and immediately all the lights went out all over the university.

The president of the University of California was William Wallace Campbell. I had the interesting experience of interviewing his son, Kenneth Campbell.³ There's a funny story in that oral history about when Ken Campbell and his little playmate up

² Frank Spedding's papers are available at the Iowa State University Special Collections Department. See the finding aid at <http://www.add.lib.iastate.edu/spcl/arch/rgrp/17-01-11.pdf>

³ See Elizabeth Spedding Calciano, Interviewer and Editor, *Kenneth Campbell: Life on Mount Hamilton, 1899-1913* (Regional History Project, UCSC Library, 1971). Available at <http://library.ucsc.edu/reg-hist/campbell>.

there on Mount Hamilton were about six. They were putzing around like boys do and they crawled under the main building. They needed some copper for something that they were building and they saw this piece of copper down there. They started cutting into it and then one of them said, "Wait a minute. I think this is the thing that helps keep the telescope on time." So, they stopped cutting and scooted out. I don't think the astronomers knew at that the time that it had been cut, or who discovered, how many zillion years later, that this copper thing had a cut in it.

Vanderscoff: [Chuckles.]

Calciano: The other thing I really remember from that interview was—I think Ken was born about 1900 or 1899—that when the 1906 San Francisco earthquake came and, of course, Mount Hamilton just shook like crazy. I don't know if it was the twelve-inch, but one of their telescopes they could lower down below the horizon, and so they focused it on San Francisco. And they could see, not all the destruction, but they could see the fire and so forth because there wasn't radio back then. Nobody would know what was going on up on a mountaintop until somebody slogged the forty miles and went up the mountaintop. So, it was kind of interesting that they had their own access to the news.

But getting back to my father, he worked a lot on rare earth metals. Rare earths are not rare; they're all over the world, and they're in all kinds of places. But they are rare, in the sense that it's very hard, I understand, to separate them and get them pure enough so that you can tell what their properties are and so that you can see what can be done with them.

And because he had worked on the rare-earth metals, when the Manhattan Project started and they began to get the first group of scientists together, they got Enrico Fermi and Edward Teller, and somebody remembered that my father had done work on the rare-earth metals. They said, "Well, if anybody can figure out how to separate uranium and get it pure, it might be Frank Harold Spedding." Because uranium—the part that can be fissionable—isn't easily separated. So, my father was brought in very early as the chemist expert on the deal.

He would commute. People didn't commute then. But he would get on a train, a Pullman car—it would have berths, of course. It's hard to believe that people now might not know what a Pullman car is. That was a sleeper car where people could sleep if the train ride was going to last overnight. But he would get on the Pullman car around ten o'clock at night and climb into his berth, and around two o'clock one of the main east-west trains would come through, and they'd back up and hook this Pullman car on and go on to Chicago. He'd get there about eight in the morning, get off and go over to the University of Chicago and confab with all the other scientists.

There weren't all that many that were full-fledged scientists. There were a number of graduate students there, but at that first chain reaction in the world, I think there were about forty people. So, it was not a very big group. Most people are familiar with Los Alamos and the bomb building, but this was at the very, very beginning.

Then, three days later, he would get on the train in Chicago and come home. I remember him being gone and then coming home and being gone and then coming

home, because he'd always bring me something, a little role of Life Savers or something.

I, of course, don't remember anything about his war work, and I only know he was at that first chain reaction because it's well documented and he told me later. But I find it rather ironic. The University of Chicago had abandoned their football programs several years earlier, and so the stadium was empty. So, it was in a room underneath the stadium that they put together this pile. Fermi had done the calculations, and he was pretty certain that he had it correct. I think the story is that one of the graduate students was posted on the catwalk above the pile so that, if necessary, he could pour a pail of heavy water that he had over the pile and stop the reaction if it was going out of control. And I just [chuckles] find it so ironic that this was in the city of Chicago, under the football stands at the University of Chicago. [Laughs.] I mean, it was a small pile. It probably couldn't have done all that much damage, but when you consider how much care is given now—

When I was back in Chicago maybe fifteen or twenty years ago, the football stadium, of course, is gone. I thought they might have kept that room underneath and said, "This is an historical area." But no, I don't even think there was a sign saying, "Here is where the first chain reaction was."

And to skip forward a little bit, when my father had to have his gallbladder out (around 1949, I think) he went up to the Mayo Clinic, and the Atomic Energy Commission wanted a little slice of his liver to see what damage had occurred with the radiation. And somebody else wanted a little slice of his liver, and somebody

else—and Dad started to say, “Well, wait. How much liver have I got?” [Chuckles.] It turns out that when you’re taking a gall bladder out there are all kinds of pieces of liver hanging on, so he didn’t lose much of his liver.

My dad was a postdoctoral student under G. N. Lewis for several years, and the Depression came. Lewis wanted to keep all his postdocs, but his budget had been cut in half, so he cut everybody’s salary in half, their stipend in half. I think my father’s went from something like twenty-four hundred dollars to twelve hundred dollars a year. I could be wrong on that, but that’s kind of what I remember being told. At least they were still employed.

Then my father won a Guggenheim fellowship to study in Europe. I think this was for the ’34–’35, academic year. He had been planning to study with some of the great German scientists, where they were making all kinds of advances in the composition of elements and physics. But by the time he was ready to go, the Nazis had risen to power, and the Jewish scientists had seen the handwriting on the wall and had mainly left. So there wasn’t any point in him going there because most of the really good scientists had gone elsewhere. He was going to study in Germany and England, but then he spent most of the time in England.

My father—he was an adventurer. He figured out that it was as cheap to go from Berkeley to Europe by leaving from California and going around the world to England, as it would be to travel across country and go from New York. So they traveled third-class on freighters, and they were in a typhoon in Japan. My mother always told this story that she just stayed in her bunk; she didn’t want to go

anywhere. But Dad always wanted to know what was going on. He was going under one of the hatchways when the ship went like this [demonstrates rocking and lurching], and his head hit the top of the bulkhead and was split open. The ship's sail maker had to sew it up. [Chuckles.] Yes! This was third-class. I'm sure that the ship had steam engines or whatever, but they still had sail makers because I guess they needed them. So my mother said, "I always hoped your father would not go bald, but if he did, I was going to look at how the stitching was." [Chuckles.] He never went bald, so we never knew how good a job—but can you just imagine? Oh!

He'd gotten a fellowship at Cornell University, and so they spent two years there. And he always liked to vacation in the mountains. He liked the one month off just to defuse. So they were driving from Cornell to the Rocky Mountains, the Estes Park area, and at every college town he would stop and apply for a job, because this was the Depression.

He had won the medal, the Langmuir Award for the best scientific work in the country by a chemist under the age of thirty. He won that in 1933. So he really had credentials, but it was the Depression. He could have gotten a job at any time in industry, with the big chemistry companies, probably with Bell Labs, or whatever, but he really wanted to do basic research. To do basic research, as opposed to applied research, you had to be in a university atmosphere or a college atmosphere. So he applied all the way across the country. At Iowa State College, a professor had just died, so they had a spot open, and they wanted to hire him as an assistant professor. He said, "No, I won't come unless I'm an associate professor." They said,

“Well, we’ll have to think about that. We’ll have to talk to the president of the university,” et cetera, et cetera. He said, “Well, I’ll be at Rocky Mountain National Park, and when you decide, please send a telegram.”

So one day he went down to the park entrance, and there, pinned to the bulletin board, because that’s how people communicated back then, was a telegram to F. H. Spedding, saying he’d been approved for the job at Iowa State College. So that’s how we ended up in Ames, Iowa.

I wanted to speak just a little bit about my mother, Ethel Anne MacFarlane Spedding. What the Rosie the Riveters did during the war was amazing for that time because women had not been allowed to work in any of those industries that manufactured things like cars and washing machines, and then jeeps and airplanes. That’s pretty well documented. But I’m not sure how well documented it is, the effect of the war on the wives and mothers that were keeping the home front going. Of course, most women my mother’s age weren’t having their husband gone half a week, and my dad *was* gone half a week. But the housewives all over the country were all canning fruits and vegetables as part of the war effort. My mother hated it, and she was scared to death that either she or I would get scalded, so I wasn’t allowed to be too near to her in the kitchen, to watch her boiling the jars and cutting the fruit. She was doing it because that was what you needed to do during the war effort, but I could tell that was not something she loved, by any means.

I can remember her painting the dining room. She did it in the evening after I was supposed to be in bed. Except I was—like now, I was a night owl, but she’d put me to

bed and then get this paint out. I'd hear her rustling out in the dining room because the bedroom was not very far away. I'd come out and she would say, "Don't come near this ladder. Now, don't come near this ladder." I think she was afraid of falling off if I jiggled it, which was part of it, because I don't think she liked heights. But she also didn't want a can of paint spilled on the floor. I don't think she'd ever painted anything in her life. My father never painted anything in his life. He never did household things, unless they were interesting, which was normal for the time. I can remember a number of nights there where I just thought this painting of the dining room was fascinating. You could see the wall changing from one color to another.

My mother had to stoke the coal furnace in the basement. It burned all during the day during the winter and then you had to put ashes over the coals at night in order to keep the fire going until the morning, unless you had somebody down there that could shovel coal in every couple of hours. She did not like going down to the basement at all and if I was still awake, which was often the case, she took me down for company. She probably also took me down because she needed to know where I was and what I was doing. But she really wanted the company of a two-and-a-half-year-old or a three-year-old. You could see she really didn't like this job, but she did it. She was a strong woman. She did what she had to do and didn't complain about it.

My mother was born in Winnipeg. Her father had come over from Scotland, had gotten work with the Canadian Pacific Railway, and had risen up the ranks and was a train engineer. He drove the east-west train on the Canadian Pacific. Later he had an engine that had his own name on it, so for that time and place he did pretty well.

But he was also pretty thrifty/stingy, so there weren't many frills at all when the kids were growing up. There were eight of them. They moved to various railroad hubs and so at some point they moved to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Her oldest brother, Bill, she said, was really probably the brightest of them all, or as bright as any of them, but he didn't go to college because he felt he had to go to work to help supply the food for the family. He and his younger brothers would fish in the—I guess it's the Saskatoon River; I don't know; whatever river goes through there—to supplement the food budget. So he went to work at the local dairy, and he rose up through the ranks and ended up either a vice president or president of it, but Mother always thought it was such a shame that he did not get to go to college.

Mother's older sister, Agnes, put herself through college by teaching in the summers and who knows what else, and my mother did the same thing. And later on, when the younger twin brothers, David and Donald, had finished their college, Mother put David through his PhD program at McGill University and Agnes put Donald through his dentistry program at wherever he went. So you can tell that Agnes and Mother were very determined women. And Mother, I believe, was the next-to-highest ranking student in her college class at the University of Saskatchewan. The story I've been told is that the top student who won the medal was a forty-year-old man who had finally been able to get together enough money or time to get back to school, and so *he* certainly took it seriously, and Mother was second to him and received the second-place medal.

During the influenza epidemic of 1918-19, she volunteered as a nurse, even though she wasn't a nurse. She took care of the victims. I've been told that her name is on a plaque honoring the influenza dead and honoring the students who did nursing and took care of them.

She had grown up in the middle of Canada. In fact, her mother developed a goiter because of the lack of iodine in the middle of a prairie. Where are you going to get fish that have grown up in salt water that would have iodine in them? This was long before anything like iodized salt.

Mother got her master's degree—I'm not sure—I think at the University of Saskatchewan (or maybe Toronto) and then eventually began teaching in British Columbia, Victoria. By the age of—I don't know—late twenties, I think, she was head of the seven-member history department of that high school. High school back then was kind of like junior college is now, or college. I believe she was a wonderful teacher because she could make teaching the things she was talking about come alive.

My Aunt Gertrude, when she was a teenager, had been a pupil of Mother's in Victoria, British Columbia, and she said that my mother was absolutely the best teacher anybody could ever have and that she had ever had anywhere else in her schooling. She eventually got her PhD in anthropology or something, so that was really a compliment for her to say that.

But at any rate, Mother came down to Berkeley one summer because a friend of hers wanted to take some graduate courses at Berkeley, another teacher, and Mother thought, well, that sounds fun; I'll see California. She didn't know any courses she really wanted to take, but she thought she should learn to swim, so she came down to Berkeley and took swimming classes! But her friend had changed her mind and didn't go down to Berkeley, but Mother followed through because she had paid for her ticket, I suppose, or else just wanted to follow through and see California.

So she got off the train in Berkeley and she walked up and down the hills of Berkeley, looking for a place to stay. She got to Mrs. Kittredge's boarding house. Mrs. Kittredge only took male graduate students, but it was summer, and she had empty rooms, and she liked the looks of my mother (Mother was thirty then) and so she took her in for the summer.

She had a communal dining table (it was a room and board place), where she fed the people staying there. And my dad came back from Ann Arbor about two weeks early, before the fall semester started. So he was at the same table, and she sat my dad and mother together. The long and the short of it was that they got engaged about the end of her stay there. When I first heard that—ten days and they got engaged? I was about twelve, but my father quickly added, "Yes, but we were really quite old. We were mature." [Laughs.] At the end of the summer, Mother went back and taught that year, and at the end of the year, they were married.

Family Life during World War II

Vanderscoff: So you talked about the impact that the war had on your family, that your mother was doing canning, among these other activities, that your father was on the Manhattan Project. Were those characteristics that carried on throughout the war and after the war, or would you mind talking about how those duties shifted?

Calciano: Well, my father, probably after being on the Manhattan Project a year or so realized—well, everybody realized that they needed to separate Uranium-235 from 238, and they had to have pure uranium before they could start to separate isotopes. My father said he had graduate students and some young postdocs and some young professors at Ames and he thought he could set up a production unit there for producing the uranium. So that commuting I think only lasted a year or so. Then he was still on the Manhattan Project, but he was stationed in Ames. And, indeed, that campus produced a huge amount of pure uranium that then could be sent to Hanford or Oak Ridge laboratories to get divided into two different isotopes.⁴

They got a Navy E Flag, which usually went only to industries. And after the war, the Atomic Energy Commission was establishing national laboratories. There was Oak Ridge and Los Alamos and Berkeley and Ames. They put one at Ames because of my father. They built it up to being quite an important laboratory. It was always the smallest of all the seven labs. But at any rate, the Ames Laboratory people have always been very proud of that Navy E Flag.

⁴ The Ames Laboratory produced more than 1,000 tons of uranium for the Manhattan Project. <https://www.ameslab.gov/about/our-history>.

I interviewed my father three years after I'd started the Regional History Project, and then again a few years later. One of the stories he told was that every once in a while these big—I think—part of the process was putting metal into big ceramic containers that they called bombs. They weren't bombs, but sometimes there was an imperfection in the ceramics and they would explode. Of course, the scientists knew to stay out of the way. They were housed in a temporary World War I building and was a rather flimsy, one-story building. When the containers exploded, they would blow the end wall out where this lab part was. So all the guys would walk out and they'd push the wall back in. It was just a flimsy wooden structure. One day, there was a new secretary hired, and she wasn't anywhere near where this exploded, but she heard that, and she went out, and she saw these guys pushing the wall back, and she quit right then. Smart girl, in her way. [Laughs.]

Here's another funny story my dad told me in his oral history. Iowa wasn't a dry state (there were state liquor stores), but liquor was generally frowned upon. My father had these scientists coming through Ames all the time during the war, on their way from Chicago to Los Alamos, or Chicago to Berkeley, and it was nice for them to be able to get off the train and, I imagine, stay in the local hotel or whatever for a day or so and stop their journey. So Mom and Dad would entertain them.

Of course, being mostly from the East, they expected a cocktail before dinner. So every three or four months, Dad would have to go over to the liquor store. The only liquor store in each county was in the county seat, which was for Story County the town of Nevada. Iowa had been the first state west of the Mississippi to have a paved

highway, and it was the Lincoln Highway. It went from New York all the way across down to San Francisco. I heard, oh, maybe twenty-five years ago, that there're only two states that people are from where they really always say, "Yay!" when they hear their state. One is Texas, and the other is Iowa. I thought, that's true. If I hear that somebody from Iowa did something: "Oh, good!" and, "We were the first state west of the Mississippi to have a paved, cement highway. Yay!"

But the highway was only eighteen or twenty feet across, two lanes, and it had curved up edges because they thought that would help prevent erosion. But as my father used to complain later—and it stayed until probably the late forties, early fifties—with these curbs. But if you wandered a little bit over to the right, or if a truck wandered, the curved edge would push your car or truck so that it wanted to go into the other lane, so if you weren't really paying attention— There were a lot of accidents that were caused.

But he had to drive over to Nevada, Iowa every couple of months, and you had to have your little book where they logged in every bottle of liquor you bought. He would buy eight bottles of whatever and four bottles of whatever. For just a professor in his home, it sounded like, "Well, my gosh, they must drink a lot!" But, no, he was— [Chuckles.]

Vanderscoff: There was a registry at the liquor store?

Calciano: No, you carried a passport or something, I think. I never did it because I was two, three, four and five, but it stayed that way, I think through my high school years. Then they put state liquor stores in other cities, including Ames.

I can remember when I was ten, eleven, twelve, thirteen, listening to the noon news on the radio. My parents always turned on the news at noon and turned on the news at six and at ten. And the newscasters would talk about raids on “key clubs” in Des Moines. I asked my parents, “What is a key club?” I don’t remember how they explained it, but basically you could go buy your own bottle of liquor, or bottles, at the county seat of whatever county you were in and then you could go to these key clubs, where they would put your bottles into a locker and lock it, and you had the key.

When they would raid key clubs, it’s because the key clubs not only were serving the kind of people—mainly guys, I think, but who had bought their bottles—but they also had bottles under the counter. They’d serve liquor by the drink to anybody, but mainly for travelers, or for people whose bottle had run out. “Well, okay, here, Joe.” And liquor by the drink was just a sin, and it was against the law, and there were always raids on key clubs. I don’t know when the key club business stopped. I’m sure it was going when I was ten, maybe eleven. Like a lot of things, you don’t notice when something stops. I have no idea when they stopped making raids on key clubs.

But to get back to the war years, I can remember very clearly one of the scientists—he came by several times over the couple-of-year period. When I was maybe two and a half, possibly three, he would cross his knees and have me sit on his ankle and

then he would bounce me up and down. I loved that. It turns out, I later learned from my parents, that it was Edward Teller who bounced me up and down on his ankle. I just knew that he was a nice guy who did that.

It was a very different, different time. There were states that were dry. Prohibition had been enacted about twenty-five years before that, and then it had been repealed in 1929. But there were still a lot of states that were entirely dry. Iowa, at some point, decided to allow liquor but just to our citizens and just with your passbook.

Vanderscoff: So I'm curious. So if your father continued doing some of this work but did it more locally in Ames, what about your mother? How did her work, her responsibilities change as the war wound down, or did they? What sorts of special wartime tasks and responsibilities do you remember her having?

Calciano: Well, I don't remember her gardening. My dad always had a garden. He planted corn when I was eight, ten, and twelve, so he probably was planting corn back then. I don't remember if he planted tomatoes and so forth and so on. Definitely, the housewife had to plan because there was rationing. You could only get so much sugar a month; you could only get so much meat a month, and certain cuts.

So rationing was very much a factor. Tires were rationed. I think my father had a little bit of an extra rationing because of his war work. But you didn't take pleasure trips at all. I remember when the war was over—probably it was V-E Day; it could have been V-J Day. It was summer—we all piled into Mr. Holcomb's car. Mr.

Holcomb lived across the street, and all the kids, a bunch of us piled in, and we drove around Orchard Drive three times, yelling, “V-E Day! V-E Day!” It was a big deal. He felt like he could use his tires and gas for this celebration. He would not normally. He was the superintendent of schools. He would drive to work and then he’d drive home. He would never frivolously go around Orchard Drive three times. But was a wondrous occasion and worth wasting some rubber tire on and I still remember it.

Rationing was very much part of the lives of the people then. Nobody had two cars. You were lucky to have one. Most of my friends’ mothers knew how to drive. My mother didn’t. I think she’d started to take some lessons in Ithaca and just didn’t feel comfortable. Because I can remember it was a big deal when the Kurtzes got two cars: one for the dad to drive to work and the other for Mrs. Kurtz to go to the grocery store.

Oh, another thing I remember from those early days was that a man would come by in his truck, and he was a tinsmith, and he would repair pots and pans if you’d gotten a hole in one. He would repair it, or he would sell new things. I can’t remember that my mother ever had a hole in a pan that had to be fixed—but he would always stop and Mother would go out to his truck. This wasn’t a huge truck; it was just a 1935 truck that he still was driving after the war. Anyway—she would buy some stuff from him. I can’t remember what.

Milk was delivered and the milk bottles were sort of a bowling pin shape. Do you know what I’m talking about?

Vanderscoff: Like in a crate, sort of—

Calciano: Yes, and there'd be a quart of milk, so the bottle would be like this [demonstrates], and then it would have a taper and have a neck that was about like that [demonstrates], and that's where the cream would rise. The cream was always up there, and the remainder of the milk down below. I don't remember. I guess people shook them. But there was no homogenized milk. So milk was delivered.

What I'm getting at is people didn't have to go to grocery stores like they did in the 1950s and late forties. Things were delivered. Mother would phone the local grocery store and place her order, and it would be delivered, and they kept a tally of what she had ordered, and she paid once a month, I think.

Oh, this has nothing to do with the war years, but it does have to do with the 1940s. When kids got measles or mumps or scarlet fever—I don't know if they did it for chicken pox—the city health workers would come out and nail a cardboard plaque—bigger than a piece of typing paper but not much bigger, but big enough, and it would be bright red, and in black letters would say: "MEASLES" or "MUMPS" or "SCARLET FEVER." Mother and I walked a lot. We also took the bus a lot. But we'd walk along, and you could see—"Oh, they've got a kid with the measles." "Oh, I didn't know so and so had the mumps." When I got the measles, one was nailed onto our house.

About a year later, when I was probably six and a half—maybe seven; I don't know—I got the mumps. I couldn't read very well, so it was probably when I was six,

five and a half or six. I didn't get a sign. I guess they had stopped them. I was indignant, so I made my own sign, and I thought I wrote "THE MUMPS" and my mom or dad put it on the outside wall. But I left out the "M," the second "M," so it read, "MUPS." [Laughs.] But I got my sign up there. That was one of the things that was different.

Also, hobos would come by. The train tracks ran about a block away from our house, and once in a while—not often, but once in a while they'd come knock on the back door. They'd stand respectfully a distance away and say, "Do you have any food you can spare?" So Mother would make them a sandwich and hand it to them and they said, "Thank you very much." It wasn't all that often, but enough often that I remember it. I've later learned that hobos—which is kind of a derogatory name—they were people that had no jobs and so they rode the rails—that they had various codes, and on the curb they would write in chalk or paint a code if the woman of the house would give you some food or not. So perhaps we got more of them calling at our house than the neighbor next door.

What else was delivered? I can remember my mother—when the boxes of groceries were delivered, she'd bring it in and take the food out. Then she'd go out, and she'd whack the box because she didn't want any cockroaches getting in our house. Cockroaches like dark places, so where the cardboard overlapped, they could be hiding there.

I have quite a few other memories of that period, but not particularly related to the war. Things certainly changed rapidly after that, although I wasn't particularly

aware of them. We got a Fairway downtown, which was the first supermarket in town.

We lived in the downtown area, even though my dad worked at the university, and there was about a two-mile difference between our house and the campus. The two miles crossed the flood plain of the Skunk River. And not every year, but every few years, the river would overflow its banks. I can remember driving with Mom and Dad from our house to Campustown and there were three or four kids wading in this floodwater. My mother was horrified because the ground was uneven and a kid could either step into a hole, or lose their footing and drown. I'd always been told never to go near the creek that occasionally ran below our house, or the river that actually was two blocks, three blocks from our house. I didn't go there as a little kid, but as a seven-, eight-, nine-year-old, a lot of us would take the Devil's Trail, which was along the edge of a bluff next to the floodplain, but not next to the river.

During the height of the war, my father and mother went out by train to California. They took their camping gear and wanted to go to the Yosemite Valley floor. You couldn't get any public transportation there. But my dad figured the mailman had to go up there and so they arranged with the mailman for him to take them up there. I guess they and a fisherman were about the only people, other than a ranger, probably, on the floor of Yosemite Valley, which is pretty amazing. I was either home with a month-long babysitter or at my grandparents. I didn't go to the mountains with them until I was seven.

When I'd go on the train with my parents, which I suppose was twice a year maybe, Dad, I think, would arrange it so that there'd be a six-hour layover, so he could take me to the planetarium or to the natural history museum. I don't think he took me to the art museum, but the scientific stuff. That was fun for me. I loved it.

One time at my grandparents,' I found a dead mouse not all that far from their house. Flies had laid eggs on it and there were maggots crawling around. This was really interesting! When my parents came to pick me up, I said, "Mom, you've gotta come see this! It's really neat! Come and see it!" I showed her this mouse with all [chuckles] these maggots!

Vanderscoff: [Chuckles.]

Calciano: I think she said something like, "Very interesting." She was a teacher. She wasn't going to say, "You stupid child."

Vanderscoff: [Chuckles.]

Calciano: "Very interesting." "Don't you like it?" "It's very interesting." I don't really remember what she said, but I remember the body language of: Oh, good Lord! [Chuckles.]

Vanderscoff: And so you said she was a teacher—

Calciano: Yes.

Vanderscoff: —when your parents met. Did she continue to do that?

Calciano: She would have liked to, but that was back when the man was supposed to support his family, and I guess my father believed in that, so, no, she did not teach. And during the Depression, I don't know if she could have gotten a teaching job, but probably she could have because of all her experience up in Victoria. No. "A man supported his family." That's one reason she never learned to drive, because she didn't have to. She wasn't going to any job. It's a shame, because I know she was a wonderful teacher because she taught *me* a lot. Something would come up, and she would explain it to me. I still remember to this day that Charlemagne was crowned by the Pope as Holy Roman Emperor on Christmas Day, 800 A.D. You can look that up. I know I'm right. [Laughs.]

Yes, my mother was an excellent teacher. But she used her brains and fortitude to learn how to be a very good faculty wife. There is one story of the Berkeley years that—she was not an early morning type—and Dad, of course, was often working in the labs until two or three or four in the morning, because he wasn't particularly an early morning type. And one Sunday morning, about 10 a.m., Mother looked out the window and said, "Oh, my gosh! Professor so and so's wife, the professor's wife—" "She's coming to call! Harry!" Dad was in bed, so she got him up. She got her clothes on really fast, and Dad was moving slowly, and she said, "Harry!" And she put him—it was a Murphy bed, and she put Dad behind the bed and pushed the Murphy bed back up into its cupboard and closed it.

Vanderscoff: [Laughs.]

Calciano: My father said, “There I was, behind the Murphy bed.” “Well, hello, Mrs. so and so. Come on in. Would you like some tea?” [Chuckles.] That was one of my father’s stories that he loved to tell. I don’t know. Well, I will probably think of other things that I maybe should have mentioned. I’ll jot them down if I do.

Vanderscoff: Sure.

Calciano: And then you can either put them as footnotes or work them into the transcript—I used to—if somebody told me a story about whatever and then two interviews later said, “You know, I forgot to—I should have mentioned blah, blah, blah,” I would take those four sentences or whatever and put them with the initial two-and-a-half-page description of this. I’d just work them in. I don’t know if you do that. I don’t care. You do whatever *you* do, but I would do that. I remember—have you read Fred Wagner’s interview?⁵

Vanderscoff: Yes, I have.

Calciano: Isn’t that fun?

Vanderscoff: I enjoyed that one very much.

Calciano: And “everybody liked Mrs. Wagner’s butter.” Back then there was the same kind of charge account that my mother kept at the corner store, except there were credits and debits. When they got flour, that was a debit. But when Mrs. Wagner came in with her eggs and butter, those were credits. People would wait for

⁵ See Elizabeth Spedding Calciano, Interviewer and Editor, *Fred Wagner: Blacksmithing and Life in the Santa Cruz Area, 1890-1930* (Regional History Project, UCSC Library, 1965). Available at <http://escholarship.org/uc/item/4ww4v8gk#page-3>.

Mrs. Wagner's butter, according to Fred Wagner, and I believe it. By the time I came along, it was just the old corner groceries that were willing to run a charge account. Even when I was first married, you had to pay at the supermarket line, of course, but if you forgot your purse, they would give you a "counter check," and you could just fill it out, "Pay to Safeway" or whatever, such and so, and sign your name and print it, and maybe a phone number, and as long as it said "Pay to the order of," it was legal tender.

People knew their neighbors back then. Mother and the other women on the Orchard Drive Circle had a sewing circle once a month, Thursday evening or something, and they'd all gather at someone's house, and they'd do their mending and darning and chat. A lot of that changed a) when air conditioning came in and b) when television came in, because on hot evenings you didn't have to sweat it out, and with television you could stay home and watch the television.

Vanderscoff: And are those things that came in during your early childhood to your own home: air conditioning, television?

Calciano: Not my early childhood. My parents didn't believe television was a good idea. And so—just a minute, let me swallow something.

Vanderscoff: Yes.

Calciano: [Drinks.] So it wasn't until 1954 (when I was fourteen) that we got a television, and that's because my mother wanted to watch the Army-McCarthy Senate hearings. Those were coming up and my mother felt that they were

important. She still didn't feel it was a good idea to have a television set, so for the first couple or three years she would always do her ironing whenever she was watching television and watched only serious things like the Army-McCarthy hearings. But also there were some Sunday night, Sunday afternoon shows. Oh, *You Are There*. I don't remember that they did Charlemagne, but if they did, it would show Charlemagne in a big battle, or it could show Abraham Lincoln chopping wood or splitting rails. *What's My Line?* I don't know if that was on that early, 1954. We didn't watch TV a lot, but by the time I was in high school, I would watch it a fair amount. I would do my homework to it in the evening. It's not ideal, but it worked for me. I guess my parents didn't object too much.

Air conditioning. I remember lots of hot nights when the screened windows would be open and I'd be in the bedroom, supposed to be asleep, but I just never went to sleep. And the June bugs, which are beetles—they would come out from wherever they'd been spending their larval years and they'd bat against the screen.

Air conditioning? You would think that would make a big impression. I know that they built their dream house when I was a junior in high school and I lived there my senior year. It certainly had air conditioning. At the Orchard Drive house, they changed from coal to oil. I remember that because that was a big deal because we had a big basement room where coal was kept, and every year or twice a year, however long, the coal truck would come and park out on the street. It had this slide chute, and then they'd put together enough pieces so it would reach around and

could go in the basement window near the coal chute, and they would put in a ton of coal or two tons or whatever had been ordered.

Oh, and that's something else that I remember from back then. I was telling this to a friend; she couldn't believe it. Our meters for water and electricity and so forth were in the basement, because you couldn't have that meter up on the surface because it would freeze in the winter. Back then, nobody would lock their doors. If I was in the kitchen, I'd hear this loud—and my mother would hear it—a loud knock: KNOCK, KNOCK, KNOCK. And the back door would open. "Meter man!" And he'd walk in, and he'd go down the stairs and read the meter, and then he'd come back upstairs and go out and shut the door. I don't remember that he said goodbye or anything, but he would always announce, "Meter man!" He went into every house in town. He did his route; and others did theirs, but that was just normal, for somebody to open your door and go down in your basement.

So anyway, shifting from coal to oil they did when I was about eight, and that was a big deal because coal was dirty. Not that oil's perfect. Where the coal had been, we got two great big oil tanks. I don't remember how they got filled, but obviously they did. I'm not certain when, or if, we got air-conditioning.

Education

Vanderscoff: So something I think we've touched on briefly a few times but I'd like to explore more fully now is school, is education. Would you mind talking about the education that you received in Ames, starting with elementary school, and then moving into the older grades?

Calciano: Well, I can remember that for kindergarten, before the school year started, mothers took us to the school for an examination. There was a big double classroom. They set up cubicles with sheets or whatever and we were given physicals and weighed and measured. I can remember that I saw Joe Everts naked through a gap in one of those sheets [chuckles] that hadn't been pulled up.

And then we had morning kindergarten or afternoon kindergarten. My parents, of course, opted for afternoon, which suited me fine. I don't remember very much about kindergarten, except it was a pleasant experience. I hadn't been to nursery school. I had been to Sunday school for a while at the Presbyterian church, which was out in Campustown, when I was four.

I remember fifth grade, Mrs. Knudston, I think—and she was teaching us geography, and she had a map of the United States. I knew where Iowa was, but the rest of the world was something else—whereas kids now—well, they still don't know the names of all the states until they have to memorize them. But boy, they know so many things from cartoons and from television and I suppose even from the game things.

She showed a bunch of kind of small states all stuck together, but first, "This is the Midwest, and this is the South, and this is Mid-Atlantic, and this is New England." I said, "Why is it New England?" That didn't make any sense to me. [Chuckles.] She said, "Well, because it's called that. It's called New England. We just learn it's New England." She could have said, "Well, because settlers came from there and—" But anyway. And then, as far as the West and the Far West, I can remember when I went

to college, looking in *The New York Times* for the football scores and Iowa was in the Far West column. Only the East Coast folks would put it in the Far West. And do you know what logarithm paper looks like?

Vanderscoff: I don't know that I do.

Calciano: Okay. Well, back in the days of slide rules and so forth, there was logarithm paper, and it had a whole bunch of lines, and I guess the lines were going like this [demonstrates], because up in the left-hand corner would be a big square, and then below and next to the first square would be slightly smaller squares, smaller, smaller, smaller. And then all these little squares, until the tiny square at the lower right of the paper. That's what I remember. You'll have to look up a piece of logarithm paper and see. But there was a political cartoon that said, "This is New England's idea of the United States: Here are the important states, up on the top left quarter of the paper."

Vanderscoff: [Chuckles.]

Calciano: And a bunch of the states drawn inaccurately in the middle and smaller and smaller "states" until the bottom quarter, and then a great big California. I can remember also that people in my dorm, they knew which was the Champagne country of France and which was the Burgundy country, and so forth and so on. Iowa? "Oh, Iowa! Oh, yeah, that's where the potatoes grow, right?" "Well, no, that's Idaho." I hope *you*, Cameron, knew it was Idaho.

Vanderscoff: Yes.

Calciano: Okay, because you—[Laughs.]

Vanderscoff: Idaho potatoes.

Calciano: I couldn't tell from the expression on your face whether you were sorting out Iowa from Idaho.

Vanderscoff: [Laughs.]

Calciano: Okay. Ohio had a big football team at that time, and a person said, "Oh, yeah, that's the state with the good football team." No, because Iowa's was terrible then. "That's Ohio." But at least they kind of knew the names of some states, but not like they knew Europe.

Elementary School

Cameron Vanderscoff: Today is Thursday, January 15th, 2015. This is Cameron Vanderscoff here for the Regional History Project with Elizabeth Spedding Calciano. We are at her residence, and we are going to pick up the thread today talking about education, which is where we left off last time. So you've talked about some of your experiences in elementary school. I'm curious about how your interests began to take shape in your schooling, say in your junior high, high school years, what subjects you gravitated toward. Since we're here to talk about your work in oral history, I'm curious about your own background with history.

Calciano: Well, I liked most of my subjects. Civics, I found a little boring, but I think it was because the teacher was kind of boring. I enjoyed math, was good at it. And, of

course, I liked history just because my mother was always telling me interesting things about history. And when we traveled West, we always stopped at the roadside markers. There'd be a pullout area, and you could read that that was where Custer's last stand was held, or this was where so and so crossed the Whatever River.

In junior high, I noticed that the history classes were often taught by the football coach or the basketball coach, because they had to teach some subject and history would be easy to teach. They just had to stay a chapter ahead of us, which, for the most part, is what they did. So it was not a very exciting or enriching exposure to history, but I didn't think anything was lacking. I just read my chapter and then we'd have a test on it.

Actually, in eighth grade I had one of my best teachers, Miss McCormack. She made the history alive. My father was scheduled to do a two- or three-week speaking tour through the Southern states that spring. They were going to have to take me out of school and they talked to her and she said, "Oh, don't worry about it. She'll catch up in no time and she's going to learn a lot more history going through the Southern states than she would ever learn in three weeks here." She was right.

Those of us on the academic track all had to take Latin because it was expected. I remember coming home the first day with my book. "*Casa hic est*"—and down below was the paragraph: "This is my cottage." Oh, this isn't too bad. Okay. I turned the page, and there was a paragraph in Latin and no translation. So I turned a couple of more pages. No translation. I think that's the first time it dawned on me that I was

going to be expected to read those paragraphs in the future. I don't know that other kids were that naïve, but I certainly was a naïve kid in the ninth grade.

That's mostly what I remember up through ninth grade, because in our system the junior high went through ninth grade, and then you went over to high school for ten, eleven, twelve. In tenth grade I had a marvelous teacher for world history, a Mr. Gates, and he was also the debate club coach.

Vanderscoff: So one thing that I'm curious about: you mentioned, when you were talking about your Latin class in junior high, that it was expected for those of you who were on the academic track. So would you mind talking about your awareness that you were on that academic track?

Calciano: Well, I always knew I was going to go to college. I mean, my parents said, "When you go to college." Not "if." And most of the kids in my classes—and I was in the downtown part, not the Campustown—most of them expected to go to college. College had been pretty rare before the war, but with the G.I. Bill, a lot of their dads had been able to go and get an education, and their mothers might have or might not have, but the kids pretty much expected to go to college. Most of them expected to go to Iowa State because it was right there and you could live at home, and I think most of them *did* go to Iowa State.

I would say that 70 percent of us were on the college track, at least. I wasn't aware of it being college track. I just knew that Latin was offered, and my mother said, "Well, you're taking Latin." So it wasn't anything dramatic, like, "You should take

home ec instead of this or that,” or, “woodshop instead of—” Actually, everybody in eighth grade took home ec, girls, and all the boys took woodshop. I guess I learned some stuff in home ec, and I probably would have learned some stuff in woodshop, too. But that was just the way it was done.

When I got to senior high, again, most of us were on the college track. And my class was a really “good class”⁶ in that there were a lot of us that were interested academically.

And in history, world history, Mr. Gates was superb. I remember he drew a line on the board and he said, “I want you to remember this. This is the center. Over here, on the left, on this side you have Democrats, and on the right side you have Republicans. And then you have Liberals (on the left side) and you have Conservatives (on the right). And then you have Socialists and you have Reactionaries,” or something. I can’t remember what the—between Conservatives and despots was, but—“and then you have Socialism and then here you have Communism, and here you have dictatorships (the two sides are close at the top), and there’s not an awful lot to tell the difference between the dictator who came from the left side and the dictator who came from the right. There’s one ruler who decides.” Even though Communism is not supposed to be that way, this was the Joseph Stalin era and that’s definitely the way it was in Russia. And in China, I guess Mao Tse-tung was still the top guy. And some of the South American countries, I think, were turning Communist. Russia and China had these really controlling

⁶That is the term that the teachers used about the class of 1955 and my class of 1957. We weren’t supposed to know that they did, but some of us knew—Elizabeth Calciano.

dictatorships. And obviously Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini, you had on the Reactionary side. Oh! And I realized that that's what people mean when they talk about, "He's leaning towards the left or he's leaning towards the right"—I mean, it just made everything clear. When did *you* learn that left meant Democratic or Liberal or Socialist and that right meant Republican or Conservative?

Vanderscoff: I don't remember because there wasn't a lot of politics talked in my house growing up. Given the larger context of American politics, and then the Cold War going on, ratcheting up, I'm curious about your family, growing up, how aware you were of politics.

Calciano: I think I'll have some interesting answers to that. But in the meantime, when did you—you didn't talk much politics, but when did you really grasp what is meant, "He's Leftist, he's rightist"?

Vanderscoff: I'd suspect junior high or maybe early high school. I couldn't pin it to a particular moment or event, but it would have been a little bit later.

Calciano: Yes. Well, for me it was that day when he drew that. I mean, I knew what a Socialist was, and I knew what these categories were—but I had never seen them laid out on a scale. My mother and dad would talk politics, and we always had lunch together. People went home for lunch from the office and the school. Mother always had to have lunch on at twelve and dinner on at six. It's kind of funny because my father would come home from the laboratory—this is when I was eight, nine, ten, eleven, when he was more in administration. He still liked his basic research. He still

had graduate students. But he also was running this project and getting the Atomic Energy Commission to approve such-and-so building, or to—

He had a lot of—he'd call them "fights"—maybe heated discussions—with the college administration. It was funny. It was a federal laboratory, but it was housed on the Iowa State campus. And so Dad's salary could never be higher than the president's, even though the federal government wanted to pay him quite a bit more, but it could not be higher—because he held professorships in chemistry and physics, and you can't have a professor getting more than the president—even though he was also director of the Ames Laboratory.

So he would come home at noon, and Mother would say, "How'd it go?" "Oh, I had this fight with [Charles E.] Friley," the president, or with Hixon, or the dean of agriculture, or the dean of science or whatever. He would start talking as he came in the door. He'd kick off his shoes. He would walk, still talking, through the kitchen and dining room, and he would take his tie off and hang it on the door knob that was handy, go into the bedroom, get his cigar, all while talking—just the voice getting louder as he got further away, and then coming back, and he'd light his cigar, still talking. And he would tell the morning's "dramas." I wasn't much interested in it, but I would hear it. So that was, of course, just university-type politics.

But they also discussed, at dinnertime, or in the evening, some of the politics of the day. But they always cautioned me, "Now, Elizabeth, you do not talk politics outside of the house because your dad is a government employee, and you just do not talk politics." I took that very seriously.

When I was nine in 1948, there was the Dewey-Truman election. Iowa was very Republican then. They held a mock election in civics class. We were supposed to write whether we wanted Dewey or Truman on a piece of paper and put it in a box. It was a secret ballot. I thought I would be the only one writing down Truman. I could not let it out of the house that my father and mother thought Truman had been doing a pretty good job and Dewey seemed more like a stuffed shirt. So I said, "No, I won't vote." I abstained. I would not vote in that election.

It turned out about nine of the kids voted for Truman, and twenty voted for Dewey, but I didn't know that. I thought I'd be the only one, because when an area is primarily of one party, those people talk all the time, and the people who favor the other party tend not to. So I didn't know there was anybody else that might like Truman.

I can remember when Truman fired General Douglas MacArthur. We were driving through the South and we listened on the car radio: "Old soldiers never die. They just fade away." And then the announcer, and then it went to music or whatever. No twenty-four-hour news cycles back then. But the speech of the Commanding General who had been fired by the president was big enough news that it was on the radio stations even though it was the middle of the day. I can remember Mom and Dad discussing it and Dad saying, "Well, I think Truman was right. MacArthur was just going beyond his authority." I wasn't sure what MacArthur had done and what his authority was, but I can remember Mom and Dad discussing it. And, of course, in Iowa—I don't know what the reaction was immediately after because I was in the

car in the South, but you didn't hear many people defending Truman. In hindsight, he did a pretty good job for a guy who really was just thrust into the presidency, didn't even know about the Manhattan Project.

So yes, they definitely had political opinions. But I definitely was raised not to be political outside the house. I was part of what was called the "silent generation," the kids who went to college in the late fifties and early sixties. I wouldn't sign petitions. One of the reasons was because the Army-McCarthy hearings really affected me. It was 1954, so I was fourteen. That's when we got the television because my mother wanted to listen to the hearings. And if it was on when I was home, I would listen, too.

And Senator Joseph McCarthy—I don't know. Do you have any idea of what McCarthy was like?

Vanderscoff: We studied it in high school.

Calciano: What was your opinion?

Vanderscoff: My opinion of the McCarthy hearings? It wasn't a contemporary event for me, but it seemed like it could have been very frightening at the time, for having different ideologies.

Calciano: Yes, because he would hold up, "And I have here in my hand"—now, I don't remember which particular sheaf of papers he was holding up at which time, but I've read many times since that he even held up some pink papers and said, "I

have here all this stuff”—about how many Communists, he claimed, were in the State Department now. There was nothing on those papers. Maybe it was typing, but he was very dogmatic, and he was badgering, and he had these papers. He was always waving the papers.

And they'd ask, “Did you or did you not join the Communist Party when you were a freshman at Yale?” or wherever. “Well, yes, I did, but I wasn't a Communist. I just was interested in what they—” Well, “Why did you join?” “Well, you joined. You are a Communist—” I mean, it was just terrible. Things that these thirty- and forty-year-old people that were working in government positions or on staffs of senators and so forth or—but mainly he was after rooting out “Communists” in the government.

And, of course, we didn't want spies in the government, but the way he went about it profoundly affected me. I thought: All these people in mid-career are being ruined because they signed something when they were in college, or they joined something when they were in college. You better be careful when you graduate from high school that you don't do anything that's going to haunt you in later years. I don't know if that had any influence on anybody else in my era, but in college we were known as the “silent generation.” We paid attention to our studies. We enjoyed sports. We went to sports games. Some got drunk. We just were not a politically motivated type of group, unlike the kids in '63 that got active at the beginnings of the civil rights movement, went down South and sat in at lunch counters and so forth. That was a sea change, to have students become that active.

I can remember I was in one “mob,” a “protest mob”—and I’m putting BIG QUOTES around “mob”—and whoever transcribes this, I want you to write down, “She said, ‘BIG QUOTES,’ in capital letters.” [Laughs.]

Vanderscoff: Gesturing, yes.

Calciano: [Laughs.] Gesturing.

Several hundred of us, at least, crowded around Harvard President Nathan Marsh Pusey’s house. I don’t know how I heard about it. I don’t know why I was there because it’s a mile from where the Radcliffe dorms were, but a whole bunch of us had gone, and there were all these Harvard guys. But it was the Harvard guys that were really upset because the decision had been made to not give Harvard graduates that year or any year in the future the big sheepskin diploma written in Latin, and then signed by Pusey. Radcliffe was still going to keep it, so I have one of those nice big things, and I’m “Marium Annum Elizabethum Speddingum” or something like that, on my diploma that hangs on my office wall.

But the Harvard guys were really upset. So what our “mob” was doing: We were standing out there in front of the university president’s house, yelling, “Latin si, Pusey no! Latin si, Pusey no!” [Laughs.] I mean, talk about causes that really had to be defended! [Both chuckle.] That was my only activism. It was, as far as I know, the only activism that took place at Harvard in the years I was there. There may have been other things. Certainly individual students would care very much about a topic or a cause or whatever, but there just wasn’t the activism. The Harvard-Yale game—

yes, that got lots of people interested, of course, but there *was* no civil rights movement back then.

Vanderscoff: Sure.

Calciano: I like to think that had there been, I would have been one of the ones that would be—I don't think I would have considered going South, but I could see that I might have sat at a lunch counter or something with a black friend, classmate. But the opportunity just wasn't there.

Of the Harvard years, I—it was probably freshman year. I was more naive freshman year than I was when I was a sophomore, and I was still pretty naive as a sophomore. We had these big reading assignments in social science, and it was getting towards the end of the semester, and I began to think: I better start getting some of this stuff read. I had to go into Boston for something, and I knew I'd be riding on the subway, and there's a good time to read. So I was reading my assignment. I kind of noticed that people were kind of paying more attention to me than normal.

Well, I was reading *The Communist Manifesto*. [Chuckles.] It was assigned! The cover of the book said *The Communist Manifesto*. [Both chuckle.] Duh! I hadn't thought it would cause this stir. But the subway there—a lot of the seats are bench seats facing bench seats. Nobody attacked me, but when I folded up the book to get off, I thought: Oh, that may be why they were— I was just trying to make sense of this Marxist manifesto.

So politics were always in my life, and, boy, my parents really paid attention to the electoral vote when it came in. I remember going with my mother down to the main railroad tracks that went just south of the main section of Ames' Main Street. That was about a mile and a quarter from our house. My parents and I often would walk that mile and a quarter on a summer night to go down to Moore's Dairy, which was downtown, to get an ice cream and lick it on the way home. They'd talk politics all the time. They would talk science; they would talk, whatever.

So it was no big deal to go down to the railroad tracks. The big East-West trains came through. Truman was on one of his whistle stop campaigns, and so we stopped and saw him. And then during the Eisenhower election, our whole school went down to see Eisenhower. He wasn't president yet; he was campaigning. But everybody was Republican, so of course the whole school went down to see him. I think we marched in a parade with him. I can't quite remember. It wasn't a whistle stop. I remember the whole school went, wherever it was. In a bus or something.

Anyway, so we always watched elections. I used to listen on the news because they always had the noon news on. It didn't mean anything to me when I was a little kid, but when I got to be eleven, twelve, thirteen, I'd listen. I'd listen; I'd hear about all these "key clubs" that I mentioned the other day. And what the governor was doing. The governor's name was Bourke B. Hickenlooper, which I thought was a funny name. He did this and he did that, which didn't sound so good. So I was beginning to make up my own mind a little bit about things. But it wasn't a political household, in the sense of having causes and having these heated discussions at dinner tables.

I don't know whether I'm just affected by television, but I have the sense that in a lot of Irish families, at least the more educated, wealthier ones, the six kids and the parents would sit around the dining room table, and they would all talk. And if you notice, quite a large percentage of our political commentators and "talking heads" or whatever on television, both the conservative—and William F. Buckley [Jr.], I think he was raised in a Catholic family. And, oh, Chris—he does *Hardball*. I tend to watch that from time to time. He's on the liberal side.

Vanderscoff: Matthews?

Calciano: Yes. Chris Matthews. Quite a lot of them have Irish-Catholic backgrounds and got into political talking when they were kids, with the family. And there're a number of Jewish people that are in those positions also. I don't know whether they sat around the dinner table and talked, or whether it was just an interest in politics that was felt by the whole Jewish community, because they'd been so oppressed for so long that it made sense to try to get a foothold into the mainstream of America. I just thought it's an interesting—because several of them will say, "I was raised Catholic" and "I was raised Catholic," and I began to kind of total them up mentally, and there was quite a few. And then I don't know about Jewish, but some names are definitely Jewish. And, you know, some say, "I was raised Jewish" or whatever. Nobody goes around much and says, "I was raised Methodist," or, "I was raised non-religious." I have no idea. Probably the majority of talking heads are in the no religion, or one of the bunch of Protestant religions.

Religion was very different back then in my childhood. And, while the South had lots of terrible treatment of the blacks, I didn't sense that we did in Ames, Iowa. But there were almost no black families. There was one kid who was black, who was in my classes during junior high. They must have moved away before high school because I don't remember him there. He could really play the piano and he could play jazz, and we liked listening to him. He wouldn't do it very often. But he never went to the dances or anything, never seemed to intermingle much. I don't think it was that he was forbidden to by all of us white kids. I think it was more that he felt he better not cross the color line. His dad, I think, was custodian at one of the schools. I'm not quite sure. I wasn't raised with any prejudice against blacks at all.

I remember I had a friend who moved in when I was, oh, about ninth grade, and she was Jewish. She mentioned that they would go to Des Moines for temple. I found this interesting and she would describe that. And I'd tell her what Methodists did, as far as I knew. I went to the church, but I [chuckles] didn't know too much about anything. But I remember thinking, gee, she has to go all the way to Des Moines to go to temple. I wonder how Jewish boys and Jewish girls ever meet enough other Jews to find somebody to marry. Now, that's how naïve I was. [Chuckles.] I quickly learned when I went to college that there are some cities that have a lot of Jewish population. She was a lovely, lovely girl. And beautiful. And I thought, gee, I wonder if she'll have trouble finding a husband.

That was the time when women thought of after college—or, in some cases, after high school—you marry. My parents never said, "When you graduate, you better

marry.” They never said that, but the whole society that I was in said that. I just assumed that I would meet somebody in college and get married. The joke was that a lot of women at Iowa State went there to get their M.R.S. degree, their “missus.”

So I followed the path. I got engaged in college and married. I’ve had three nice kids from the deal.

I told my son-in-law here in Pasadena—he is half Irish—I thought he was all Irish, but half Irish, and likes all things Irish, just like I like all things Scottish. I said, “About the only prejudice that I grew up with at all was against the Irish.” He kind of looked at me. I said, “Well, remember, my mother was Scottish. Her father came over from Scotland. Her mother’s parents came over from Scotland over to Canada.” Scotland was strongly Protestant. And they did not like the Irish, and the Irish did not like the Scots.

I remember Mother being very proud of the Scots. You know, “We fought the English, and we fought them, and we fought them. And the Irish just let the English roll over them.” Well, that’s not entirely fair. Yes, England did conquer Ireland, but Ireland was pretty much flat land, for a good part, and Scotland had hills and mountain valleys. And you see movies, *Braveheart* and so forth. The Scots really did not want to be dominated by the English at all.

Now, this somewhat prejudiced approach on my mother’s part didn’t seem to extend to the English so much, but the Irish were Catholic, and she was raised Presbyterian, Protestant, and that was a really big dividing line back in the earlier

days. Now there isn't of course, but—[Chuckles.] In fact, all three of my kids married Catholics, I think partly because the kids had the last name Calciano, so girls felt, this guy probably is raised Catholic. I don't know.

But I would say I was basically raised without prejudice, which is a nice thing to be. I know that some kids in Iowa were raised to hate Democrats, but it just wasn't an issue. There was Catholic church, Catholic grade school up through the eighth grade. They joined us at the main junior high for ninth grade. We became friends with the Catholic girls and became a big group, and somebody got the idea we should visit each other's churches, which I thought was a neat idea. I was Methodist at that point, and we as a group went to the Congregational church, and we went to the Catholic church, and to the Lutheran church. But the Catholic girls were not allowed to go to any of the Protestant churches. Their priest told them they'd be excommunicated if they did. That's the kind of dividing line that there was.

And my father, interestingly enough—he didn't mind me going to the Catholic church, but he was worried about the Lutheran church. He said, "I don't know if I want you going to that Lutheran church." I said, "Why?" My best friend, Judy, had been Lutheran. He said, "Well, just don't let them feed you any false information," or whatever. I don't know quite where that came from except the Lutherans were, I think, more doctrinaire in the early 1900s. But somewhere he'd been brought up with, "Be careful of those Lutherans' approach." Now, it didn't affect him in daily life at all, but he was uncomfortable about me going there, but not the Catholic church, because he knew I wouldn't be tempted by Catholicism because that's Catholicism!

He had no particular religion. He had been raised Methodist, I think, and the Methodists were very strict back in the first decade of the twentieth century. He and his Uncle Albert, who was three weeks younger than he was, were playing cards on a Sunday, and they got caught, and they really got walloped for it because you didn't do that. And no dancing, no anything in some Methodist churches back then. Church was a much bigger part of a lot of people's lives back then and you can still see it in the evangelical churches and there are also a lot of Presbyterians, Methodists, and others who are very active in their church. They're very interested in it. But back then if you were Lutheran, you were Lutheran, and if you were Methodist, you were Methodist.

Vanderscoff: But did you have that sense growing up?

Calciano: No. I knew that Catholics were different, and had a different religion. I think it was explained to me: "Well, they can't do anything unless the Pope approves." Or, "They believe you can't pray to God unless you do it through the Pope and the saints. We believe you can pray directly to God if you have something to say to Him."

What were you raised?

Vanderscoff: Lutheran.

Calciano: Oh!

Vanderscoff: [Laughs.]

Calciano: Wow! Rang a bell there.

Vanderscoff: [Laughs.]

Calciano: Religion was a much more all-encompassing thing for people then. Could you be close friends with folks from a different church, somebody in a different Protestant religion? “Okay.” “Catholic? “Oh, well, I don’t know.”⁷ Jewish just didn’t seem to come into the picture much, in Ames, at least, although there certainly were Jews on the faculty at Iowa State, I think even in the forties. Well, I know because there were three professors that achieved the position of being a member of the National Academy of Sciences. And to come from a cow college, as the state colleges were called, from an aggie school, to even have one scientist on the faculty that would make it to the National Academy was pretty amazing. But all three men had kind of landed at Iowa State, I think, during the Depression. I know my father did, and I believe one of the men had been brought up Jewish.

You never said you were “nothing.” You were always something: Lutheran, Catholic— Yes, that’s why when the atheist who brought the lawsuit about prayers in schools in the 1960s,⁸ schools shouldn’t teach religion, Madalyn Murray O’Hair— she was an atheist, and I thought, my God! Do people ever tell people if they’re atheist? It was that kind of mind-set. This was in the early sixties. I was an adult.

And the Catholic Church was very different than it is now. Pope John XXIII, I think, really changed it. Mass could, after him, be said in English, which was the change

⁷ Calciano added the following footnote during the editing process: “Although by the 1960s, the main stricture was Protestants should never marry a Catholic, and vice versa.”

⁸ See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madalyn_Murray_O%27Hair

that I think bothered a lot of Catholics the most of all of his changes. There were a lot of Catholics that really did not think that was right. And then others were happy that their church was moving into the twentieth century.

But also, one reason a Protestant would never marry a Catholic (although a lot did) was because you had to promise to raise your children Catholic, and there was no getting around it. Now I think you still have to somewhat promise, because my grandkids up north are exposed to the Catholic Church, but their dad doesn't have to go. And they certainly never went to Sunday school, or at least not regularly, I don't think. The family here is reasonably active in the Catholic church, but I think it's partly because they like the Catholic school that that church has, and it's hard to get your kids into it, so it behooves you to be a good parishioner.

Catholic girls couldn't attend our churches, even to see what they were like. I still haven't figured out why my dad was worried about me going to the Lutheran church. But I thought about it some, and you've got to remember that the Catholic and Protestant divide in Europe caused wars for centuries, and people who were in a Catholic country, or a Catholic portion of a country, really just thought Protestants were—well, they were heretics, first of all. They were all going to go to Hell. And the Protestants all thought the Catholics were—blah, blah, blah, blah. So it was very deep rooted.

And then regional things: the Scots and Irish, they both disliked each other. You saw some of that same ethnic tension when Yugoslavia broke up, and the Serbs hated the Croats, and the Croats hated the Montenegrins, and the Montenegrins hated

everybody. And then those genocides in Yugoslavia—at least the Scottish and English—well, the Irish got defeated by England. I don't know what all went on then, probably not very nice, but by the mid-twentieth century, neither Scotland nor England had any problem, active hostility, with each other. I mean, personally they might not like the other as a category, but—⁹

So it's not so strange that, since my grandfather had come over from Scotland probably in 1880, when he was a young man, and my mother's grandparents had come over, and so her mother was first generation, and my mom was second generation, some of those prejudices carried on down to my mother's generation. It lessened as years went on. My mother told me her older sister fell in love with a very intelligent, handsome, bright guy, but he was Catholic, and she was wrestling with the idea of whether she could marry a Catholic or not. When he went to Rome and was so happy that he was able to kiss the Pope's ring, she just said, "I can't do it." So she broke it off. So that's how deep-seated some of this stuff went.

College Years

Vanderscoff: So we've talked about a lot of different factors in your life in Ames, growing up. So out of all of this, I'm curious if you have a clear sense of what your parents' hopes or expectations were for you. You mentioned that they assumed that you would go to college and you didn't feel any sort of verbal pressure from them to marry immediately after, even though there was this general social expectation.

⁹And, of course, the terrible killings in Northern Ireland showed that virulent hostility existed during the sixties, seventies, and probably ever since the English settled into a good part of Northern Ireland centuries earlier—Elizabeth Calciano.

Calciano: Right.

Vanderscoff: So I'm curious about your dynamic with them, as we start moving into your time at Radcliffe and your movement out of Ames.

Calciano: Well, I knew that they always wanted me to go elsewhere to college, that being raised in Iowa is fine but, "you should experience other parts of the country." I kind of think that they felt I'd also get a better education, because what I applied to was Radcliffe and Stanford. Then Mother got worried that I'd only applied to two colleges, and she said, "Well, you better apply to Wellesley College, too." I said, "Well, the deadline passed." She said, "Well, you better do it." So I filled out the application and sent it in to Wellesley. And I got into all three.

But back to what my parents' expectations were—I can remember that when Mom and Dad were building their house that overlooks the ravine, it was on a cost-plus contract, and it was supposed to come in around thirty thousand, and it kept going plus and plus. I think it came in around forty, forty-four thousand or something. And on a professor's salary in 1955 or '56, that was a push, and Dad was concerned about it. He could do it, but he worried if he died, what would happen, and so he said, "If I die, you get yourself through college. No ifs or ands or buts. You can do it yourself, and you just make sure you get through." I said, "Yes, okay. I will."

My mother had put herself through. Dad had had his father put him through the undergraduate; he did his own on graduate. But that was about—"The only thing is when you go away to college and if something happens to us or to me"—my father—

“you get yourself through college.” That was a real definite sentence. He meant it! Because he was really worried that he’d taken on more expense than he should have. And, of course, the Depression had affected everybody in that generation very much.

They wanted me to apply to the East Coast and West Coast. I guess they suggested Radcliffe and Stanford, or maybe the counselor said that, or maybe friends. It was probably my parents who said Stanford would be good on the West Coast and Radcliffe would be good on the East Coast.

I know my father had always felt that not having gone to an Eastern college held him back, and he was very pleased when he got into the National Academy because they didn’t accept very many scientists from the Midwest. There was this East Coast attitude that “we are the important universities.” After the war, it changed rather rapidly, but not until about the 1950s or, beyond then, because so much good science was coming out of Stanford and Berkeley and UCLA by then.

Vanderscoff: So is your sense that you picked these places because maybe your father had heard about them?

Calciano: Well, both my father and mother had heard about *them*. I mean, they knew all the colleges. Dad had lectured at some. It was not as parochial an environment in Ames as I may have made it sound, no. And some of the kids in, particularly that class two years before me, had gone off to Radcliffe and Columbia University and Stanford. I was not breaking any new ground at all.

But I just can't happen to remember why I chose those two. It was my choice. Stanford sounded very interesting to me, and I thought: Well, okay, Harvard. It was Radcliffe, but—I wish I'd had the chance to visit each of them. I would have picked Stanford in a flash. Oh, absolutely! Harvard was not—

Vanderscoff: In retrospect, why do you think that—Palo Alto over Cambridge?

Calciano: Well, remember that three months after I graduated from Radcliffe, I was a graduate student at Stanford. My God, I looked around. Everybody looked healthy! Everybody looked happy! It was just night and day from Harvard, where people, particularly in the winter, were hunched down with their heavy coats around them. The premed students were always scowling and studying. It was pleasant in the dormitory, the women—the girls—(we were “girls” back then) all interacted. That was very nice.

Boston was a filthy city, absolutely filthy back then. Even when my son, Andrew, was four, we were back there, and we were walking down the street in Boston, and Andrew said, “Don't they ever clean the streets here?” I mean, he was a *little* kid. It was because they were filthy. There were papers all over, and wads of gum had been stepped on, and trash in the street, and honking horns. Everybody would honk at other drivers. There was the educated class and then there was the working class. I'm sure there was a middle class, but you didn't see much of it. In Boston, the huge windows kept falling out of the new, big Prudential Insurance building—the skyscraper. I think they had maybe fallen out the year before I got there, but

anyway, if we were in Boston, we went around to the other side of the street across from the Prudential building because its glass windows would fall out.

Vanderscoff: So, given that you didn't have that information about the people, about the place, the context, why do you think that you decided—

Calciano: I wrestled with it, and I wrestled with it, and I knew that secretly my parents really wanted me to go East, or at least I'm pretty sure my dad did. I thought: Well, I don't know, either one. Dad thought, as I said, that if he had been at one of the Eastern colleges for his undergraduate, he would have been recognized as a scientist much more quickly. Who knows, because he certainly did get recognized early, as I told you, the best science work by a chemist under thirty.

Vanderscoff: Right.

Calciano: But he thought that going East would give me a boost up. It certainly has looked nice on a résumé. I got a really good education. Stanford, frankly, was easy for me compared to Harvard, which I don't say out loud around here very much.¹⁰ But this was 1961, and Stanford was just not as rigorous as Harvard had been, which is probably a good thing because I was pregnant. I couldn't be just a regular graduate student. I was a wife. I was cooking dinner. I was pregnant and so forth and so on. Then for the last quarter, I had a baby that I was nursing.

I can remember studying in the car and then putting Andrew on my arm and going in to turn in a book at the Reserve Books Room and checking out the next reserve

¹⁰ Calciano attended Stanford for her M.A.

book, going out and studying in the car. He was quiet, but you just didn't go into a university library with a baby. It just was not done. I don't know if they would have thrown me out if he was crying, but I would certainly have gotten an awful lot of dirty looks.

But I'd had such good training in history that I did well. I got a lot of A's and good recommendations from faculty there. Most of the faculty at Harvard/Radcliffe didn't even know me, I don't think, because I was just one of 5,000 students, and I was in the 1,000 that were not really that important: the women. Of course, the reason professors knew me at Stanford was because I was a graduate student, so it isn't quite fair to talk about how professors knew me one place or the other.

But everybody looked healthy. Everybody looked happy. Everybody *was* pretty happy. There were crises, I'm certain, and there were love affairs that went wrong. But people were just not grim looking. I think *I* looked grim by the time I'd slogged through the snow to get to—it was just night and day, and I thought: Oh, boy, I wish I had gone here. So it's not a retrospect thing. It was—[Makes clicking sound.] I knew it.

Vanderscoff: Quick?

Calciano: Yes. The first couple of weeks I was at Stanford—even before the first day.

A Few More Childhood Memories

Vanderscoff: Today is Sunday, January 18th, 2015. Cameron Vanderscoff here with Elizabeth Spedding Calciano to pick up the thread, talking about her undergraduate

experience at Radcliffe College, graduate years at Stanford University. And I believe you'd like to start today with some—

Calciano: Just a couple of things that I thought I would add after reflecting on what all I had said in the first session with you. I don't want to make growing up in a nice town in Iowa sound idyllic because it had its constraints. Frankly, I was lonely a lot of times, because I was an only kid, and when it got dark, everybody had to go home. It was fine when I was younger, because I just played by myself or whatever, and never felt bored then. I remember being out, oh, when I was five or something lying on the grass and looking up at the sky and suddenly realizing that it looked like the clouds were moving, and I said, "Wow!" Because we didn't have television weather reports. I looked, and, yes, that one's moving, and went running in and asked my mom. And she kind of looked at me and said, "Well, yes, clouds move." She had to think for a mini-second.

So I wasn't bored in those years, but I can remember when I was nine, they asked me if I was old enough to stay by myself while they went out to a reception or a dinner or whatever. They didn't go out for dinner for themselves, but they'd go out where somebody asked three or four couples to come over for a dinner. I said, "Yes, as long as I get paid the same as the babysitter." I guess I was spunky when I was nine. I don't know! [Chuckles.] So I got twenty-five cents an hour.

But it was pretty boring that year I was nine, and I can remember having our meter stick, which is what we had instead of a yardstick for some reason, and balancing it

across the back of my father's chair and putting different weights on it. But I didn't do any calculations. It was just, Oh, I wonder if this will do that?

I wish, in hindsight, that I had had an opportunity to play with computer games and watch things maybe on television. I think I could have learned a huge amount more than what I already learned, and I might not have been quite so naïve as I was when I went off to college. I might not. It might not have changed me. I mean, it could have turned me into a weirdo, but I don't think it would have. I'm really pleased that my grandchildren all have all these opportunities, plus enrichment classes and so forth.

From lying on the grass one of those days, I came in when I was about four and a half, I guess, almost five; my mother was ironing in the living room because that was where she could plug into a socket, because back then you had one socket on each wall, if you were lucky. It was a different world. She was ironing, and she was crying, and I'd never seen my mother cry. And that was because the news had come over the radio that President Franklin D. Roosevelt had died. I was vaguely aware there was somebody called President Roosevelt—I had no comprehension, but that really impressed me, that my mother was crying.

In retrospect, I'm not sure about this, but I'm pretty certain. I remember them occasionally listening intently to a radio thing (which I think would be one of his fireside chats), where they kept saying, "Shh! This is important. Shh! Don't interrupt. Shh!" Because generally I was allowed to ask questions any old time I wanted, because they weren't watching a TV show. There were no TV's in the forties.

So those were two of the thoughts that came to me.

I also got a little worried that it seems like I keep saying, “Well, and then I did this,” and “I that.” And then I thought, “Well, he is interviewing *me*, so I guess it’s okay if I say, ‘I, I, I.’” I think when we get into other years I’ll be talking more about events and so forth and not so much me, me, me.

Okay, now, with all that, you may start molding this interview in whatever direction you like.

Radcliffe College

Vanderscoff: Wonderful. Thank you. So last time we left off, you were discussing your decision to go to Radcliffe. You talked about your sense that your parents wanted that.

Calciano: My father, I think. But it was just a sense. I wasn’t pushed, and I do not have any idea where those two colleges came into my choice. Could have been a high school counselor who said, “Well, this one’s good here, and that one’s good over there.” I don’t know.

Vanderscoff: So if you wouldn’t mind, I would like to pick up the thread of that transition, that move from Ames, Iowa, moving to Cambridge, to Radcliffe.

Calciano: Well, my parents put me on a train, and off we went—or I went. I got myself from Boston Station to Radcliffe. I probably took a taxi. I would have had to. And then the women, the girls—I don’t know what to call them—we were college

girls back then, but now that's insulting, and they were women. Anyway, one of the residents of the dorm greeted me. Very nice, and showed me the room and so forth.

I always felt at home with all the girls in the dorm. It was a small dormitory, about forty girls. I enjoyed them. I could tell there were differences in where they were raised. I was also shocked because on my little wing almost everybody there hated their mother. That was a new concept to me. I just didn't. But apparently on the East Coast and elsewhere, I suppose, it's not uncommon for people to hate their mother at that age. I hope it was just at that age.

I remember that my parents sent my bicycle out by freight car, on a train. And of all the dumb things—talk about naïve—I just rode it from the Boston Station to Radcliffe, which is about six or seven miles, along Storrow Drive, which was a hugely busy street then. I had no business being on that street, but I didn't know that. I'd bicycled everywhere in Ames. Always had to bicycle out to the campus. It was a long way, but for my piano lesson, of all things.

When I say "town-gown," there weren't any fights or anything like that. But the two entities just didn't really have very much to do with each other at all. The Harvard faculty and others there looked down on the "townies." That I found kind of strange because in Ames, everybody kind of got along. My roommate—and she was also a friend—for a while dated a Carmen Gentile, who was a Townie, and he had gotten in on scholarship, but that was considered very unusual for a "townie" to be able to go to Harvard. It was quite a pecking order back then.

My classes—I found them interesting, and I was still in that, Oh, let's do, let's do. So I took freshman chemistry. I was taking science and math, and then social science, and probably English. I didn't take French there. I can remember our chemistry teacher was great, and the others were good, but I wanted to do the fine arts, and I wanted to learn something else. So for a while there, I was auditing three classes, which would be fine if I'd known I needed to study in the others, but I was pretty naïve.

They'd tested us, and I was in the one-semester version of chemistry, the fast track instead of the one-year course, which meant that the kids from there who wanted to go on went right into Quantitative Analysis. That is a course that mainly juniors took after they'd had organic chemistry. I, and some of the freshmen, were just plopped up into it, and I found it interesting. And they said, "Calibrate your scales," and I very carefully calibrated my scales and my weights. We were given this little set of weights, and every set is a little bit different. They were the same weights numerically, but a 5-gram weight might weigh 4.9 grams or 5.05 grams.

Oh, and those labs! Four hours, three days a week—Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, I was in lab from 1:00 to 5:00. And I still was trying to audit the fine arts course, the art history course from 12:00 to 1:00, and I was taking whatever courses in the morning. So I was just stupid. But enthusiastic. If I had been better advised, or if I had had more sense myself, I would have probably known that I didn't belong jumping right into quantitative analysis. But I had no idea. It was mainly pre-med

students in there, who were very serious, as they should be, and knew that you study.

I did all right on the first couple of quizzes. But then I began to get C, D, and F's on the rest. Fortunately, I was a very precise cook, and I consistently got either the top or the second highest result on my lab cooking (deciding precisely how much of X and how much of Y was in the small sample we had been handed.) Absolutely straight A's on the composition of the samples, so with the A's on that and the F's on the quizzes, I got a C in the course. So thank God "cooking" counted for half of the grade. But I was just way over my head. I don't think I realized that I should memorize that "ate" on the end of a chemical was different than "ite" and why. That was why I was not able to do the answers on those later quizzes. I just was naïve.

My father had a story about when he was a teaching assistant at Berkeley and he was teaching quantitative analysis. He saw one of his students looking along the windowsills of the building in Berkeley and he asked her what she was looking for. Of course, the windows were open. There was no air conditioning and flies buzzed around. She was looking for a dead housefly that was approximately the same size as the one that had flown into her sample [chuckles] so that she could weigh the thing and figure out how much to deduct for the housefly and then do her calculation. So she kind of missed the point, I think, too.

But that was freshman year. I also took calculus. The kids there that took calculus, a lot of them were from a prep school. There were two courses in between what my school offered, and beginning calculus (analytical something and pre-calculus), and

a lot of those kids had already had a year of calculus. I noticed that when my kids were in school here, they got introduction to calculus or something if they were on the fast track. My grandkids started getting calculus as a junior in high school, and that's what I was going up against. And it was beyond me, that too. When I'd go home at Christmas, my dad spent a lot of time teaching me how to figure out how to do calculus. I was okay as long as there was a formula and could plug in the thing.

So my first year was not particularly auspicious. I got B's and B-pluses in the "soft" subjects, as scientists would say, and I got a C, I guess, in both chemistry and—oh, and I had gotten a B-plus in the first semester of chemistry.

Dumb me—it put me on the "fast track." I still went on carrying a science and a math class and two other classes in the fall of my sophomore year. Calculus was just beyond me, and I got a D, and I said, "I'm getting really good grades in social studies or history or whatever, and I'm not really studying much for them because I'm spending all my time trying to figure out this other stuff. I better switch."

So I switched. Radcliffe had—I thought it was a fiendish scheme. We had two semesters and when you came back in the winter from the Christmas break, you had three weeks of "reading period," which I think is a good idea, where you were supposed to catch up on the reading you hadn't done, and then exams. And then spring semester, about the second week in May, your three-week reading period would start. That was the first really beautiful weather and beautiful—I mean, goodness! The daffodils. I'd never seen rhododendrons and azaleas and I just wanted to spend all my time looking at this beautiful stuff.

I did a lot of reading. I had, fortunately, four days between each exam at that time. In Tudor and Stuart history, which was an upper-level class—and I was still a sophomore. I read all the material—or skimmed and read, and skimmed and read, and skimmed in that four days, sitting on the lawn in the Radcliffe Yard because I needed to go into the library there and get reserve books out and so forth. I already had some background in that, just because I really liked Henry VIII and particularly Elizabeth—because she reigned for so long, and she was so astute, and she would balance Spain against France. She never married because she would lose her queenship if she did. She'd just sort of be the property of the prince or whoever married her, and England would become part of whatever her husband's estate or fiefdom, realm, whatever was. I was interested in her. So I had some background. But I also found really interesting what I was reading, and I got a straight A in that class. This was before grade inflation. A's were not given out to that many folks. And I just went, Wow! I'm glad I'm switching over to history.

I did well enough that, despite all those terrible science and math grades, I qualified for graduating cum laude. And my thesis had gotten a magna cum laude, so I was scheduled for orals to see if I should graduate magna cum laude. But I was also getting married ten days after graduation and so I flew back to Iowa for the wedding showers. I guess I did that during reading period. That was one of the only times I flew. Otherwise it was the train ride home, which was a twenty-four-hour deal. Slept in the coach car and that was fine. That was just what you did. It didn't bother me.

Then I went back, and I can remember I just couldn't settle down to study. I remember I started reviewing my English history notes around 3:00 a.m., which is pretty dumb for orals at 10:00. I had to have fallen asleep about 4:00 or 4:30. And during orals, I could just tell that I was not doing well. I did fine on the Tudor and Stuart period, but the nineteenth century, eighteenth century didn't interest me all that much. I was able to answer them. But I can remember the graduate student who was on the orals panel saying, "And which prime minister reminds you of a lemon?" I looked at him, and I said, "Well, so and so was pretty acerbic, but"—and then in middle of—two questions later, I said, "Did you mean Prime Minister William Peel?" That's a *New York Times* crossword puzzle question. That is not a history question: "Which one reminds you of a lemon?" So I satisfied myself afterward with saying, "Well, of course, I missed some of the legitimate questions, but some of the questions were really dumb." But I just did not do well. My mind was on the wedding. So I graduated cum laude, not magna cum laude.

My parents came out for the graduation, and we packed up the car, and we went home via visiting the relatives in Canada, in Quebec and Ontario, and then down to Ames and got there about five days before the wedding, four or five days, because I graduated on the 14th of June; I got married on the 24th. Went on my honeymoon with my husband, which was driving towards California because he had to start his fellowship at Stanford Medical School, theoretically July 1, but I think he was told he didn't have to report till July 5. I don't remember.

So in the space of a year, I graduated, got married, got pregnant, went out to Stanford, worked that summer in various offices of the med school (that got jobs for the spouses), and then enrolled in my master's program. Did my master's degree. Had my baby between winter and spring quarters, and graduated, and then moved permanently down to the Santa Cruz area—all in the space of a year and two weeks. So it was a pretty eventful year, I guess you would say.

Vanderscoff: Yes. I have a couple of quick questions.

Calciano: You can ask all you want now. [Chuckles.] I've given you the framework.

Vanderscoff: Yes, thank you. Just a few questions in review of that year, of that time of transition. So one thing is just that you mentioned this phenomenon of grade inflation, right?—which I've heard about over and over. What do you think the difference was between you receiving an A in that course and what an A would mean now?

Calciano: Well, I can't speak for Harvard, but now even they have had to, I understand, give out a lot more A's and B's than they did traditionally. Traditionally, I think it was the top 10 percent got A's, and the next 20 percent got B's, and then this huge swath got C's, and then some D's and F's. I'm not sure they gave out that many D's and F's, but A's were not easy to come by. There were a lot of very bright students who knew how to study. For me, it was highly unusual to get an A, and obviously a whole bunch of B's and B pluses were pretty good, or I wouldn't have

been on the borderline between cum laude and magna cum laude. So I think that gives you an idea.

And with that D and all those C's from the science courses. I'm lucky I graduated cum laude. B's were a pretty good grade. You wanted A's. Who didn't? In high school you got A's, of course. Why not at Harvard? But it was a little bit different.

We went to classes with the guys and took the same tests, and we were told that the Harvard boys resented us because we generally got higher grades than they did. There were a lot of "Gentlemen C" guys. I never understood what a Gentleman C meant, why it was okay. Well, it meant your family was rich and well connected, and you went to Harvard, and you didn't have to study hard. If you got C's, you still got into the stock brokerage or the law school or whatever.

There were these clubs at Harvard and I never quite knew what they were or why some guys got into them and others didn't and wished they could have. And we were housed a mile away, and we couldn't—did I talk about not being able to study in the undergraduate library?

Vanderscoff: No, you haven't mentioned that yet.

Calciano: Okay.

Vanderscoff: But I'd like to hear about it.

Calciano: Well, all the women were housed down in the Radcliffe dorms. Harvard's a much different place now. Now the women are allowed into the Harvard Houses and some of the Harvard men spend a year or so a mile away, in the Radcliffe dorms.

Our library was across the Cambridge Common. So it was a good, maybe third of a mile, at least, to go from the Harvard Yard over to the Radcliffe library. Radcliffe had started out in the late 1870s, when a group of women got together and they got Harvard professors to come over and give them the same lectures that they'd given to the men. It was like that until World War II, when so many men were in the service—both professors, I imagine, to a certain extent, and definitely students, that they had to let the women into the Harvard classes. Then it stayed that way. But we still had our own living quarters a mile away.

A mile walk in the autumn was fine. It was pretty; the trees were nice. Middle of winter, when there were piles of snow on the ground—and nobody paid attention to parking rules or driving rules in Boston—it was crazy. The first time I drove my husband's car—he was just my fiancée then—we were on something like Storrow Drive, one of the streets that had three lanes. And I kept saying, "I'm not sure which lane I'm supposed to be in." He would say, "It doesn't matter," because cars were straddling—there were two lanes of cars and they were straddling the first and second lane and then the second and third lane. I'd been brought up that you stay in your lane. I can just remember being astounded. I imagine during rush hour, all three lanes were used, but it wasn't rush hour, and so why bother with those lane things?

Parking—nobody paid attention to parking. You would come to the end of where the sidewalk was and the street was to start. And the snowplows—snow was always a big surprise every year in Cambridge. I don't know why, but they never knew quite what to do with the snow. They were slow in getting the snowplows out. They'd pile a lot of the snow up in the center of the intersection, and then the rest they piled up along the sidewalks, or the little strip of grass, or whatever that's between the sidewalk and the street. The plows would come along, and so to get to where you wanted to go walk across the street—because you had to cross several streets to get to Harvard Yard and the snow would be piled up in front of the crosswalk—you had to climb up, as others had climbed before you, so there'd be two or three footsteps going—foot places—where you put your feet. Then you kind of just slid down, and there was always a car parked right in front of it, so you had to slide down and sort of catch yourself, so you didn't go under the car. Now, that maybe only happened a couple of times a year, when you had to climb up over the snow bank and down. Most of time then the snows were not that high. But there was *always* a car parked in front of any crosswalk anywhere, and nobody did anything, summer or winter, to enforce any parking laws.

I told you Boston was filthy. Well, Cambridge was filthy. It was a whole different world than from what I been brought up in. I would go to Des Moines quite often with my mom on the bus, and then we would walk over to where the department stores were, because if you wanted to do serious shopping, you had to go to Des Moines. That's a city. Streets were clean. Sidewalks were clean. I just thought that's the way things were. It certainly wasn't in the East.

And things were very corrupt, which didn't affect the students at all. I mentioned the Prudential Life building that had the windows falling out from the twentieth story. I don't know what they finally decided it was, but I would imagine that part of it involved graft on the part of the labor unions, who were run by—I don't know whether it was Mafia or not, but anyway, corruption was rampant. It didn't appeal to me at all.

When I got married and we discussed where we wanted to practice, I said, "Well, either California or the Midwest. I definitely don't want to be on the East Coast." And my husband said, "Well, either California or the East Coast. I can't see myself in the Midwest," which I agreed. So we settled on California, which was a very nice choice for both of us.

Now the city is beautiful. It really is. Have you been to Boston?

Vanderscoff: Yes, yes. I was there most recently a year ago.

Calciano: Yes, the streets are clean. People drive reasonably sensibly—not entirely. I can remember taking a taxi ride—well, maybe this was in Connecticut, but where there was a short one-way street going the other way, but it was the shortest way—and so our taxi just turned up the one-way street going back, you know, the wrong way, up that block. Okay, fine. We didn't hit anything, and on we went. It was weird, the way people drove, honking, honking, honking.

Some things I very much liked. There was a corner deli. We could go out and get hamburgers or submarine sandwiches. I'd never heard of a submarine sandwich.

Didn't have those in Iowa. Didn't even have pizza until I was nine or ten, when the first pizza place came in.

What time is it?

Vanderscoff: Well, we've been going forty minutes.

Calciano: Okay. We can go a little more.

Vanderscoff: Yes.

Calciano: For the record, I was not very cognizant of when the playoff games were going to be scheduled, but the football team I root for now is going to come on at noon. We're going to take a fifteen-minute break then and watch the beginning of the Green Bay Packers playing I think the New England Patriots. I'm not even positive of that. They're playing the Seattle Seahawks, are they?

Vanderscoff: No, I think the Seahawks lost to New England.

Calciano: No, the Seahawks are in it. Well, at any rate—see, you can tell?

Vanderscoff: We'll straighten this out yet.

Calciano: We'll straighten that I am not a zealot when it comes to football, but I do want to watch the beginning. I think this might as well go into the transcript if you want it to because it's part of me. I think if I were younger, I would never dare stop an interview for something like that, but I guess I've gotten old enough that I think I can occasionally do what I want.

Vanderscoff: Prerogative.

Calciano: Yes. [Chuckles.] I don't exercise it that all that often, but I—[Both chuckle.]

[restarts interview] So yes, there was Italian food there. We ate mostly in the dormitory, though, because the food was paid for, and I put on twenty pounds that first year.

Vanderscoff: Same sort of food that you grew up with? You mentioned submarine sandwiches were different from the corner store.

Calciano: Well, yes, and those were not served in the dorm. But meatloaf and stews and all sorts of things were served and they tasted really good. They served tongue every once in a while. I liked hearts and gizzards and liver because we'd have liver quite often at home. I even liked kidneys because my grandfather used to buy kidneys and cook them up for the dog. He'd slice them up, and I tasted one once. "This is good!" So he would give me some while he—you know, they were cooked. They were sliced. There was nothing wrong with them. But I was probably the only kid in Ames, Iowa that had ever tasted kidney. The farm kids might have. I don't know.

But at any rate, it was family style, so you passed around the dishes. I remember my mother—she was always very conscious of manners, partly the Scottish in her, I think, but also the business of being all of a sudden a postdoc's wife, sort of a faculty wife and so she boned up on manners—she was always making sure that I knew my manners. If I'd reach for something across the table, "You don't do that." Well, at

Radcliffe the tables were round, and somebody had to do what's called the "boarding house reach" and reach into the center of the table to start passing the potatoes or the stew.

On Fridays we always had fish, or we had no meat. Out of the forty-some girls in my dorm, three were Catholic. One had a papal dispensation and could eat meat on Friday. One was very popular and had been actually one of the models in *Seventeen* magazine. And she was never in the dorm, eating on Friday night. I can't remember what the third one was. But we always had no meat. We had some kind of fish or shellfish because all the cooking staff and the kitchen staff and everybody was Catholic. Boston was—I don't know how much Catholic, but it was a big proportion of the general population.

Vanderscoff: The Irish population.

Calciano: Irish, yes. I don't know if there was much Polish by then. I think there probably were.

Okay, can we take a break?

[recording paused to watch the game]

Vanderscoff: So picking up an anecdote that you were talking about, I believe you were in the middle of a story, maybe ten minutes before we turned off the record, about studying at the library—

Calciano: Oh, we never finished that.

Vanderscoff: Yes.

Calciano: Yes. Thank you. The few years before—somewhere in the early to mid-fifties, some donor had given a bunch of money to Harvard for an undergraduate library next to Widener Library, which is the great big, famous library that is a wonderful library. But it wasn't really for undergraduates unless you were doing advanced work. When I worked on my thesis I was in the stacks a lot of times. It was amazing. I was reading the annals of Scottish Parliament or whatever it was called then, meetings. I mean, these books from the 1600s and 1700s—it was phenomenal. Of course, this was long before you could have anything photocopied or scanned. Anyway, there was this beautiful modern library with all-glass windows floor to ceiling, looking out on Harvard Yard, and then the tables, and you could see the guys studying. But it was only for the undergraduate men, not for Radcliffe. So if we had an hour between classes, if we needed to go to the library, we walked that trek across the Cambridge Commons, across a busy street, the Commons, another busy street and so forth. That would probably take ten to fifteen minutes, and then you'd read for a little while, and then you'd turn around and go back. Or, in the alternative, you could have some stuff with you that you could read just sitting on the steps of one of the buildings there.

In winter it was not fun to go across there, and so you tended not to. I think that galled me more than having to walk from the Radcliffe campus. That was just a "given" to me. I didn't think at the time that we were second-class citizens, but not letting the women use that undergraduate library, just really! It was cold out there,

you know, and you're looking in at this nice warm building and the guys are all studying.

When I get calls for donations for Harvard, I used to just decline, and now I'll say, "No, I'm sorry. When I went there, the women were treated as second-class citizens. I don't think that that was right and I just don't have any "Halls of Ivy" feeling about Harvard." It's very different now. As I said, the women are integrated.

I was fortunate in my senior year, I guess it was, that my dormitory then—I'd been in a small one for two years, and then I switched to a large one, and it was the beginning of an experiment where it became affiliated with one of the Houses. The Harvard Houses there are part of a larger dormitory complex, and they each have faculty offices. They each have graduate students and junior faculty, some that live there. I don't know the whole details because I never was there, but— And they would have seminars.

Women didn't get any of that. There was a meeting at Comstock Hall (my dormitory) of all of us at the beginning of a semester to find out what the rules were for whatever in the dormitory, and one of the people said, "Oh, and we're now affiliated with Windsor House" or whatever. "They have an Economics Table every other Wednesday," or whatever, "and would anybody be interested in attending?" I put up *my* hand. So I got to attend the Economics Table, and John Kenneth Galbraith was the one who sat at the head of this table and led the discussion. And there was often

a visiting professor¹¹ or another professor from the economics department and then usually several young professors, associate professors or whatever, some graduate students and a sprinkling of members from that particular House, plus me, because I don't think anybody else from Radcliffe volunteered. I could be wrong about that. I think I was the only one.

It was wonderful education for me, because I would hear the men discussing either economic topics that were in the forefront of the time, or one of Galbraith's pet theories. I was able to watch how the younger faculty would think that what he said was pretty stupid, because I thought that a lot of stuff he'd said was pretty stupid. And the way they would dance around. They'd say, "Well, yes, I see your point. But, on the other hand, it could be considered," blah, blah, blah. You know, just all kinds of ways to kowtow to this great—and he was six-foot-five or something. He was really tall, this huge figure both in reputation—he was the kind that would be a "talking head" now on some of the Sunday morning news programs. He was probably one of one or two Harvard professors that most everybody in the academic communities across the country would know the name and know what he'd written. Have you ever heard of him?

Vanderscoff: Yes, I have.

Calciano: Okay. Yes, I think he probably did a lot of good work, but I also thought, he's a great name and he's a good mind, but, boy, he—I didn't use the word

¹¹ Paul A. Samuelson from MIT was there several times. The discussion between them was very interesting!—Elizabeth Calciano.

“bullshit” back then, but some of the stuff he was saying really didn’t make much sense. And you’ve got my permission to use that word.

That was a revelation, to know that just because somebody’s sort of a godlike figure on a faculty, that they, too, can have feet of clay and not know quite what they’re talking about. It was an education to see how the younger faculty interacted with him and how they pussyfooted around. They felt they needed to say these things. And in retrospect, it may have been that some of the stuff he said he did on purpose just to get the younger people to react. I wasn’t sophisticated enough to know that. I hadn’t even thought of that until just now, that he maybe sometimes did this on purpose.

Anyway, it was a wonderful educational opportunity for me. I loved it. I could have had that for sophomore, junior and senior years, if I’d been a Harvard man. I would have been in the Yard as a Harvard freshmen, in the dormitories. As a sophomore you go to one of these Houses or other—they’re somewhat reminiscent of Harry Potter and the Slytherin House and so and so House. One house was more of a jock house, and one house was more of this and that, which I never really knew because I wasn’t eligible for any of the houses. I think that’s part of my resentment about Harvard, was that we really were not given the full education that the men received.

Vanderscoff: Were there other ways that this sense of being a second-class citizen manifested itself educationally, socially, in the dynamic with faculty or with the Harvard students?

Calciano: Educationally, that would be the main one, and that is a huge one. Socially, I wasn't from the economically upper-class East. That didn't bother me. And in the Radcliffe dormitories, it didn't seem to make any difference. Everybody chatted with each other. I would, as I told you, sometimes get, "Oh, Iowa. Oh, yeah,"—you know, and "Idaho" or whatever. I got to detest the Harvard accent. Did you ever hear William F. Buckley?

Vanderscoff: Yes.

Calciano: I think he went to Yale, but he always [mimics a Harvard accent] was like this.

Vanderscoff: Very rarified, kind of—

Calciano: [Continues to mimic accent] Yes. Right. Oh, yes.

Vanderscoff: —hyper-articulated.

Calciano: Some of these guys would start [again mimics] learning how to talk like that. [Resumes normal voice.] The funniest thing was that the women who came from the Connecticut suburbs of New York—they had the most gosh-awful accent, and I can't do it, but [mimics a nasal accent] it was kind of nasal, and they pronounced some words differently. [Resumes normal voice.] I can't do it. I mean, that's a lousy imitation. But, okay, so that's what all their neighbors did and so forth.

But one of them said, "You're from Iowa. That's interesting, because you don't seem to have any accent." I said, "Well, yes, we just have standard English," but I thought

of saying, “You sure do!” [Laughs.] But I didn’t. I was a nice girl. [Both chuckle.] I didn’t. My mother made sure that I didn’t pick up the nasal twang that some of the Midwestern people had, and I just talked a regular, standard English. When we began to have television newscasts, the newscasters just spoke plain, regular English. I think that’s one of the reasons that, while I can still tell if somebody’s from Boston, I’m not sure if I could tell if a twenty- or twenty-five-year-old was from Boston because they’ve grown up hearing a lot of regular English as well as the Eastern accent. The Bronx accent used to be—I guess when my father was young, it was kind of ridiculed all over the place because you’d hear it with the baseball managers and so forth on the radio. I guess there’s a Bronx accent. I don’t know, because I don’t think anybody from the Bronx was allowed into Harvard, but I could be wrong again. I probably am wrong.

I didn’t like the elitism. That went against my Middle Western “everybody is equal under the law—” and so forth. I thought it was really nice that a lot of the kids in the dorm had been to Europe a gazillion times, and I didn’t feel resentful. But traveling to Europe just wasn’t in the cards, growing up in Ames, Iowa. A couple of families would do it, maybe business types, bankers, but travel just wasn’t as easy back then. If you wanted to go to England you climbed on the *Queen Mary* or the *Queen Elizabeth*, and five days later you got there. You could have a wonderful time—dining even in the second-class would be quite nice. But it was just different times. Every time I say that, I kind of laugh because that’s what people would say to me when I was your age and interviewing older folks. But it was true then and now it’s true now.

But now we're far off the track. Where do you want to pick up again?

Vanderscoff: So we were just talking about your first husband. Did your family or community have any comments on the fact that you were marrying a man with an Italian name?

Calciano: Oh, yes! Lots of—you know, they didn't say it much to me, but I could tell. "Are you really certain you want to marry somebody from the East Coast?" or "You really"—they didn't really say "with an Italian name," but that's what they meant. I'd say, "Well, yes. You know, he's not Catholic anymore. He was raised that way, but he's left his church." "Oh. Okay." Sort of, "Okay, well, that's half of the detriment gone; the other half is he's Italian, but"—actually, he was only a half Italian because his mother was from French Canada, and—well, let me correct that. I'm not certain whether it was Ontario or Quebec—but her mother's first husband had been a French-Canadian, so Tony's mother was half French-Canadian, half English. But she was one of the two children from her mother's first husband. He died in the 1918 flu epidemic and her second husband was named Clark.

I would see this attitude all the time in California, when I'd go places with my children, little blond Andrew and little blondish Beth, and they'd say, "My, your children don't look Italian." And I'd say, "Well, they're only a quarter Italian," and I didn't bother to add "and they were they're more Scottish than Italian," because there's a little bit of Scottish on my father's side—so my kids were slightly more than a quarter Scottish. But I would get that all the time: "your children just don't look Italian," because Italians "looked a certain way."

I have the feeling that the Italians on the East Coast were economically segregated and at church—segregated far more than on the West Coast. There certainly was the Catholic versus Protestant division on the West Coast in the earlier years, but the Stagnaros became mainstream pretty early and so forth.¹²

In the town where Tony grew up, the first or second time I was there, they were talking about going to church that morning. I said, “Oh yes, we drove by the Catholic church on the way home from” whatever. And they’d say, “Oh, no, that’s the Polish Catholic church.” There was the Polish Catholic church, the Italian Catholic church, and there was a third one. [pause] Irish! It would be Italian, Irish and Polish, yes. And they didn’t intermingle. The Irish didn’t like Poles very much and so forth, except the people who rented the upstairs apartment above my husband’s parents’ house were Polish, I think. It was just a much more polarized society.

You looked really askance for a while when I was talking about the Catholic-Protestant thing earlier. If you think about the American Civil War, that was in the 1860s. By the 1940s and fifties, there were a lot of Southerners that still didn’t forgive the North, that still hated Yankees, and that was almost a hundred years later.

When I took a three-week trip at age thirteen with my parents through the South it was quite an education in various ways. We stopped for gas at a gas station. I liked water back then. I went to the drinking fountain, and got water, and when I turned

¹² See Elizabeth Spedding Calciano and Randall Jarrell, *Malio J. Stagnaro: The Santa Cruz Genovese* (Regional History Project, UCSC Library, 1975). Available at <http://library.ucsc.edu/reg-hist/stagnaro>

around and left, people were looking at me. I said, “What’s wrong, Mother?” She said, “Well, you drank out of the ‘colored’ fountain and not the ‘white’ fountain.” I said, “What?” She said, “Well, you see, it says ‘colored’ there. And the “Negroes”—or the “colored” people—I don’t know which word—both were the ways you referred to African-Americans then—“They’re supposed to drink at that fountain, and we are supposed to drink at the other.” I was just floored. I had no idea. And we used the white bathroom. It was just very interesting. That’s why I would like to think, had my generation been activist, like the ones in ’63 and on, that I might have taken part in some of those protests because I just thought that was terrible: a white drinking fountain and a colored drinking fountain. It offended my thirteen-year-old sensibilities.

Graduate School at Stanford University

Vanderscoff: Returning to the subject of your husband and your move to Palo Alto and Stanford University, you mentioned that you were having this debate about where you would move, and that California became the option that you both agreed upon. What made you settle upon California?

Calciano: Well, he didn’t want the Middle West, and I sure didn’t want the East, and neither of us wanted the South. So that left the mountain states and California, Oregon and Washington. I knew quite a bit about Wyoming and Colorado and liked them because I’d gone there with my parents. I’d been to California before also and had kind of liked what I’d seen. He applied and got a fellowship, a cardiology fellowship, at Stanford Medical School, which had just been moved from San

Francisco down to Palo Alto. And there were lots of arguments among the medical faculty over whether that was a good move or not, but that wasn't my concern.

I thought that the new Stanford Medical School was one of the most beautiful buildings I had ever seen. I don't know if you've seen it, but Edward D. Stone designed it, and it was very innovative then to use cement block. He didn't just use the standard cement block—the blocks had a filigree look; they almost looked like flowers supporting the four sides of the block. When I went there, the agapanthus was in bloom, and I'd never seen those, and they were beautiful. It just seemed really wonderful, and I had applied for Stanford, the graduate program and gotten in. I was afraid since I'd turned them down as an undergraduate, that they wouldn't let me go now as a graduate student. I had no idea that they get thousands of applications, and they didn't keep track of who said, "Thanks, but no thanks" four years earlier.

Vanderscoff: So would you go into that decision, then, to pursue a master's degree?

Calciano: Oh, I think I always knew I would do some kind of graduate work. My parents never said, "When you go to graduate school," so that was just something I thought of. But I didn't feel like I was equipped to particularly do anything, not in history. I'd need a PhD in history. I vaguely thought of law school, but I didn't know too much about it, you know, "Well, if I don't have anything else, I'll go to law school." I had no doubts I'd get in. I don't know if I'd have gotten into Harvard, but I had no doubts I'd get into law school then, because it wasn't as competitive as it became later, but not very many women were accepted in any law school then.

So California was an easy decision. And, of course, we were near Palo Alto. It was more affordable in the next little town, Mountain View. Andrew was born. We were busy then. [Chuckles.] I mean, a pregnant woman was pretty unusual in a university, and enrolling for classes at Stanford—they had gone to the early computer system of punch cards. Have you ever seen a punch card?

Vanderscoff: I've never seen one, but I—

Calciano: Okay. Well, it's a rectangular piece of cardboard, and it's got various holes punched in it, somewhat reminiscent of the "hanging chad" business in the 2000 election, although that's a long time—you were ten then, weren't you?

Vanderscoff: Yes, I would have been eleven.

Calciano: Okay. Well, so the lines to register were huge and very long. And I felt like I may be going into labor. I'd gone with my husband and two other medical residents up to Lake Tahoe, because they wanted to ski, and since I wouldn't be skiing, I could be the driver. I was eight and three-quarters months pregnant. And when my son-in-law heard that my husband and these other two doctors had me drive them to Tahoe and then drive them back he was aghast. I kept saying to Tony, "Something funny keeps happening about every twenty minutes. I wonder if I'm in labor or not." But I wasn't sure. Nothing was hurting. This was on the way back to Palo Alto.

The next morning was registration, and still something kind of funny was happening, and so I decided, well, I can't wait two hours in each of these lines, so I

went up to the front of the line for the history class that I wanted, and I tapped this little guy on the shoulder, and I said, "I think I'm in labor. Do you mind if I cut in?" And, "Oh. Oh, okay." I did that on all three lines. I got through registration in an hour or less. I was afraid that I was going to be waddling around the campus for another three weeks because I really thought my due date might be three weeks later than it was. I was afraid that they'd think I was a big fraud. I still was kind of a timid person in a sense, in not wanting to take unfair advantage of people.

Then I went to my adviser's office, who was Professor Richard W. Lyman, who later became president of the Stanford University. He said, "We're having our first seminar meeting this afternoon. Do you think you can come?" And I said, "Yes, I *think* so. I'm in labor, but nothing's hurting yet, so I think"—and he just fell apart. "Oh, no, no, no." And he went over to where various stacks of papers were—"Here, this is what we're going to hand out at the seminar." I said, "Well, I'll be there if I can." "No, no, *don't!*"

So I went and bought baby clothes and baby furniture because we hadn't quite gotten around to that. Tony was late coming home. I'd seen my doctor in the afternoon, and, yes, he said, "You better go to the hospital," and I said, "Well, I have to wait for the delivery of the baby furniture." Okay. So the poor doctor was waiting when we got there, and I gave birth a few hours later.

The only time I felt that I was discriminated grade-wise on my academic performance was that seminar with Lyman. There were three of us in the seminar, two guys and me, and by that point I knew that I was doing good work. I was getting

A's all over the place. Well, not all over the place, but doing much better than I had at Harvard. I did good work in that seminar. But he gave one of them an A, one of them an A-, and me a B+. I was just shocked that he gave me a B+, but I didn't quite put it all together.

Then at graduation at the end of the spring semester he said, "Well, congratulations. I never thought you'd finish your master's degree. I knew you wouldn't." I said, "Well, I told you I would." And so he'd given me the B+ because he had to give a B to somebody, and the other two were going to be historians. So I got this B+ because I obviously was going to give birth and I wouldn't finish the quarter or the master's. Anyway, I finished it, and he shook my hand, and said how surprised he was. I didn't say anything about the B+, of course.

But I liked the experiences I had at Stanford. The professors were good, and the kids that I interacted with were very nice. I couldn't participate in all the kind of school activities you normally would, because I was first, pregnant, and then a new mother, so I had my hands full of other things—and also newly married. But I had a very pleasant time at Stanford. It's one of the high points in my life.

Vanderscoff: And what was the focus of your studies there? Was there a thesis or anything like that?

Calciano: No. That was very nice. They had dropped the thesis requirement either a year or two years before because they felt that most people henceforth, if they were going to be in the history program, would probably plan on going through for the

PhD, and they'd get their thesis experience there. I'd already had the thesis experience because I wrote a really excellent thesis at Harvard, and a big one, and lots of research. I loved writing, doing all that research and—

Vanderscoff: And what had that been focused on?

Calciano: That focused on when John Knox went to Scotland and converted a good part of it to Protestantism; other parts of Scotland remained Catholic, and it was the tensions between the Catholics and the Protestants in the years after the Protestant Reformation, and the role the nobility had in it. One noble would stay Catholic; another noble would declare that he was Protestant, and so all the people under him would become Protestant. I analyzed it and decided that the decisions these noblemen made and their little fiefdoms was based more on political alliances than it was on: "I think that I've seen the light; I'm going to be a Protestant," or, "This is heresy; I want to stay a Catholic." It was much more pragmatic. Of course, Rome was way far away, and Germany was way far away, and the Scottish nobles had these little isolated fiefdoms. So it was a good thesis, and, as I said, it got a magna cum laude. I had done the thesis thing, and I didn't have time to do a thesis when I was newly married, so that was a blessing.

Then the spring quarter, I had to find a class at 8:00 a.m. because Tony—we would drive to the campus. He would stay with Andrew in the car, and he'd read medical journals while I went to my class, and then I'd come back, drive him over to the medical school and have Andrew with me the rest of the day.

I looked at all the classes in the history area that were at eight o'clock, and one of them was California history. I said, well, that sounds interesting. That sounds like something I would really like to learn about. So it was just serendipity that I took California history. I really liked it. I knew how to do primary research, which was required in that class, and I chose to write my term paper on the movements in the heart of the Depression. There were these various movements.¹³ Thirty Dollars Every Thursday was one solution for getting out of the Depression. Ham and Eggs—I can't remember which movement that was, but it was called Ham and Eggs. There were several of them. I went back to the newspapers of the time and read the columns and read the advertisements and read the reports of meetings and so on, and I wrote I think a very good paper, and I got a very good grade on it. I was able to spend time in the library because my father was in Europe for six weeks at an Atoms for Peace conference, so my mother was able to stay with us for the last half of spring quarter and take care of Andrew.

When it came for applying for this job at UCSC, I listed Professor Don Fehrenbacher as one of my references and he apparently sent in a glowing reference, so that was very nice. was an undergraduate and graduate class. I think he wanted you to do some primary source work because it was California history and you could. But I think I maybe did more of it than the average kid. I don't know. Anyway, I did well, and he thought I would be good running an oral history project, so that's probably part of how I got it.

¹³ These movements were working to help people get an income that would help them buy at least the necessities to lift and ease the pain of the Depression and perhaps lift the state out of the Depression—Elizabeth Calciano.

Vanderscoff: Right. So for one final question on Stanford: You've pointed out some of the differences between your Harvard or the Radcliffe experience and your experience there. You were pregnant. You were married. You had this child. So would you mind speaking a little bit more about how you balanced your time, these different obligations between the Cambridge experience, versus Palo Alto?

Calciano: Well, I had another demand on my time, one that I really liked, and that was that the cardiology fellows interacted socially. Our apartment was so tiny, I don't know that I ever had a dinner party there. But we'd go out to dinner at people's houses, or do things with them, which was fun. They were a nice group of men and a very nice group of wives, most of whom had children, because most of them had put their husbands through medical school, and married out of undergraduate school and so they would have three- and four- and five-year-old kids. I couldn't talk diapers and stuff with them and toilet training and so forth, but I liked them, and we talked about other things.

We were invited down to [E. William] Bill Hancock's—he was a senior fellow or maybe he was associate professor in cardiology. He was higher than Tony. We were invited down to the house or "cabin," they called them, the small house that he was building on property near Big Sur that his father-in-law owned. The parents had a house, and he was building this smaller house. And, being a doctor, he was very precise, and he was laying the foundation. He had been laying it out and he had measured everything carefully.

I looked at it, and I just have this ability to know straight lines, angles and stuff. I said, "Bill, that's nice, but you've got a parallelogram here, not a rectangle." He said, "No." I said, "Yes, I'm sorry, but your angles aren't ninety degrees." He said, "They have to be. I measured, and it's the same on each side and the same on each end. They measure exactly." I said, "I know, but you still have a parallelogram." And he did. So he had to redo the ends, which would be the easier ones to do than the sides.

So we had fun things like that outing to Big Sur.

Moving to Santa Cruz and Opening a Medical Practice

Tony was looking around for where he wanted to practice, and there were way too many doctors in Palo Alto in his specialty. He looked at Los Gatos a bit, but that was pretty crowded with cardiologists. But over in Santa Cruz, there were no cardiologists that had had a couple of years of cardiology training specifically. Several practiced mainly cardiology and I'm sure were pretty good at it, but there was no true—

Well, let me take that back. There was a group of—the Santa Cruz clinic or something. It's still there, I suppose. That group might have had a cardiologist. I just don't know. They could have. But they all referred within themselves, and Tony was setting up as a sole practitioner, so his referrals would be from the surgeons and the internists that were not part of the clinic group.

We found that Santa Cruz would be a good place.

Vanderscoff: Okay. So this is the summer of 1962 you arrived in Santa Cruz if you graduated Stanford in May or June, I suppose?

Calciano: Yes, summer. We went up to—I'm not sure why we had three weeks, but we had three weeks before he had to start work, so we drove up to Seattle. We did go in the Space Needle, and we came home, and didn't have a whole lot of money to last that first two weeks of employment. Enough, but not much. I remember a doctor's wife took me around to show me various places to shop, and one of them was a produce stand. Cantaloupes were ten cents a pound, and that *was* a good price, but I said, "I don't think I better spend on things that I don't absolutely need."

And he'd arranged kind of a pre-partnership arrangement with an internist in Aptos—so many dollars a month—I can't remember, but it was \$800 a month, as I recall. But the little house we rented was \$125. You know, everything is kind of relative. When I started at UCSC, I think I was paid \$2.32 an hour.

We'd looked around, as I said, and we both liked the Santa Cruz-Aptos area. I didn't realize that the fog hangs in there so much, and I didn't know that Aptos was much foggier than Santa Cruz, even. I remember how excited I was the first time I saw the fog. I'd probably been there a month or so, and I saw fog moving into my yard and moving by me. Oh, wow! This is neat! Well, also it was just there all the time. It can be depressing. I didn't know it would be fog all the time except August and September, and I didn't even worry about getting depressed or anything, so that was fine, but it took its toll on me.

There's not really much to say about that first year except that Tony decided he didn't want to continue practicing with this doctor, that he'd rather go out on his own, and so he gave him two months' notice on April 30th or whatever. And the doctor said, "Well, all right, this month's books are closed. You might as well go." Well, we weren't really ready to go, and Tony, he came home and told me, and he went to a bank and got a \$6,000 loan on his signature. He was a doctor. And he went over to San Jose and bought medical equipment for the office.

We rented a little office building on Frederick Street near Community Hospital. I went running around town, and I bought a sofa for patients to sit on in the waiting room, and I talked to several of the women who did the front office stuff for another doctor, and learned a usable bookkeeping system that this one person recommended. I got the set of books and all the stuff for that. Of course, I was hauling a little kid around all the time doing this.

What else did I do? There was quite a lot to do, as you might imagine, because we decided to open May 3rd. The building was pink, which would not have been our first choice, and the waiting room was pink. I said, "Tony, I've got to paint this waiting room. We can't have people coming into a pink building and a pink waiting room." I'd never painted anything in my life, but, you know, fools rush in, and it worked out fine. I bought the paint and the roller and so forth, and I painted the waiting room a beige the night before we opened. The curtains couldn't come in until a week later. But we could do without that for a while.

I remember that the first day we opened, a doctor had sent one patient over and another one had sent one. It was \$52 for a complete workup, including lab and Pap smear—the whole thing. And \$7.00 for an office visit. And the \$52 person paid in cash. We went, “Wow!” Pretty good money, because we’d used part of that \$6,000 for a first and last months’ rent on the building and stuff.

And a number of other doctors sent a “test” patient over to see what Tony would do. It was possible for one staff person to do everything back then. Now you need a flotilla of people. But I was his front office person who answered the phone and made the appointments and got the people. I was his lab tech. I did the urine analysis and the blood work, except he read his own slides because I wasn’t qualified to do that. I bought a nice little white nurse’s outfit. I wasn’t a nurse, but most of the front staff in doctors’ offices were not nurses. You wore a little white nurse’s outfit and white shoes and white hose, but you didn’t wear a cap, because a cap was how you identified a nurse from people who weren’t nurses. The caps were interesting. They had different kinds of ways of being folded and stuff. Every cap was distinctive to the nursing program from which it came. Some had a little stripe; some were big; some were small. Nurses knew where other nurses had come from because of the cap, which was interesting. I would never have worn a cap because I didn’t earn one. I was not a nurse.

And I was the person who stayed in the examining room when a female patient was—when my husband was doing the gynecological part. And what else? I kept all the books. Fortunately, there was not much in the way of health insurance back

then. A few people had it, and after about three months, somebody said something about their insurance company, and Tony asked me, and I said, "Oh, they're still in the drawer." There were about ten forms where I had to fill out information by typewriter and send them in. I hated that.

Also, I transcribed the results of his workup, his physical of a patient. He did a very thorough workup, and he dictated these long reports, which took a long time to type, but they were very good because they showed other doctors that he really was doing a thorough job. He would look at the fingers of a patient; then later he would dictate, "And no evidence of cyanosis, clubbing or"—and I can't remember what the third thing was. I knew what the word was going to be. I don't know whether he thought it was economical or what, but he tended to turn the dictating machine off before the last word or two of his sentence. Occasionally I'd have to ask him, "What was the end of that sentence?" But most of it I knew.

Vanderscoff: Did you have the terminology for medical transcription?

Calciano: I was pretty well familiar with a lot of the words, or the Latin roots. And he was right there. I could go ask him. But *cyanosis*—you know, that's not a hard word. *Clubbing*—that's not a hard word. *Aorta*. I knew how to spell that. No, the main thing was he talked rather fast, and then he'd run down at the end. And, of course, I transcribed them onto—well, when I typed them, they were on the letterhead, plus I think two carbons. I don't remember doing this, but I must have typed a rough draft and then typed the final and got those mailed out.

His practice grew like gangbusters because these letters went out reporting what he'd done with the trial patients that had been sent over, and they were very impressed with the thoroughness. He is still a good doctor now. Very good at diagnosing and good rapport with patients.

Applying for the Position of Oral Historian at UC Santa Cruz

So that was from May 3rd of '63. And around, oh, I guess in April or something, before all that started, I had gotten to an AAUW meeting—American Association of University Women, I think is what it's called. The chancellor was there talking about the campus that was coming to town.

Vanderscoff: This is Dean McHenry.

Calciano: Yes, Dean McHenry. Afterwards, I went up to him and said, "I know you're going to be hiring mainly PhDs for your faculty, but I have a master's degree in history, and I'm wondering if you will have any use for somebody with just a master's degree. He said, "Well, not really, but where did you go to undergraduate and graduate school?" I said, "Well, I went to Radcliffe for my undergraduate, and I majored in English history of Tudor and Stuart period, and then went to Stanford for my Master's and majored in general English and European history." He said, "Oh. Well, we've been looking for somebody to maybe start an oral history project and interview the long-time residents around the area, to find more about what the economic basis of the area was at the turn of the century, because it's all changed by now." He said, "So if you're interested, write a letter." So I went home, and I wrote a letter and got called in for an interview, and interviewed with [Donald T.] Don Clark,

who was a wonderful man. Well, McHenry was too. You know, “What’s your experience?” and so forth and so on. He said, “Now, have you had much experience interviewing people?” I said, “Well, Tudor and Stuart history—there wasn’t much of anybody to interview.” [Both chuckle.] He laughed. I said, “But I think I can do it. I’ve had really good training in history, and I think I can do a good interview.” You’re to be the judge. You’ve seen them all these years later. Did they look okay to you?

Vanderscoff: I loved reading them, yes.

Calciano: Oh. Well, thank you. Let it be noted that I fished for that compliment. [Both chuckle.] Anyway, thank you.

It was a half-time job, and I was to start July one. Well, I already was juggling and after a month or so, it was clear that I couldn’t handle both jobs and take care of my child. So we managed to find a young woman, about twenty, twenty-one, a very nice young woman. She was bright, just a high school graduate, I think, but it’s what’s upstairs that counts. “Can you handle phone calls? Can you handle dictation? Can you learn these rather simple lab techniques?” So she began. I would work with her, but I also then would go—not up to the university, but over to Cabrillo College, because that’s where the university offices were.

It was half-time. I could keep my own hours. So I worked on weekends, doing research into the history of Santa Cruz County and all kinds of things. I can remember working the weekend that [John F.] Kennedy was assassinated. I didn’t work the whole weekend because I actually was in Rochester, Minnesota the day he

was assassinated. They say you always remember where you were when you got the news. I was in an elevator in a medical building at the Mayo Clinic. Andrew was toddling around. He was about a year and a half—about eighteen months or so. Because my father was having surgery, and I was there for my mother, too.

The surgery went fine, and so I flew home, I guess either that Friday or Saturday. Nobody was working at the university. That's why I think it was a Sunday, but maybe not. But I needed to get more of my hours in, so I was there. I remember somebody coming in and saying, "Oh, you're working." I said, "Yes, I still have work to do." I have the feeling that there was a television set, a little, small, black-and-white somewhere in that classroom, so I saw a bit of the funeral or something, but maybe I saw a bit of it at home before I went to Cabrillo.

So I was juggling two things, and I think didn't quite get the full half time that month, but I made up for it the following month. But then the librarian said he'd been told by whoever was handling the records that it had to be half time each month in order to qualify as a permanent employee, and I said, "Oh, okay." By that time, or shortly thereafter, we got this young woman in to help. Then she became full-time, and I bowed out, although I still did all the books at home at night, about once a week or so.

Vanderscoff: So I have some questions in review of the process of your hiring.

Calciano: Mm-hm.

Vanderscoff: So what sort of awareness did you have of this new university that was coming to Santa Cruz prior to hearing McHenry at that meeting? As someone who was just living in town, as it were.

Calciano: Well, we weren't living in town when I heard about UCSC; we were living up in Mountain View and spent most of our time in Palo Alto at the campus. But we knew, because it was in the newspapers and so forth, that three new campuses were being built: Santa Cruz, Irvine, and Riverside. You would read about it. Tony and I both wanted to be in a university town. It didn't have to be a university—it could have been a college—but you tend to have more interesting people to mix with, and you also are more apt to have theater or music or whatever to go to. Now, we didn't go to that much theater, but we did some, and we both wanted to be in a university town, and we knew that UCSC was coming.

I can remember being absolutely shocked one day in Santa Cruz when I was in the line at the bank—and that was before they figured out that one line would work better than—we'd all stand in line in front of a given teller, and you just hoped you didn't get in the line that was the slowest. And two older women, retired, I would say, were talking about, "Oh, that university [UCSC] is coming. I know that's gonna be terrible! It's just gonna change everything. What a shame!" I was in the next line over. I thought, Holy cow! I never thought anybody would think that!

But they were right in that it did change a lot of things in Santa Cruz and put more pressure on housing, which wasn't, I don't think, what they were thinking about right then—but also it brought in a liberal element, so to speak. And then it brought

in hippie types. I don't think anybody worried about hippies in 1962, but it certainly did change things. To my way of thinking, it made things a lot more interesting. But maybe if I had lived there for forty, fifty years, I wouldn't have thought that.

So that was the reason we wanted a university town. We also wanted to be in Santa Cruz because it was pretty, and, my goodness, it's near the ocean—not that I'm that much of an ocean person, but I didn't know that then. I enjoyed it. I'd do things. I'd go clamming and so forth. I would take the kids down to the beach.

I remember riding down one time when we were interviewing for this position that Tony got, and the ice plant on the sides of the highway was in bloom. I'd never seen ice plant, let alone ice plant in bloom, and I thought it was just spectacularly beautiful. I asked what the flowers were, and heads were shaking among the two or three people I was talking to. "Oh, you mean the ice plant?!" I said, "Is that what it is?" I said, "It's near the freeways." I don't think they have as much ice plant there now.

Vanderscoff: There still is a bunch along West Cliff Drive, for instance.

Calciano: Oh, okay. Well, all the way from Santa Cruz to Aptos, it was ice plant along the—it wasn't a freeway yet. It was a four-lane, but it wasn't a freeway. And then there were several places where there were fields full of bluebonnets, Texans call them. It's lupine. But there were fields of it, and now it's hard put to find any in Santa Cruz.

I don't know. I just went down there, happy that we were settled, because we had also interviewed in Los Gatos.

The Early University of California, Santa Cruz

Vanderscoff: So when you had this conversation with McHenry, was that your first substantial introduction to the university?

Calciano: Well, yes, because at that point, there were probably nine or ten employees. I should say “employees”; people that were hired by the University of California. That would have been the chancellor and his secretary and his administrative assistant and the librarian and his secretary. And when I did sign on to do the Regional History thing, I was the thirteenth person. The twelfth person was a Cabrillo student who, a couple of hours before me, had been hired part time to drive the station wagon that the university owned down to the train station three times a week to pick up loads of books. So he did what he did, but he certainly wasn't there permanently.¹⁴

We were in classrooms that had been rented at Cabrillo. The chancellor and his secretary and assistant had— [pause] In some of the buildings, maybe all of them at Cabrillo, there's sort of a center area that's kind of office-like, important-people office kind, and then there are the classroom wings that go out. The chancellor had that center part. And then the library was in a big classroom, with no seats, of course. The bookcases, as I recall, made Don Clark's office, and when I came in, more

¹⁴His name was, and is, Victor Kimura. I met him some months ago at a UCSC event and he has worked at UCSC for fifty-plus years!—Elizabeth Calciano.

bookcases made my office. Of course, I had a desk, and he had a desk and stuff. His was quite a bit bigger. Mine was appropriate, for heaven's sakes. And the secretary, Aileen Sanders, who was just wonderful—she sat in the rest of this big space but facing the door. Then there were some bookshelves and so forth in back of her.

The librarians of Santa Cruz, Irvine, and Riverside had decided it would be a waste of energy for all of them to work on a core selection of main books that every library should have. So they collaborated on what the first 75,000 books would be for each library.¹⁵ And then the librarians began picking the books that would augment the particular focus of their campuses. I would imagine Irvine put in more medical type books than Santa Cruz would have. We might have put more science in—I don't really know what. But at the time I joined, there was this classroom that housed the library.

And then on the other side of the building, there was almost like a double-class-sized classroom, where the architects were. I think there were four architects at that point and maybe a secretary. We'll have to count on our fingers to get up to eleven, which was what it was before Victor Kimura and I joined. Once in a while I'd see the architects. We went over there for coffee, I think? I can't remember now. I never drank coffee back then, but I found that it was a big nuisance to make tea, and so I began to sip a little bit of coffee. I knew who the architects were, and I knew the

¹⁵Calciano is referring to the New Campus Program. For more on this program see Randall Jarrell, Interviewer and Editor, *Donald T. Clark: Early UCSC History and the Founding of the University Library*. (Regional History Project, UCSC Library, 1993). Available at <http://escholarship.org/uc/item/2n20r98m>

secretarial or whatever employees. I don't think any of them were draftspeople. I think it was secretarial work. I knew them, kind of.

And then both the library added staff and the architects' wing did. I remember, probably the summer following the year I was hired, summer of '64, somebody was going to have a baby, so Mrs. McHenry had a shower for all the wives on the faculty, plus me. I am sure she would have included her husband's secretary and administrative assistant, who was Barbara Sheriff. She was great. But I don't particularly remember them being there. I remember that Mrs. McHenry made a big thing of lasagna for it. It had been frozen and it took forever to thaw. She had no idea it would take two hours or something to bake this whole thing. But she was a great woman, and she didn't wring her hands; she just kind of said, "Well, I underestimated."

We were small enough that everybody—female everybodys went to the shower. I don't remember where the McHenry's house was at that point, but it wasn't on campus because nothing was on the campus except the old buildings.

Wendell Simons must have come in some point that fall, because I'm pretty sure he was the one that stopped in on the afternoon of Kennedy's funeral and saw that I was working. I liked him very much over the years. He was very quiet but very intelligent. He and his wife spent a year in Papua-New Guinea translating the Bible into the language of that area with the Wycliffe Society. Mrs. Emily Clark was a lovely person, too, and they built a very nice house out on Sand Hill Road. She painted the inside and they had this huge ceiling over a great big stairwell, and she

had scaffolding up. I never saw her on the scaffolding, but Mr. Clark, Don Clark, would come in and say, “I just can’t believe what Emily’s doing. She’s up at this great big height on these scaffolds and painting the ceiling.”

I knew Jack Wagstaff some. I don’t know why I interacted more with him than with the other architects, but I think he was more the chief architect. Who else? Well, that was pretty much it. Plans were going on for getting us up on campus, but they hadn’t finalized plans, by any means, I don’t think, for the buildings where the campus is now. They had decided pretty early in the game to leave the front area empty and then to build in the redwoods, which I think was a very nice idea, although it made the commute longer, but who cared back then?

The Cook House might have been made into the chancellor’s office. I’d have to look at my own *Campus Guide* to see.¹⁶ And the Carriage House was made into the library. The old Henry Cowell house was still there, and the caretaker—I mean, he was much more than a caretaker, but Mr. Cardiff and his wife lived there, so the chancellor couldn’t move into the house because it was occupied. I don’t know where the architects went. I really don’t. Maybe they stayed at Cabrillo for a while.

Don Clark used to tell folks that he was in Buster’s old stall, which had been remade into an office, of course. Buster was apparently Mr. Cowell’s favorite horse. And it would have been made into an office, but this was a carriage house. It had big, high ceilings, and I think that the walls that were put in were probably just sheetrock and

¹⁶ See Elizabeth Spedding Calciano and Ray Collett, authors, *The Campus Guide: A Tour of the Natural Environment and Points of Historical Interest* (University of California, Santa Cruz, 1969).

up to eight feet on the two walls adjacent to the corners of the building, and then two eight-foot partitions. I think his secretary sat in the open area in front of that, at a desk.

And then the people who were processing the books that were coming in. Every week there were a whole bunch of new books, and they had to catalog them. I would have thought by then there would be Library of Congress descriptions for every book, but apparently not, or else it was only for some. Of course, the Santa Cruz history stuff, there wouldn't have been anything like that. But they were busy cataloging and cataloging.

When we went to a computer catalog a couple of years later, it was very frustrating to use. It was on printout sheets. Because if you wanted to look up Hernando De Soto, you had to look up Desoto, all one word; De Soto, D-e space Soto; with a capital D space Soto; d-e with a small d but space and capital S on Soto. I took a dim view of computer catalogs at that point. But I can see that once they got the various bugs out, that it was a good idea, and I think the librarians were very smart to do it that early. I don't even know if Irvine and Riverside did or not, but I know that the rest of the campuses did not have computerized libraries because they would have had to computerize all the books that they already had, where we were starting with a basic amount.

A lot of that cataloging was done by the librarians and the assistants that were hired, which resulted in all the different spellings. Also, something that I might think would be under history would be under the sociology of such-and-so or a language. A

history book or something might be if it was—oh, like, a travel book. Do you put it in with travel adventures, or in with history, or in with a region? I don't know all the nuances of cataloging, but there was a lot of individualism in some of the choices that were made.

I only would encounter that when I wanted to go look something up. I had my own mini-library right in the office with me, which were the Santa Cruz history books and dictionary. Pretty soon I said, "I need a dictionary of slang." Of course, that didn't bother Don Clark at all; he just got it for me. But it was the kind of book that at least high school libraries would never have because it had words like f-u-c-k and so forth and so on. Let the transcript note that I spelled it in a different tone of voice. I'm kind of mocking the people being upset by this dictionary of slang. But it was very useful when I was trying to figure out what somebody was saying that was slang used in 1890. Very useful.

I had a lot of the old city directories, because they were very helpful in figuring out—"old Mr. so and so lived down on River Street, and he such-and-so"—well, they wouldn't know the first name of old so and so. But I could look up the name and River Street and figure out— You get the idea. And names like Locatelli—I could look the spelling up, although everybody there, I think, knew how to spell Locatelli, because it was the next ranch over.

So the city directories were very handy. They weren't phone books. They predated phone books, but they had every street listed with everybody on it, and then

alphabetical, all the names. You can find them in Special Collections if you have any occasion to want to look anything up.

It was a drafty old place, the Carriage House. I remember Patti DiLudovico, who sat right behind me. I had a desk where I was doing my work in front of a window. I don't know if she had a desk, but she would be surrounded by a couple of book trucks. She would be cataloging and organizing. A very attractive woman and about forty. I was shocked when I found she was forty because to me that sounded really old, and she didn't look really old. She'd had a number of jobs, various places, and she'd stay a year or two here or there. That was a totally foreign concept to me. Of course, I knew that faculty moved from campus to campus, but somebody who joined a big insurance company, or a factory, or Sears Roebuck—you stayed pretty much for the rest of your life in the one job. If you were smart, you went up the ladder, and you might even be president of the place at some point. But people didn't go willy-nilly from place to place. Now it's much more common to be either recruited out, or you decide you want a change. So this was kind of novel to me. And her husband was Albearto DiLudovico, who established The Catalyst restaurant downtown in one of the old buildings on Front Street. It was a ramshackle-y kind of old place. He put in ramshackle-y kinds of tables and mismatched chairs and so forth. It was a combination coffee house and I think you could get sandwiches there and beer, of course, and wine. I don't have any idea whether they served hard drinks there or not, because I had no reason to want to know. But it became very popular with the more liberal and more transient and so forth parts of the population. They did a good job for quite a long time.

I can remember it being cold, and Aileen Sanders, the secretary to the university librarian who was there from 9:00 a.m. till 5:00 p.m., said, “Get a cardboard box and put your feet in it. It’ll cut the drafts down.” I did that, and it was like heaven to not have my feet freezing. Whoever would have thought a cardboard box would be like heaven? But I’ll tell you, it was *really* nice.¹⁷ Santa Cruz can get pretty chilly in the winter, and those winds can blow on the front of that campus. And, of course, the Carriage House was near the front of the campus. I don’t know if the Powder House is still there and so forth, and then the Cook House and then the main residence and then the Carriage House. These were all in the entrance area.

You’re looking like you’re thinking about something.

Vanderscoff: Yes, that I am. I have several questions, actually, about the Cabrillo space—

Calciano: Sure.

Vanderscoff: —and about the Carriage House space.

Calciano: Okay.

Vanderscoff: But first, I wanted to ask a question about your decision in accepting the job. And we can walk back through some of these things probably mostly tomorrow. But we were talking on the phone, and you said at one point that it was, quote, “unusual for a doctor’s wife, period” to have this sort of a job. And so, given that sentiment, and given that you already had this position working in your

¹⁷ For further detail on boxes, see p. 152.

husband's office, say a little bit more about your decision to take the Regional History job, as opposed to staying in your husband's office.

Calciano: Well, during that year that he was working with Shields Barr—that was the physician—I was home with my little sweet baby, and a television station that maybe had two things all day long that were worth watching on the three channels that came in. I remember when the set of junior encyclopedia arrived. When we were up in Seattle, I said, “Oh, I’ve got have an *Encyclopedia Britannica*.” Tony thought that was a good idea. So, to the delight of one of those sales people that’s always hanging around world fairs and stuff, we ordered an encyclopedia. He said, “Our special deal; it comes with a junior encyclopedia and a bookcase.”

I didn't really think much of a junior encyclopedia because of what I'd experienced in grade school—they just weren't very good. Not worth having. But this set came. I still have it over there. We still use it sometimes with the grandkids. I thought, well, let's see, I don't have anything else to do. I'll see what this thing is like. The articles actually were very good and very informative. So I went through, over a period of a couple of months, I suppose, or six weeks, all of the articles in all the volumes of the junior encyclopedia. It helped fill a boring, boring morning and afternoon, and it also made me familiar with what was in the book.

And I can remember when Andrew was about five we went down to a rehearsal for the Cabrillo Music Festival, which we could because we housed one of the musicians. Andrew saw the French horn, and it was all curled up. He said, “I wonder how long that is when it's straightened out.” I said, “I don't know, but maybe the junior

encyclopedia will tell us." I opened it up, and, yes, stretched out it's thirty-two feet long. I later learned, about ten years ago, that most of the horn things are units of four feet or whatever, because it has something to do with the octaves and the oscillations, and I cannot tell you all of it, but that was one reason why it's thirty-two feet long, because they wanted to be able to do certain notes.

I was bored being at home before I was working for my husband. We would go over to Stanford once a week because Tony was on the clinical faculty there, and I would go to the medical library, but also sometimes to the main library. And, of course, I had this sweet little boy with me. I could go in and check out books. At one point, I checked out a bunch of German texts because I thought, Well, if I'm going to go back for a PhD, I'm going to have to learn another language. I might as well start learning this thing.

I had maybe been working on that for two or three weeks when Tony gave his notice, and all of a sudden I was learning accounting and painting waiting rooms. And, as I said, the conversation with McHenry I think had been in early April, and it didn't take them long before they called me. I guess they wrote up and got the recommendations from my Stanford professors, because I had agreed to the job, I am certain, before April thirtieth, because if I knew I was going to have to help my husband get his practice going, I might not have taken it.

But when you say, why did I decide to take it, I thought it was an offer from heaven, practically. It was part time. I could do it in Santa Cruz County. I didn't have to drive over the hill to other areas, where I might have been employed as a person with just

a master's in history. It was California history, which I had found fascinating when I took that course. And, wow! I'm going to be part of something new, the new university. I thought it was an incredibly wonderful opportunity, which it was, to find employment in a town like Santa Cruz, with a master's degree in history and at the university. I don't think I really focused on the fact that other doctors' wives didn't also have jobs. I mean, I was probably twenty-two when I talked with McHenry; twenty-three shortly after I joined the—I could be off by a year. When you're born in '39 or '29 or '49, always you have to—

Vanderscoff: I have that the Regional History Project was founded July 1st of '63.

Calciano: That's right.

Vanderscoff: I don't know if your hiring preceded that.

Calciano: It preceded that. It was back in April.

Vanderscoff: Right.

Calciano: Yes, and my birthday didn't occur until the end of July.

So I thought this was wonderful. I didn't realize that it was unusual for doctors' wives to work. I mean, I guess I should have known it, because none of the mothers of my friends growing up worked. But, as I said, I was always kind of naïve. I joined the medical wives association, of course, and went to all their meetings, and I went to their big fashion show. I enjoyed that, enjoyed talking with the women. They could never remember my last name, and sometimes they got me confused with

Vonnie Anzalone because the Anzalones had moved into town the same year that we, the Calcianos, moved in. But I was very much accepted, the new kid on the block. That's fine.

But then they found out that I was working, and that was all right, too. A lot of them had worked when their husbands were in medical school, and maybe even while they were residents, if they went into residency. But being married to a doctor who was in practice meant you didn't have to work the rest of your life. I mean, you were raising kids and doing philanthropic stuff and social stuff, but you didn't hold a job. That was beneath you, I guess.

I began to realize this the second year there, after I had gotten the job. They'd say—something like, "Oh, I heard you're still working?" I said, "Yes." "Oh, I'd heard your husband was doing quite well in his practice." I said, "Oh, he is." They couldn't compute that I would voluntarily keep working. I'd just say, "Well, yes, he is, but I really like what I'm doing at the university." It was definitely not the norm. I can't think if any of them worked. I think some of them might have worked in their husband's office at the very beginning of a practice or something.

Vanderscoff: I think it might be a good time to sign off now.

The Early Years of the Regional History Project

Vanderscoff: So today is Monday, January 19th, 2015. Cameron Vanderscoff here for the Regional History Project, again with Elizabeth Spedding Calciano, to talk about her involvement in the Regional History Project. This section, as all others, is being

held in her residence in La Cañada Flintridge, California. I'd like to pick up the thread where we left it off last time, when you were talking about your rationale in accepting the Regional History Project job.¹⁸ I want to start from there and then walk through some of those early years, which you gave an overview of last time. And so first, you said that you were asked in your interview if you had any interviewing experience, and you said that you didn't but you did have this historical educational background.

Calciano: Yes.

Vanderscoff: And so I'm curious, at the time, what sort of knowledge, if any, you had of oral history. Had you heard of it?

Calciano: No, I had not heard of it. I'd had a good seminar at Radcliffe in historiography, and I thought, boy, this historiography is gonna be boring, reading about historians, how they wrote their history. But it turned out to be fascinating. Have you had a class like that at all?

Vanderscoff: I've interviewed a historiographer, but I've never taken a course, no.

Calciano: You know, Herodotus and Thucydides and so forth and all the way up to the European historians in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century.

I think I just had a curious mind. My whole life, I'd been asking questions and wondering about things, so—and I was at ease with people. That probably came

¹⁸There was no "rationale" needed. I thought it was a great opportunity and accepted it as soon as it was offered—Elizabeth Calciano.

through in the interview, that I wasn't going to be terrified by trying to do this. And it was explained to me what it was, and it sounded very interesting to me. I thought, wow, that's nice! That's interesting. But I had to learn the nuts and bolts of what this was. So very early on, I went up to UC Berkeley and spent a day there.

Vanderscoff: How did you hear of Berkeley's oral history program? Was that through Dean McHenry or—

Calciano: I was told that Berkeley had an oral history program. Donald Clark—well, McHenry knew it, too, or he wouldn't have wanted to try to get the oral history of people in the Santa Cruz area because, as I mentioned the other day, a lot of the things that were the economic mainstay of the county in 1900 didn't exist anymore. Redwood lumbering was gone, tanning—there was still a little bit of tanning going on, of leather, but not like it had been.

And the lime kilns—the Henry Cowell property was used to—I've forgotten the terminology. You burn the limestone rock, and with the right amount of air let in, it would turn to lime that could be used in various commercial and agricultural ways. There was a kind of a railroad—there was a path or tracks at various times going from the Cowell ranch down to the ocean so they could load it on. Barrel making, shingle making—it had been big when the lumber industry was big. And they still

did that on the Cowell ranch up until—I'm not quite sure now when that it stopped.¹⁹

Dairying had been big all up the coast, and that was pretty much gone. Agriculture still was there. That had been big, but it had changed a huge amount. In the 1850s, a lot of the land was just hayfields or open range. And then farmers began to realize that they could grow more than just hay, more profitable things. And then prune orchards—they're really a kind of plum—prune orchards became very big in the Watsonville area. Then a virus came in and wiped it all out, and so they switched over to apples. And if you read the interview with Luke Cikuth— Did you read that one?²⁰

Vanderscoff: Yes, I did. I did go through that one.

Calciano: All the apples that had worms in them and so forth went to the cider works. Okay? [Laughs.] It took care of that problem.

So there was a lot of stuff to do. UC Berkeley I think had been focusing more on people of prominence in the area.

¹⁹ For a detailed history of lime production on the Cowell Ranch and Santa Cruz area see Frank A. Perry, Robert Piwarzyk, Michael Luther, Alverda Orlando, Allan Molho, and Sierra Perry, *Lime Kiln Legacies: The History of the Lime Industry in Santa Cruz County* (Museum of Art and History, Santa Cruz, 2007).

²⁰ See Elizabeth Spedding Calciano, Interviewer and Editor, Luke P. Cikuth: *The Pajaro Valley Apple Industry, 1890-1930* (Regional History Project, UCSC Library, 1967). Available at <http://escholarship.org/uc/item/4c82b2gd>

Vanderscoff: Yes, I'm interested in that, because I see you were already corresponding with Willa Baum from the Regional Oral History Office at Berkeley within about a month.

Calciano: Oh, did I? Okay.

Vanderscoff: I noticed that you wrote to her that the goal of the Regional History Project was gathering information on various areas of economic importance in Santa Cruz County, rather than biographies of noted men.

Calciano: Mm-hm.

Vanderscoff: And so I'm curious—

Calciano: Did I use the word "men"?

Vanderscoff: Yes.

Calciano: Yes. Well, of course I did that. That included women, too, the word "men."

Vanderscoff: At the time you were saying that.

Calciano: Yes.

Vanderscoff: Sure. Well, I noticed that pretty consistently in correspondence and official documents throughout the sixties in relation to the Regional History Project. Both the interviewee and the interviewer are referred to as "he" or "man." That seemed to be the default.

Calciano: Yes. If we were talking about a specific person, we would use “he” or “she,” but if we were talking about a general category—then it was always the male.

So what did I write up to Willa? I have no idea.

Vanderscoff: Yes, and I’d like to actually revisit some of those issues around gender and language or around gender later, so we’ll circle back to some of that stuff.

Calciano: Okay.

Vanderscoff: So you wrote this message up to her, saying that you were focusing on areas of economic importance in Santa Cruz County, rather than biographies. I’m curious what the difference was for you. I mean, given that you were doing essentially life history interviews with these individuals, what was the difference between the emphasis of the Regional History Project and these biographies that you might have at ROHO [Regional Oral History Office at UC Berkeley] or at, say, UCLA.

Calciano: Well, if you’re interviewing somebody who’s prominent in their field or prominent in the nation or whatever, you’ve got a lot of material to go on about their life. There’s usually a lot of material. And if they’re that important, then probably some of the decisions they made had effects on other people or groups of people, you know, if you’re talking to a governor or a legislator or something. So you’d be focusing on those things. You wouldn’t be focusing on what they ate for breakfast. Whereas when I was given leads as to: “Fred Wagner would be a good person to interview” or so and so, I was researching blacksmithing and metal working and the

livery business and so forth. I wasn't going into great depth, but I had to become familiar enough with the customs of those and the language. I don't think that social and cultural things were specified when I was hired, but when you were interviewing Mr. Everyman or Ms. Everywoman, that was, I felt, part of the history that should be documented. How did people get to their jobs, do their entertainment and so forth? Which I think you can see in the interviews. I would go into that area.

Vanderscoff: Yes.

Calciano: When I was sent out to interview Carrie Lodge, the granddaughter of Martina Castro, of course, I researched what their family had done and so forth and so on, but usually when you're getting down to the third generation or whatever from a period, it gets diluted, what they remember, or what they were told.²¹

Vanderscoff: Sure.

Calciano: And I was sent out to interview Roy Boekenoogen because he had a house just full of everything, and I assumed that if he had the first dentist's chair ever in the county, that he would know something about how dentistry was done, or who the dentists were. You may have noticed, if you read that one—that there's just nothing there. He was just interested in having these first things and so forth. I couldn't have an interview that read, "Well, what's the history behind this?" "Oh, well, you can ask somebody," or, "I don't know." I couldn't have a string of, "Oh, I don't know," so I cut out a whole bunch of the interview and put in the bits and

²¹ See Elizabeth Spedding Calciano, *The Martina Lodge Castro Family*, (Regional History Project, UCSC Library, 1965). Available at <http://escholarship.org/uc/item/27z9z18s>

pieces that were interesting. And I thought, what in the world do I title this? I finally called it “A Tour Through the House of Roy Boekenoogen” [chuckles], because that’s all it was.

Don Clark had sent me out to do it because he was hoping that Roy would eventually give the university some of the old history books he had, vanity press books. I can’t remember the names of the authors now, but in the 1880s and 1890s somebody would go around and talk to the business leaders and so forth and say, “Would you be interested in being in a book of the prominent people of Santa Cruz County?” and if you were, you paid for your subscription, and then you were put in. So it was a vanity press, really. Also, it was also quite useful as a research tool as long as you knew that what you were reading was biographies that had pretty much been orchestrated by the person who was being profiled.

Roy had some of those old books. I don’t know if the library ever got any from Roy or not. He didn’t have children, I don’t think. We did get copies from one place or another of a number of those old books. But Don Clark said, “That was a mistake. I should never have sent you out there to interview Mr. Boekenoogen.” I think that was maybe the third or fourth interview I’d done. I really did not know what to do with it because it was a whole bunch of nothing. It’s still kind of an embarrassment today, to have this little thing, “A Tour Through the House of Roy Boekenoogen,” but that’s all it was.²²

²² See Elizabeth Spedding Calciano, Interviewer and Editor, *A Tour Through the House of Roy Boekenoogen*. (Regional History Project, UCSC Library, 1964). Available at <http://escholarship.org/uc/item/9rq0q4g8>

But others—Thomas Earl “Tom” Majors was a descendent of the early ones. The most interesting parts of his interview, I thought, were about stuff *he* had done: the dairying, having water witches to go out to find oil or—and I guess he himself thought he could “find” oil. I can’t remember. You have it in the book.²³ He showed me how the witching stick would start going like that.²⁴ [Demonstrates.] Who knows? There might well be oil under that part of Santa Cruz County.

What’s wrong? Did I talk too loud?

Vanderscoff: Everything is good. I just thought I would make a note that when you said, “like that,” you were making a shaking gesture—

Calciano: Oh, oh, yes, yes, good.

Vanderscoff: —for the transcript.

Calciano: I thought maybe I was being too—

Vanderscoff: No.

Calciano: —ebullient for the transcribers. Yes, you’ll have fun spelling that one.

[Laughs.]

²³ See Elizabeth Spedding Calciano, Interviewer and Editor, *The Majors Family and Santa Cruz County Dairying*. (Regional History Project, UCSC Library, 1965). Available at <http://escholarship.org/uc/item/27z9z18s>

²⁴The actual name for the “stick” was a divining rod. It was a forked stick that the dowser would hold by the ends of the forked part and he would walk around the area and wait until the divining rod would start twitching, which meant he was getting close to water. When it started going up and down violently, that told him where he should dig his well. I had never heard of the technique being used to locate oil until I met Mr. Majors—Elizabeth Calciano.

Vanderscoff: So you talked about these early interviews. Looking at your correspondence from the time, it seems that really you rolled into it quite quickly. I mean, your early correspondence with ROHO, with Willa Baum, indicates that you were already doing research by August, and the first project, with Darrow and Nina Palmer is out by November, so there's a pretty quick turnaround.²⁵ So I'm curious about that initial learning curve, how you went from having no explicit experience with oral history or with interviewing, and then within a couple of months you're interviewing, and you're publishing these oral histories.

Calciano: Well, I don't know what system Bancroft had. Their history project was in Bancroft Library. I didn't call it ROHO then, but you can call it that. I know what you mean. I'm not sure what way they organized their research. But I would make notes as I was doing research, and then I would sit down and just think. I would write down questions, one on each four-by-six index card. Then I would look at my research again and add more questions. It was pretty easy to organize my 4x6 cards into categories with the early ones because when I was talking to Fred Wagner, there were questions about blacksmithing; there were questions about the subsistence farm work; there were questions about his youth and what did they do for entertainment.

So I would just put all these cards into various piles, and then I'd take up one pile and organize them in a sensible way. I wasn't tied to my question cards. If the

²⁵See Elizabeth Spedding Calciano, Interviewer and Editor, *Mr. and Mrs. Darrow Palmer on Frederick A. Hihn and Santa Cruz in the Early 1900s*. (Regional History Project, UCSC Library, 1963). Available at <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/4g9382t9>

person said something interesting and went off on a side route, I followed that route: "Let's get it while he's remembering it and he's interested."

Also, when you're interviewing somebody like Fred Wagner, as opposed to a Dean McHenry, the dynamic is different. They're not used to being interviewed. They've been used to people saying, "Oh, Fred, you've told me that before." You may notice—and I'll be interested when I see your interview, I mean of me, because you (Cameron) show your interest by nodding and occasionally making a smile, or your eyes will widen once in a while, but you stay pretty quiet, whereas my interviews are sprinkled with, "Oh, really?" "Mmm," "Uh-huh." It was done to let my eighty-nine-year-old guy know that I was interested. "Please keep going on. Tell me some more." I cut out a number of the prompts like that, but I left a lot in so that the reader would know that this was how the interview was going.

Did you pick up on that?

Vanderscoff: Yes, I did notice that, that you would have lots of small interjections, sort of affirmations that you're listening, small follow-ups, that sort of thing.

Calciano: Yes, that sort of thing.

Vanderscoff: Mm-hm. Yes, I definitely noticed that in your style.

Calciano: I think that's just people skills. You're not going to get a good interview if you're sitting there looking bored, right? [Both chuckle.] You (Cameron) sometimes have no expression on your face, but you're not looking bored.

Vanderscoff: Good, good. [Laughs.]

Calciano: So I keep going. [Chuckles.]

Vanderscoff: Good.

Calciano: Sometimes I've rambled on for five minutes about something that you didn't know would be included in the interview, but you still look interested. You don't go looking at the ceiling and counting how many knotty pine boards there are up there.

Vanderscoff: [Chuckles.] Good, good. I'm glad that's on the record.

Calciano: Part of being a good oral historian is establishing rapport. You don't have to be buddy-buddy with them, but you've got to look interested and look like you know something about what they're talking about. So that was just people skills.

The big thing that I got from ROHO was what kind of equipment to get and use. They recommended a simple reel-to-reel recorder that had several speeds and to put it on the slowest speed because you didn't want to distract the interviewee by having to change tapes every twenty minutes or every forty minutes. So I did what they said, and I set it for one and seven-eighths speed, which is very slow, but it was adequate to get the spoken voice. It wouldn't have been particularly good for recording concert music or something because I'm sure you would lose some of the overtones, but it was perfectly adequate for speech.

And Willa Baum said, “Get as simple a tape recorder as you can find. You don’t want to have to keep fiddling with buttons. You don’t want to have to keep peering to see if it’s on.” The machines were not that reliable back then, so if you got the wrong machine, it could stop on you or whatever, or its volume would stop. The thing would seem to go, but you weren’t getting anything on it. So I got a very simple machine, like they’d said. I don’t know if I got the same brand or not. The correspondence might say something. I have no idea. But it was very simple, and I set it up between the narrator and me, and it was smaller than a breadbox—nobody knows what a breadbox is anymore, but—[Chuckles.] But it was, I don’t know, twelve inches by six by three or four inches. I put the microphone out, and then we would just talk.

I’d keep eye contact with the interviewee, so initially some of them would be very aware of the microphone and the tape going around, but we’d get into a conversation and it would be eye contact with me and not the recorder. Occasionally, I would be looking at my cards, getting the next question ready. I see that you prepared by making a very nice outline, which you also gave *me*.

Vanderscoff: Yes.

Calciano: I haven’t actually read the second one yet. Terrible, on my part. But what else do you do to prepare?

Vanderscoff: You mean in terms of research?

Calciano: Research and conducting the interview, organizing your brain.

Vanderscoff: Sure. Well, for Regional History Project interviews, I always consult a lot of the existing oral histories. There's usually something in those. I do that a lot. Sometimes I'll speak with other people who might know something about the individual whom I'm interviewing. I use Google. You can learn a lot of basic things about a person.

Calciano: Yes. [Chuckles.]

Vanderscoff: I use all of those resources. And then if I'm interviewing someone who's in any sort of published output, which, in your case, would be your oral histories—if I'm interviewing, say, an emeritus or something like that, then I would go look through their books. So I'll look at a lot of those things. And just if there's anywhere they're being referenced. I've gone through old newspaper clippings, a lot of those sorts of things. But I'm curious because, of course, you didn't have a corpus of oral histories to draw on, at least at Santa Cruz.

Calciano: No. I did a lot of research with the microfilm of the old newspapers, and that was particularly useful later when I was preparing my course on the history of Santa Cruz County. It gave me a lot of interesting material.

Vanderscoff: The *Santa Cruz Sentinel* and—

Calciano: The *Sentinel* [in the 1856 to 1900 period] there were a number of newspapers that would spring up in Santa Cruz and then die out. The *Sentinel* stayed. Others stayed for quite a while, but I don't think—they may be now on microfilm, but at the time I was researching, it was just the *Sentinel*, I think.

Oh, some of the stuff you'd see in those early newspapers! Like, "Twelve more Chinamen were brought into town to work at the powder mill and the paper mill, replacing God-fearing white men," or something like that. "However, if they get blown up in the powder mill," or "chewed up" or whatever; I don't remember the exact phrase—"in the paper mill, it'll be little loss." That's in the paper! It certainly gave you an insight into the attitudes people had about the Chinese and so forth. Those were not nice times in the 1850s through the 1870s or eighties. Just like there's things about our times that are not nice, too, but it was pretty eye-opening for a twenty-four-year-old or a twenty-five-year-old, to read some of that stuff.

And then all the ads for Lydia Pinkham's Such-and-so Magic Elixir and what it would be good for: female problems and constipation and catarrh and headaches—there would be a list of all these things. In retrospect, what it was, was various herbs—all of these elixirs were herbs and so forth put in a mixture of fairly strong alcohol. So of course people felt a little better! [Both chuckle.] They took two teaspoons of Lydia Pinkham's elixir or whatever, and they got a little boost. So the thought of Woman's Christian Temperance Union people swallowing some of this stuff—I don't know that they did, but probably—is just kind of amusing.

I digress. But I did a lot of research in the newspapers.

Vanderscoff: You also mentioned the city directory last time.

Calciano: Yes, city directories.

Vanderscoff: And the slang dictionary.

Calciano: Yes. Those were more useful when it came to processing the material and getting the spelling right. Oh, I can't remember whether it was Mr. Wagner²⁶ who said, "I found three mistakes in your book," and I went, "[Sharp intake of breath] Oh!" I was just appalled that I had let three mistakes go through—I had gotten somebody's last name spelled wrong, and I can't remember, but considering what I was working with from the transcript, in hindsight I can see that I probably did a pretty good job, if there were only three minor errors.

I remember going up to Berkeley at one point and doing research in the top of the Bancroft Library. No air conditioning, and it was hotter than blazes, and I was working over, either a microfiche machine or a microfilm machine, and it had a hot light bulb coming out. Fortunately, I have a good tolerance for heat. If it had been frigid up there, I might not have done as much research.

The same thing happened in—I went to Sacramento at one point. I can't remember why I was researching things in the state archives, but I was. Again, it was summer. I should have learned to go in winter, but summer and 103 degrees, and who knows what it was up in the microfilm room, but—

Of course, with a lot of these people, I couldn't ask their contemporaries for information to give me ideas for questions. I pretty much just had to use the research from—like, on the dairying and apple industry, I got from either the University of California, Davis, or UC Berkeley—all the agriculture pamphlets that the state put out on raising apples and the diseases and so forth. I had a whole

²⁶It was actually Mr. Bergazzi.—Elizabeth Calciano.

section of questions on apple diseases, and when I would interview Mr. Cikuth about apple growing problems he would say everything was fine—“Well, did you have any problems when you were harvesting or processing your apples?” “No, no, everything was fine.” “Well, did you have any problems with brown rot?” “Oh! Brown rot! That was terrible.” It had to do with storing apples, and if you did not have the right level of oxygen in the warehouse where there you were storing apples, then you would get Brown rot. I’d ask, “Well, did you have any problem with the apple worm?” “Oh, yes! That was terrible.” And then that’s when—

Did you happen to read the Cikuth one?

Vanderscoff: Yes, yes. I did enjoy going through that one.

Calciano: Well, I wouldn’t have gotten any of those answers if I hadn’t done research on apple diseases and apple growing. I was well trained as a historian to figure out what I needed to do or what I could do in the way of research. I learned that the apples that were full of “worms” (actually larva) would be sent to the cider mills, Martinelli’s and so forth.

And then, of course, when it was McHenry or Page Smith, then I had the more traditional sources to go to, like you described you go to, but—

Vanderscoff: You mean, like, the published output and that sort of thing?

Calciano: Their published output, synopses of what courses they might have taught, talking to people that had interacted with them and so forth. I don’t really

remember all the research I did for the McHenry oral history, except I obviously went through some of the early records, because I was interviewing him about, what, '71 or '72 or '73 or something? About ten years after the—²⁷

I think it was people skills, organizing skills, and a solid basis in history. As I would tell people, "I'm trying to ask questions that people fifty or a hundred years from now might want to know about your everyday life." They would think, "Oh, yes, okay." It's very ironic that now *I'm* being interviewed fifty years later about what life was like when I was growing up. But it's kind of fun.

Vanderscoff: So there're a couple of stylistic things in the Darrow Palmer and the Nina Palmer thing. I'm kind of curious where they came from. I notice there's already a photograph—like, a frontispiece of—

Calciano: That would have been Berkeley's idea, I think.

Vanderscoff: Right, because I notice in some of this early correspondence, you ask Willa Baum for copies of form letters for respective interviewees and you have some very detailed questions on spacing, margins, number, chaptering, a lot of those sorts of things.

Calciano: Oh, okay. Yes, because I didn't know anything about that. I had no idea how long it took to transcribe something. Aileen Sanders, the librarian's secretary, did the early transcribing, and she was very good.

²⁷The oral history interviews with Dean McHenry began in November of 1967 and ended in April of 1969. The volumes were transcribed and edited in 1972 but McHenry did not release them until the late 1990s. The volumes are available in full text and audio at <http://library.ucsc.edu/reg-hist/mchenry>

Vanderscoff: This is at Cabrillo?

Calciano: Yes. She was very good, but it took her a long time, because at that point, the average, I think Berkeley told me, was twelve hours of transcribing per hour of interview. And among other things, you had to keep rewinding the tape a little bit, and rewinding the tape a little bit. I think we had the floor pedal, where you could hit the go-backwards pedal. But still, it was very laborious. She did it with three carbons, I think, or two carbons, because I wanted to keep the raw interview for archives purposes, in case somebody wanted to see what I'd cut out and what I hadn't. And, of course, we kept the tapes.

As far as spacing, it seems like there're not very many words on a page when I look at one of those interviews now, but that was partly because the typewriters were the way they were. We could have done smaller type. We could have gotten a 10 point instead of 12 point, but then our older interviewees might not have been able to read it as easily. And also, when we were typing a final copy, it was the original plus three carbons, and any time the typist made a mistake, it was—put little pieces of paper between the carbon paper and each of these copies, and then you'd erase the front one, and you'd erase the second, and erase the third, and erase the fourth, blow away the eraser stuff, put it all back, put the platen—the thing that held the papers in—and type the right letter and go on. That was time consuming, just typing the final thing.

No Xerox. I think Xerox had just maybe started in '64, '63, but we didn't use it when it first came out because nobody had any idea how long the letters would stay on the

page. What good is doing all this work if you're going to have the ink fall off the page ten years later? Archivists weren't sure and there were heated debates, I think, among archivists around the country as to whether Xeroxing would be suitable for archival material.

We always put the first copy in Special Collections; the second copy went to the interviewee; the third copy went up to Bancroft for their collection; and the fourth one we kept in the Regional History Office, because I would want to refer back sometimes to what so and so had said. It was really nice when we were finally allowed, I think around '65 or '66, to make Xerox copies. You wouldn't be able to tell from the ones in Special Collections because you're reading the original typescript, the top page. But it certainly improved the readability for the interviewee and for people using Bancroft, and for my uses, too because the second, third and fourth carbon copies were on flimsier paper than the first copy because it's what you had to do if you were going to get that typewriter stroke to go down. We did have electric typewriters. Those had come in a few years before.

Yes, I learned the mechanics of it from Willa Baum and the people up there. And then for the rest of it, I was on my own. I always let Don Clark—I think initially he probably looked at the raw transcript, and later I think he just would look at the books. He was interested in them, not only because he was the person supervising me, but also because he had started collecting place names, and he published a book. I don't know if you've seen it. I've got a copy of it. I'll bring it out after we're done—

of place names in Santa Cruz County.²⁸ So he would find things sometimes here and there in my interviews. I don't know, it was just a job that I enjoyed and that I felt I was doing a good job at.

Vanderscoff: Sure. So Don Clark was your supervisor. I'm curious about the role that he played, he, McHenry—I'm curious about your collaborators and supervisors at this time. I noticed that McHenry recommended the Palmers to be interviewed.

Calciano: Yes. And I'm not sure why he recommended the Palmers except they'd given him some books for the library, and I really don't remember much about that interview. Was there anything much of substance in it?

Vanderscoff: It was mostly talking about—I'm not sure how his last name is pronounced—Frederick [A.] Hihn. [pronounced HEEN, like Bean or Seen]

Calciano: *That's* why we interviewed them—because Hihn had been a big shot in the city or the county. That's why I was interviewing them, yes.

Vanderscoff: It's just you and two other people, right, who are the library staff at this time.

Calciano: That was it.

Vanderscoff: And so I'm curious—given that you were learning this job as you went, I was curious about the degree to which you were left to be autonomous, to learn your own way, to the extent to which Don Clark was really supervising—

²⁸ See Donald T. Clark, *Santa Cruz County Place Names: A Geographical Dictionary* (Museum of Art and History, 1986).

Calciano: I was pretty much just left to my own devices. I'm certain that if I had been screwing up, he would have stepped in and said something, or discharged me if I wasn't doing the job, but apparently I was doing the job reasonably well. Every once in a while I'd ask him a question about something, but—yes, that was it. I interacted with his secretary, both because we were the two women—there was nobody else much to chat with, and so we would talk from time to time, and she did my transcribing. But I was a little island unto myself.

Vanderscoff: And you mentioned in our last session that you had a lot of control of your time, that it was an hourly position.

Calciano: Yes.

Vanderscoff: That's how the pay worked, and that you could sort of come in on your own time, work weekends and that sort of thing.

Calciano: Yes, I could work at home. I mean, it was not heard of that point, but if I was editing a manuscript, I could take it home and work on it after the kids were in bed, as long as I kept my hours, which I was very careful to do, as long as I got half time in each month. And I could go over. I could do 55 percent or 60 percent of the hours, depending on what the project was, what had to be done, but I had to hit the 50 percent for the bureaucracy. I think probably Berkeley or somebody was handling payroll and all that stuff, or else McHenry's administrative assistant might have been. There were no business people on the staff, no personnel people, nothing like that.

[Harold] “Hal” Hyde came in reasonably early. I don’t know if he was there when we were in the Cook House and Carriage House phase, but I think he was there by the time we moved to the Central Services building.²⁹ It’s the one that is near the parking lot, across the wood bridge from the library.

Vanderscoff: Right, Central Services.

Calciano: Central Services, right.

Vanderscoff: It’s Hahn now.

Calciano: It’s what?

Vanderscoff: Hahn. It’s called Hahn Student Services Building. [pronounced Hawn, like lawn]

Calciano: Named after who?

Vanderscoff: I don’t know who Hahn is.

Calciano: That’s a very prominent name down here in the Pasadena area, because there’s a law firm, Hahn & Hahn. It’s an excellent one. It’s in my building. There must have been some other Hahns up there that were benefactors. Or possibly it could be these Hahns. I don’t know.

²⁹ See Randall Jarrell, Interviewer and Editor, *Harold A. Hyde: Recollections of Santa Cruz County* (Regional History Project, UCSC Library, 2002). Available at: <http://escholarship.org/uc/item/5rq98388>

When we moved up to the Central Services, that was fine except it was a long drive. Instead of just zipping into the parking lot by the Carriage House, we had to wind our way up, and then we had to park, and then—well, then we just walked into the Central Services, but then, once the library went up, we then walked across the redwood bridge. Women wore high heels then. You had to be careful that your spike heels didn't get caught between the redwood boards. We all figured out how to walk so we didn't ruin our shoes.

The Changing 1960s

Vanderscoff: I'm curious, actually, about what was office dress and what was interview dress, because Santa Cruz has become relatively informal—

Calciano: [Chuckles.] Yes.

Vanderscoff: —since then.

Calciano: Well, as soon as the students came, both the campus and then downtown became relatively informal, because downtown not only had students, but also the people that gravitate towards a university—not hangers-on, but people who would do folk music, or do readings of their poetry and all that type of stuff. But office attire was office attire. I could wear a nice blouse and a nice skirt, but stockings and high heels, definitely. I would say it was go-to-church type dress. Certainly, when I went out on an interview, I don't think I usually went in just a blouse and a skirt. I think I wore a more formal dress or suit.

And hairstyles changed. I'd forgotten about that until at the Regional History Project's fifty-first anniversary celebration, when I looked at the exhibit of newspaper clippings of pictures of me at various times. I was a doctor's wife, so I wore my hair the way my peers did. The first two years, in '62 and '63, I don't think I had it done at a beauty salon every week. I probably still was washing and setting my own hair. But once I was asked to be a model in the medical wives' annual fashion show, which was a big event in the town—all the doctors' wives and lawyers' wives and dentists' wives and so forth would dress up in their best and come there. I remember the first year I went to it, I was told by Mrs. Barr, the doctor's wife, "Now, you can't wear heels that are scuffed and things," because probably my heels were scuffed. "You've got to wear *heels*," meaning high heels. I don't know if people even now refer to high heels as heels.

Vanderscoff: Yes, that carries through.

Calciano: Okay. And fifty years from now, who knows?

Vanderscoff: Right.

Calciano: And my best dress. So I got lovely shoes. I think I may still have them. They were, to my mind, the nicest shoes I had ever purchased. They were part leather, part suede and very pointy toes, as I recall. It was a big deal. And when I was picked to be a model, which was fairly early on, Vonnie Anzalone was also picked to be a model, and she was a new doctor's wife, as was I. I told you that the older wives kept mixing up Anzalone and Calciano. She was a beautiful woman, beautiful red

hair. And the Berman brothers' wives—because it was all-volunteer—were running the show that time. I think they were from the East or something.

Vanderscoff: This was an annual event?

Calciano: An annual event. But all of us who were going to be models assembled at somebody's house, and the Bermans—they weren't sisters, but they were wives of brothers who were both doctors in Santa Cruz—the Berman women, I'll say, laid down the rules. And then one of them pointed to me and said, "And you need to get your hair done. It needs to be colored. That's a bad—that's a mousy color" or whatever it was. It was a blonde—it was a nicer blonde than dishwater blonde—that was a phrase that was used for blondes that—well, they just didn't look good. Either they were gradually turning into brown hair or—I don't know. My hair was blonde, and everybody else thought it was fine, but, boy, Berman didn't.

Then she turned to Vonnie, who had the most gorgeous hair, and she said, "And you've gotta do something with your hair. It has to have highlights or something." Let the record show my mouth went: Ah! My jaw dropped. And I just couldn't believe that *her* hair was being criticized, so it made me feel better that at least I was in excellent company if she was being—

So she sent us to a hairdresser named Wade, who was a nice person and a marvelous hairdresser. He did all the hair styles for Miss Santa Cruz County pageant and the Miss California pageant that was held at Santa Cruz at that time. He did many, many of the doctors' wives. And he colored my hair. I was still of the mindset

that people who colored their hair were kind of hussies because that's kind of the way it was when I was growing up. "Proper people" just didn't dye their hair. But I was twenty-four. I did what I was told, and I went and got color—and he said on his first try, "Nope, that's the wrong color. That looks too brassy."

So he washed it all over again, washed that color out or something or other, and he put a different formula on, and it came out fairly close to what I have now, actually. He said, "Yes, that's good." And then he curled it and so forth and so on. I ended up going to him the rest of my time in the Santa Cruz area, although he sold his business about, oh, maybe 1970 or so, and moved up to Oregon because he really didn't like the hippie element in Santa Cruz. He was raising three young kids, he and his wife, and he didn't want them exposed to all this marijuana influence and so forth. But he was really almost what you'd call a genius with hair and hair color.

And then there's a picture that my kids just laugh at—I'll have to dig it out for you at some point—where Tony and I posed for a formal portrait, and Wade did my hair. It was fairly long then, and he had it in curls and part swept up and something, and I had a very simple but elegant white dress. I sat there with all my hair and Tony stood behind me. If I can find it, I'll show it to you for laughs. It was not a hairdo I would ever wear around town, so I don't know why I let him do that for this photo.

Vanderscoff: [Chuckles.] Sure.

Calciano: But we women were pawns in the hands of our hairdressers or our whatevers. I was not a true pawn, but I went along with that. I felt like I looked

pretty elegant for that photo. But I noticed in the newspaper interviews that—they were interviewing me about the Regional History Project. Have you seen these? Maybe you haven't seen them.

Vanderscoff: No. The *Sentinel* interviewed you?

Calciano: Yes, the *Sentinel*. Several times. Irene Reti had them out at the fifty-first anniversary of the Regional History Project last fall. They had them in the display cases, and there was about three of them, a different hairstyle each time. You'll have to ask Irene Reti to dig those out.

Vanderscoff: Yes, I'd like to see that.

Calciano: Well, you don't *have* to, but you'll see what I'm talking about.

I gradually grew my hair out. And then wigs were coming in. They became fashionable. People could wear wigs and also something called a "fall," which was a long piece of hair, not a wig. My hair was long, but you could put the fall in with a hair comb, not a comb that you comb your hair with, but something that will attach to the top of the head and stay in the hair and then put a narrow bandana over the comb, and it would give a nice, full feeling. I loved that style. That really worked for me, and my husband liked it. Everybody liked it.

But also there was one time I was there, and Wade was having a sale on some very inexpensive—oh, I got a good wig made out of human hair. I'm not sure why I got it.

I don't think I wore it very often.³⁰ But then he was having a sale on really inexpensive wigs, and by that time they were half price, it was pretty cheap, and one of them was a red-headed wig. I thought, I've got the right skin coloring for red hair. Maybe I'll try it. I tried it on, and it looked kind of fun. I thought, well, okay, I'll buy it, just for fun. I pinned up my hair and put it on, and when Andrew came home from school—he was six years old, and he came in, and he talked to me when he came in, and he went to the refrigerator, and he talked to me about what had happened that day. I made him a peanut butter sandwich, and we talked, talked, talked, talked. And after about twenty minutes, he looked up and noticed I had red hair. I realized at that point that kids that age talk to your belly button mainly, if they're interested in what they're doing. [Laughs.] They don't look all the way up to your face. They know who you are. And he was really surprised.

Then when my husband came home for dinner, he liked it. He thought it was cute and nice. We sat down, and about halfway through dinner, the thing was starting to really itch. I'd had it on for three or four hours at that point. I said, "Tony, do you mind if I take this off because it's beginning to drive me nuts?" He said, "Fine." So I whipped it off, and Andrew was sitting across from me. His jaw dropped. He thought I'd just taken the whole top of my head off! And I said, "No, it's a wig. See, it's just a wig." [Laughs.]

So there's funny memories from when you're raising kids, and that is definitely one of the vivid memories in my repertoire of what my kids did, stories.

³⁰ For some reason, wigs became exceedingly popular in the late sixties, and "everyone" had to have one—Elizabeth Calciano.

Vanderscoff: So you've talked about some of these shifts that were happening in fashion, so I'd like to circle back to your interest in color.

Calciano: Oh, yes.

Vanderscoff: So thinking about your time in Santa Cruz, the sixties—were the colors that people were wearing changing? I'm kind of curious. You've talked a lot about hair color and things like this, but I thought since this is particularly—

Calciano: Well, yes, fashions change gradually, as they do always.

Vanderscoff: Right, and certainly relative to your own youth and aims.

Calciano: Yes, although even there, things changed. Skirts would get shorter or longer for adults. Kids' dresses were kids' dresses, but France would set whatever the style was for adults, and it would get to New York a few months later, and then it would filter out through the country, and the Sears catalog would have patterns. My family never got a Sears catalog, but that was a bible for a lot of people, farmers, and people in rural areas, where you couldn't go to a store and buy a dress. You made your dresses, and you wanted to look pretty much like you were with it. So, yes, I think styles change. And certainly colors would change.

So anyway, on fashions, well, the hippie movement came along, so then you had two fashions. You had the fashions that store clerks and bank tellers and oral historians and secretaries and faculty wives—those fashions. And then you had this other counterculture fashion. The two didn't really intertwine too much, although I

remember shawls became fashionable there for a while among the “regular” folks, as opposed to the—well, we called them hippies. They were countercultural.

Vanderscoff: And those two strains, you think, manifested themselves on the Santa Cruz campus—

Calciano: Oh, yes.

Vanderscoff: —and the town?

Calciano: Well, definitely in town, down by the Catalyst and on the street. I remember an old man who played the musical saw, and I saw, when I was outside the bookstore recently, there’s a little statue of him with his musical saw. He made really nice music out of it. It was interesting.³¹

The counterculture influenced the regular fashion, at least to the extent that shawls came in, and scarves became longer. I wasn’t as aware of fashion as I became aware of later, I think. But definitely color was important to me.

I also remember thinking that up at all these little communes up in—the Bonny Doon and Old San Jose Road and all—there’s a lot of work³² that’s no good at all, but there’s probably going to be some work that’s going to come out of there that in thirty or forty years we will recognize were really very creative—like John Steinbeck or Robert A. Heinlein would be considered creative, or Jack Kerouac

³¹ Calciano is referring to Tom Scribner (1899-1982), who was a tree cutter and active member of the International Workers of the World (IWW) in his youth. He was often seen playing the musical saw on the Pacific Garden Mall even in the late 1970s, when the current director of Regional History Project was a UCSC student.

³² In the creative arts—poetry, short stories, novels, paintings, and craft work.

would be a counterculture one. I don't know if that's happened. I don't know if any lasting art or lasting writing or poetry came out of there or not, because I moved in '77, and I just haven't kept track of it. But I wouldn't be surprised if some of the people that we look up to now had a hippie period in their lives. But that is the historian in me wondering.

I was talking about what people were doing in 1910, and I was watching a transformation occurring in the 1960s and seventies. I remember when Tony's parents flew out; we drove up from the airport through the Haight-Ashbury district of San Francisco so his mother could see what hippies looked like. It was an interesting time.

So I guess I've exhausted that question.

Vanderscoff: Well, I have several more in that vein, about the counterculture, about changes in the student body. But before we get to the later sixties, I'd like to ask a few more questions about those early years. The first one I think is a fairly fundamental one, really. Did you have any say in the Regional History Project name, naming it that, as opposed to there being an "Oral" somewhere in that title? How did that name come about?

Calciano: I really don't know if I created the name, or if Don Clark suggested it. What did Berkeley call themselves at that point? They didn't have "Oral" in their name then, I don't think.

Vanderscoff: I'm not sure when the ROHO came about.

Calciano: Yes. I didn't use the word "Oral," or we didn't use the word "Oral," because nobody knew what oral history was, so there wasn't any point in having that word in there. I was documenting the history of the region, so "Regional History Project" seemed to pretty much describe that. I was trying to get the economic and social and cultural history of Santa Cruz County and the surrounding area.³³

I remember thinking at one point, after knowing that I could do this, that maybe I should aspire to doing an interview with Steinbeck, but it seems to me he died before I got my guts up to write a letter to him. I don't remember when he died, so I could be wrong. I could be thinking of William Saroyan.

And that would have been when I began to really feel like I could look further afield. But I shifted into the university history because I could see right before me that changes were going on in the student body. I didn't interact much with students because I was housed in the library, but all the unrest in '68 and '69. The first class had been admitted in '65 and was graduating—it was half freshmen and half juniors out of the community colleges, which was what the plan was. I think that some of the kids who came up came from community colleges; some I think transferred from four-year colleges, I don't remember at this point. But I thought, it's a new university. I maybe should get busy documenting what some of these kids think

³³When I would use the term oral history in some of the talks I gave to service clubs, etc., I had to explain that it was not the history of dentistry. I had been asked that a number of times in the first few years.—Elizabeth Calciano.

about it. I talked to faculty and so forth, and—did we have two colleges by then? If we did, I got people from both Cowell and Stevenson.³⁴

Vanderscoff: I think for the '67 series—

Calciano: I picked six graduating seniors and six sophomores that I think I re-interviewed when they were seniors.

Vanderscoff: There were at least a few people from the '67 interviews who were re-interviewed in the '69 series.

Calciano: Yes. Right. This was my plan, that I would do both some seniors but also some sophomores, so that then I could do those sophomores when *they* were seniors and also do other seniors. So that was '67, and I think things were still pretty tame then, although by then I think Clark Kerr had been fired as the president up at Berkeley. The free speech movement came along in '64, I think.

Vanderscoff: Right.

Calciano: And I think Kerr was fired somewhere around '65, which was a big shock to me and a huge shock to McHenry because they had really been good friends for a long time. McHenry contributed a lot to Kerr's Master Plan for Higher Education.³⁵

The firing of Clark Kerr sent shock waves all through the university system, but I

³⁴See Elizabeth Spedding Calciano, Interviewer and Editor, *Student Interviews: 1967 and Student Interviews: 1969*. (Regional History Project, UCSC Library) Available at <http://library.ucsc.edu/reg-hist/student>

³⁵ The California Master Plan for Higher Education was developed by a survey team led by Dean McHenry, under the presidency of Clark Kerr, and released in 1960. Kerr appointed Dean McHenry, as head of academic planning for the UC system and also as one of the two UC representatives on the team that negotiated the plan. See http://www.berkeley.edu/news/media/releases/2003/12/03_master.shtml

think it hit McHenry harder than it did others because they'd been such close friends.

Vanderscoff: And, of course, important for the Santa Cruz venture, as it were.

Calciano: Yes, the Santa Cruz campus. I'm sure I asked him questions about that. I don't remember the specific answers. But anyway, that was occurring during the time where I had my feet in the cardboard box.

Vanderscoff: This was at the Carriage House.

Calciano: Yes, the Carriage House.

Vanderscoff: So to periodize that, about when did you leave? Do you have a sense of when you left Cabrillo and made that transition to the Carriage House? I'd like to kind of walk through the different spaces.

Calciano: Yes. That is a good question. The staff had grown by the time we left. I don't know if there were more than the four architects, but there was much more support staff over there, and we had an assistant university librarian.³⁶ And they were working on getting the Cook House and the Carriage House refurbished and set up so it could be offices. I cannot really tell you, but I think it was early of '64—January, February, March, somewhere along there.

Vanderscoff: We can, of course, look that up.

³⁶Wendell Simons, who was very quiet, but an excellent administrator, as far as I was concerned—Elizabeth Calciano.

Calciano: Yes, you can look it up because I don't think I would have needed to have my feet in a cardboard box if it was June or July, but who knows? I think it was '65 when we moved into Central Services.

I always felt it should be called the Clark Library. There was Powell, at UCLA. Well, whatever. I was wondering if the name had been taken—not that I didn't think McHenry should be honored, but I thought they could have named a college after him, or graduate studies, or something. But anyway, I don't rule the world, so [chuckles]—I just observed from afar by that point.

UC Santa Cruz Students

There was certainly unrest in Berkeley, but it hadn't really hit our student body that first year, at any rate, to the extent that I could see. And, of course, these students were all new to the campus. It was a new venture. It was a whole experience for everybody, having students on campus.

Vanderscoff: Yes, I'd be interested if you could talk about if there was any shift that happened once the university became fully functioning, actually became an active educational site, if those ripples impacted the library.

Calciano: Those ripples didn't really affect me personally very much. Occasionally a kid would come in and ask something about the local stuff. I remember later on there was a young man named John Chase, who was interested in local architecture

and did some nice research work on that. I interacted with him.³⁷ But I was just in my own corner on the main floor of the library. All the processing was done on the floor below. My office is no longer there. They've revamped things.

Vanderscoff: You're talking about the McHenry Library building now?

Calciano: Yes. I'll get back to Central Services in a minute, but the library certainly got busier because they had students studying, students checking out books, students asking questions at the reference desk. I could see all that hubbub as I went in and out. I'd go to the reference desk myself and pull out one of their references to look up something, and I would hear the hubbub around and the questions kids were asking.

But as far as the history project, itself, no, it really didn't have much effect on me, so I'm not the person to ask about all the effects of the students on the campus. But I'd hear things, like the kids that had come up from Los Angeles, that some of them were very unhappy because there was nothing to do on or off the campus. And if you're used to theaters, and movie theaters, and places you can hang out and all the stuff that L.A. has—the Hollywood Bowl and The Forum and Dodger Stadium. Well, Santa Cruz was quite a change for those kids, and I think some of them dropped out. I don't know about the class that came as juniors. I would think that most of those from the L.A. area would tough it out, but I think there were at least a significant number of transfers out of that first-year freshman class.

³⁷See John Chase, *The Sidewalk Companion to Santa Cruz Architecture* (Santa Cruz: Paper Vision Press, 1979).

Of course, others loved the freedom. You could go smoke a joint behind a redwood tree and nobody would bother you. [Both laugh.] It was a fun campus to be on. I remember, oh, probably '67 or '68, one of Tony's friends from New York, a doctor, flew out and visited us, and we took him up to see the campus. Keep in mind, he's a medical doctor. He went into psychiatry for his specialty. And we were driving along, and a small herd of deer was grazing beside the science building or something, and he exclaimed, "Look! Deer! Oh, my goodness! Deer!" I replied, "Yes, we do have deer up here." He said, "Well, who feeds them?" [Laughs.] I said, "Well, they just kind of eat the grass and the bushes, you know?" He responded, "Well, *you* can't digest bushes—" I said, "I know, but I'm not a deer." [Laughs.] New Yorkers have a naiveté of their own. They're way more sophisticated than a kid from Iowa, but that was just, I thought, hilarious. Yes, we had deer wandering around. I don't know if they still do.

Vanderscoff: They still do.

Calciano: Oh, well, good. The deer managed to survive, as deer often do.

Editing and Publishing Oral Histories

Vanderscoff: Well, I'm curious about how you handled the editing process, because we've had these discussions about ideas of moving things around or leaving them be. Some of them have been on the record; I think most of them have been off.

Calciano: Most of them have been off, yes.

Vanderscoff: And so I'm curious: I found a document from the mid-sixties, where you refer to the edited copy as the cut-and-pasted copy—it's edited for clarity and continuity prior to being returned to the interviewee for their own process of editing.

Calciano: Was that in the letter that I would send out to the interviewees, or what did you find?

Vanderscoff: I didn't actually find any form letters for interviewees in the early Regional History Project archives.³⁸ I'm going to have to look up exactly where I got that from. But basically the editing process would be mentioned in some of your correspondence and also in some documents that would explain Regional History. They'd be like review and summary documents of Regional History, how it functions. Those are the sort of places I'm drawing that information from. So I'm curious about what your editorial eye was, how you made—

Calciano: Well, Berkeley believed in editing, not to change the thrust of the interview or the content but to put like this comment I just made—if I was doing it, I would move that back into the childhood section. I would just blend it in somewhere in a section where the interviewee had been discussing the subject, perhaps two or three interviews earlier. As long as you say you're doing that—I think it's fine. I always wrote an introduction to the volume that would describe why the person

³⁸Calciano added the following footnote during the editing process: "There was no "form letter"; each letter was drafted for the person it was being sent to. 1967 was before Xerox and before computers. Large sections of each letter would be copied from previous letters.

was interviewed, I think, and describe the circumstances and mention the editing and that the interviewee got to see it and make changes.

Some of those introductions—a couple of them were pretty ticklish to write. I have no idea what I wrote for Mr. Boekenoogen. Oh, good Lord! It was just a tour through his house. I mean, I don't know what I wrote for that one. And Mr. Cikuth, who was the apple farmer from Watsonville—I think was probably one of the oldest people I interviewed. I think he was ninety-five or something. But he had come over from Yugoslavia as a young man and then had kind of learned his English along the way, so it wasn't always perfect. It was fine. I didn't care. But *he* cared, and he didn't want to appear like he was uneducated or anything, and so part of the agreement was I had to put all his answers into correct English. So somehow I delicately indicated that. I don't know how I said this in the introduction, but I remember wrestling with it, and I hope that I did put in at least a sentence indicating that. I have to go look and see. I don't have that one, but I guess now you can look them up on the Internet if you're so inclined.

Vanderscoff: Yes. I also have a list of all or almost all of the interviews that you've done—

Calciano: Oh. Okay. Good.

Vanderscoff: —and so I don't know if any of that might be helpful as you think about these things.

Calciano: But anyway, to go on with that, I would take the first copy of the transcript and cut it up and have the second (or carbon) copy stay in the office always as—for archive purposes, if somebody really wanted to—so somebody who *really* wants to see how Mr. Cikuth sounded and if you have a good reason, you could probably go look at that. But it would have to be a good reason. It couldn't just be, "I want to see how bad his English was," kind of reason. His English wasn't that bad, but it was what you would expect of somebody who learned English as an adult and didn't ever have any schooling in English.

In fact, my second husband was the same way.³⁹ He learned English as an adult, and he could certainly converse and so forth. It was funny. He would know all the big words and how to pronounce them, and that's because an awful lot of our big words come straight from France, from French. But he would get confused as to whether it was a rake or a rack, a pear or a pier. The short words would miss—and on our second or third date, I said, "I understand you just fine, but sometimes you mispronounce a word. Would you like me to tell you if you do? I won't at all if you don't want"—he said, "Oh, yes! Do!" So I began to correct him, and he became much more easily understood.

The engineers that he worked with could understand him. Interestingly enough, I'm the attorney for a guy who came from Iceland and was an engineer in the same project, same section that my husband worked. And he laughingly said, "No, you could always understand Robert, but there was one word he just couldn't get right,"

³⁹ Robert Georgeon was a Frenchman who learned English in his late twenties by emigrating to Australia and living there for eight years.

and I said, “Oh, what was it?” And he said, “Well,”—he said, “Well, you know, we worked a lot with metal, and so there were a lot of discussions about sheet metal, and he just couldn’t quite get that one right.”

And I said, “Oh, shit metal?” [Laughter.] And my client kind of blushed and said, “Yes.”

Things change, because that’s a word that I can now say in an interview. Forty years ago, if I’d said it at all, if I had included it at all, I would have spelled it out or something, or said the S-word or something.

Vanderscoff: So do you think changes in language, and appropriate language—that’s happened after the time that you were involved with the Regional History Project, you would say?

Calciano: What, the editing process?

Vanderscoff: No, like, use of profanity, that kind of a thing.

Calciano: Oh. Well, the students were using it quite freely, and it was quite a shock the first few times I heard an F-bomb in the library. Then it became so prevalent, it was just “Fuck this” and “Fuck that” and “Oh, that fucking such-and-so” and uhh! I still am a little uncomfortable saying that. You can put F-words in if you want; I don’t know what the sensibilities are now about using that word. But some people really don’t know how to say a whole sentence without an F-word in some form or another.

Vanderscoff: That wasn't the case at all, say, growing up in Ames or—

Calciano: Oh, good Lord!

Vanderscoff: —at Cambridge.

Calciano: Oh, no! It was apparently around. I remember talking—you know some of the silly conversations you get in, and for some reason I asked my boyfriend, who was a year ahead of me—he was a senior in high school; I was a junior—I said, “You know, there’s a lot of swear words in our language. I wonder if there’s one for every letter of the alphabet.” And I came up with “ass” and “bitch” and “darn it,” whatever. And “egad” for “e,” and I came to “f”, and I said, “F? I don’t think there’s a swear word that starts with ‘f,’ is there?” And he blushed. And he said, “Oh yes, there is.” I said, “Oh, what is it?” “Oh no, I can’t tell you.” “You can’t tell me?” “No, I can’t tell you.” Finally I said, “Well, tell me what it rhymes with.” So he reluctantly said, “Buck.” And I said, “Fuck?” And he said, “Don’t ever say that!” And I said, “I’ve never heard it!” Well, the boys used it, but never around the girls. I told you, I was naïve.

Vanderscoff: But you heard that being used a lot, profanity. The students’ language—

Calciano: Yes.

Vanderscoff: —itself, had changed.

Calciano: I don’t think nearly as much as it’s used now, but it was certainly used more than—I think it’s nowadays that some people can hardly finish a sentence

without one or two F's in it. Then it was used more sparingly, but it was not used in mixed company—I mean, with librarians around or something. Not directly *to* the librarian. Nobody would come up and say, “This is an ‘f-ing’ book.” It probably became looser and looser as the years went by. But, as I said, I didn’t interact all that much with them. And, of course, when I interviewed them, they all spoke non-graphic language.

Vanderscoff: I’m interested in that dynamic as well, since you were this young woman interviewing primarily these much older men, and so I’d like to actually ask about that later. But staying with the editing issue—

Calciano: Okay. So when I did my research I would put questions down on 4x6 cards. Then I would go through. I guess I wrote down a number of topics, and I’d label them A, B, C, D, and each letter for a different subject. Then in editing I’d go through the transcripts and put the appropriate letter in the margin. I think that’s how I organized the transcripts. I know it’s what I did for law school papers, so I think I probably did that for Regional History. The main topic would be discussed, but I would find that there was a sentence over here on the topic and three sentences over there, and I would bring those in to where the topic had been discussed. So it literally was cut and paste—cut and use Scotch tape.⁴⁰

⁴⁰Calciano added the following footnote during the editing process: “We did not have any Xerox machines! They had just been invented. I think they became almost universal within a few years but archivists were still leery of them—afraid the letters would fall off the pages in twenty years. So initially we did not use them. The interviews were typed on a typewriter with three carbon copies, one was for the final cut and paste efforts for our working copy, and then the original typescript was cut and pasted to match, and that is what went out to the interviewee to review.”

Then I would go through and cut out a lot of my “Oh’s” and “Mm’s” and the “Oh, really’s” but leave enough in so that when I read it now, I’m a little embarrassed about all the “oh, really’s” I used, but still, that was what the interview was, and that was my technique to keep the older folks talking because they could tell that I was listening and was interested. I don’t think I did nearly as much of that in the McHenry interviews, but I’d have to go look and see.

I guess we sent the cut-and-paste out. I don’t think we typed it over. Maybe we typed it over at that point. I frankly don’t remember, since I was the one who didn’t have to type it. But I don’t remember proofing, whereas the final copy I would be proofing, and some pages had to be retyped four or five times because there would be errors that were too big to be corrected.

Vanderscoff: So, would you say that editing process was consistent throughout your time at the project?

Calciano: Yes, definitely, except we started using the Xerox machine around 1965. No more carbon copies to deal with. And even with McHenry I probably did edit a little bit. But he was so organized, and I was organized, and so I don’t think it had to be done that much. But I certainly can see in these interviews that I’m doing with you, that I would be moving sections. I don’t know how you’re going to deal—it’s up to you. That’s your thing, whether you’ll do footnotes, “See also,” or whether you’ll just let readers discover for themselves. I’ll be interested to see.

Vanderscoff: You have a bit of a dual consciousness about this, both telling your story and also having been the interviewer before—

Calciano: Oh, yes. I'm very aware.

Vanderscoff: Right. So, at this point, we've gone two hours.

Calciano: Well, I seem to still be going strong. I'm a lot perkier than when I got up.

Vanderscoff: [Laughs.] That's good. I'm glad it's enlivening.

Calciano: Let me finish a couple of bites of my breakfast while you ask—this is moussaka from the other night, that my son-in-law made.

Vanderscoff: Oh, great.

Interviewing the Interviewer

Calciano: I'm curious, as I said, about what you're going to do in the editing or not-editing. This is entirely up to you, but where did you get your training from? It's the first half of the question, I guess, but the first half of the question. And the second half is what do you do when people skip around like I have been, getting off the topic, but still relevant to a topic that either will be covered or has been covered?

Vanderscoff: Sure. So where I got my training, and then in this particular case, how I would—

Calciano: No, how you—well, I suppose second is have you ever had anybody who skips around?

Vanderscoff: Sure. My training—I think my training is a lot like yours. I picked it up in the process of doing interviews for the Regional History Project.

Calciano: But what brought you and the Project together? Did you go looking for a job, or did they pluck you, and anoint you?

Vanderscoff: Yes, it started—I did—this is funny, to have all of this on—

Calciano: Oh no, good! The worm has turned. [Laughs.]

Vanderscoff: Right. Right, a reflective moment from the interviewer.

Calciano: [Laughs.] I'm enjoying this.

Vanderscoff: Right.

Calciano: Okay, go on.

Vanderscoff: Well, I did a volunteer project, and I interviewed John Dizikes, who was an early Cowell faculty member.⁴¹ He came there—

Calciano: I remember him, yes.

Vanderscoff: —in '65. Yes. And so I interviewed him. I submitted that to Irene, and Irene helped me in my preparation for that, I consulted with her. This was just supposed to be a volunteer project I was doing for Cowell College initially, but it wound up I really enjoyed doing it, and Irene liked the finished product—

⁴¹See Cameron Vanderscoff, Interviewer and Editor: *John Dizikes: Reflections on a Life of Learning and Teaching at UCSC, 1965-2000*. (Regional History Project, UCSC Library, 2012). Available at <http://escholarship.org/uc/item/24z7r5bh>

Calciano: Good.

Vanderscoff: —which I was very flattered by, and so from then on, I did some projects specifically for her, freelance projects, of which this is the most recent in that sequence. And so I learned over that, and it works on other projects, with other clients.

Calciano: Can I get a cookie while you're talking?

Vanderscoff: [Laughs.]

Calciano: [Moves away from the microphone.] I suddenly realized I need some fuel.

Vanderscoff: Sure.

Calciano: Okay, so don't stop.

Vanderscoff: Yes, yes. So that's I guess the basis of my experience in oral history, doing these interviews with the Regional History Project with Irene Reti.

Calciano: Were you in a class?

Vanderscoff: No, I wasn't in a class.

Calciano: So how did you get into doing oral history?

Vanderscoff: The idea came from the provost of Cowell [Faye Crosby]. She said, "Well, maybe you'd be interested in interviewing this person." I was very involved in the college as an undergraduate. I was a resident assistant, and I worked in the

college library. And so, it's a part of my life, and so I think she thought of me for that. So that's an overview of how I got into interviewing in the first place.

And as far as editing goes, generally the practice has been, at least as far as the conversations between Irene and I have gone, is that we leave the transcripts relatively untouched. We'll still go in, maybe remove some repetitious things, sometimes strike false starts. It's relatively unusual to move things around too much. I think that's the trend.

Calciano: Well, do you try to put chapter headings in or not?

Vanderscoff: Yes, we still do chapter headings. That continues. That, the preface continues, a lot of those things.

Calciano: That's good. I don't know how you're going to put chapter headings in on this interview because I hop around so much.

Vanderscoff: Well, that's something that we'll have to figure out, I guess, in post, as it were. But I'm sure we can figure out something.

Calciano: Yes. I should be more disciplined since I have been in your shoes before. But when I think of something that's funny and it's relevant, I like to—

Vanderscoff: Sure, and of course. And, I mean, I'd much rather have it on than off.

“A Couple of Loose Ends”

Vanderscoff: Okay. Well, today is Tuesday, January 20, 2015. Cameron Vanderscoff here for the Regional History Project with Elizabeth Spedding Calciano. And we’re going to continue to talk about her involvement in the Project, and I believe you’d like to start today.

Calciano: Well, thank you. I always have these little bits and pieces that I want to add. I went over your outline last night, and it’s very well done, I must say, but it triggered a couple of loose ends.

One was when I was in high school, in tenth grade, which is the first high-school grade there, I was what was called a cub reporter. We were kind of the stringers for the senior journalism class. And the journalism class produced a weekly high school newspaper, but it was one page of the *Ames Daily Tribune*. It wasn’t just a little hand-me-out thing; it was a page whatever of a real newspaper. So it gave good experience for people.

And when I was a senior, I took a world literature class, a one-semester class. I also then took journalism. I loved it. I volunteered to be the makeup editor, which is the person who decides which stories are the leads and where to put the other stories; you write the headlines, make sure that they highlight what you think is an essence of the story but also that they will fit into the space available. “M’s” and “w’s” were one and a half or two times—I can’t remember now—of what a regular letter was, and an “i” and a “j” were half that and so forth. And then you drew it out, and the articles were submitted I think in just typescript, but then set on the linotype

machine at the *Tribune*, and a pretty polished looking thing would come out each week. I just loved it.

Also, in your outline, on Buster's old stall, you said "feet in shoe boxes." They were in the kind of box that you—oh, pears come in or apples come in or whatever, and the grocery stores used to put a person's order in if they were delivering them. The boxes came up high enough to protect your ankles.

Vanderscoff: And to clarify, this is when you were in the Carriage House.

Calciano: Carriage House, yes. Oh, boy!

Okay, now, you've been very skillfully guiding me along through my life, and I'm done with my loose ends, so you may take charge now.

Vanderscoff: Well, thank you very much.

Recording Technologies of Early RHP

So I'd like to pick up with talking about some of the practices of the Regional History Project, some of the practical considerations. Now, of course, this session here is being recorded on a .wav file. It's a certain kind of digital file. Your format was tape. I'm curious, then, about your preservation, what your archival methods were for the tape itself, given it was this unique record.

Calciano: The wire recorder had come in sometime around 1948, '49 or '50. I think that's what enabled Columbia to go out and start these recordings.⁴² I had a little friend who lived near the school, and her dad had gotten one, and I went over. It was kind of a miracle to us. You talked into the microphone, you pushed the rewind button and there were your voices. By 1963, polymer tape had been out I think for quite a while, and it was very functional, and you could run it at different speeds. So I used the tape at the 1-7/8 speed. And, of course, when I recorded my father I used that speed. I then sent copies of the recordings to my Dad's secretary in Ames, Edith Landin. The only way she could transcribe anything was if it was on dictabelts, so I borrowed somebody's Dictaphone and set it up so that the sound coming from the tapes I played went through the air for several inches and then into the Dictaphone microphones. I mailed the belts (it took roughly six or seven dictabelts to handle the material on each tape) to her and she transcribed them and sent the typescripts back to me. She did a fine job, but since the sound had been taken from the tapes onto the belt, the fidelity was not so good and there were a number of places where she got the words Dad used wrong and there were places where Dad's words or phrases could not be heard well enough to be transcribed. I don't believe she typed "Yttrium" instead of "Ytterbium" (YB) but there were enough significant errors that I could just not release the transcripts. They needed to be audited and corrected first, just as I did for the Regional History Project.

I wanted to do some auditing of the interviews some twenty, twenty-five years later, but you couldn't get recorders that played at that speed— I did two series of

⁴²In reference to what is now the Columbia Center for Oral History, founded in 1948.

interviews, quite long series of interviews. And so I was stuck with these tapes, and I wanted to get them out, and so a few years ago I went to a place that could change them into discs—they couldn't do it from 1-7/8 speed; they could only do 3-3/4 and 7-1/2. So I had to listen to the discs at their office and judge from the timbre of my father's voice as to whether—because he just sounded, [Makes high-pitched sounds like a tape being played at a fast speed.] The owner of the shop would slow it down, and when it sounded like my father, I'd say, "Stop," and he'd stop. And I'd say, "Now, go up a little," and I'd listen. I'd say, "Now, go down a little" and listen. And I would either have it or I had to tell him, "Well, permanently adjust it down a little bit" or "up a little bit."

Storage, that's an interesting thing. For Regional History, I put them in the bottom drawer or second drawer of the four-drawer filing cabinet that we had, a locked filing cabinet, so that I could keep things confidential. And so there they stayed, and since the tapes that I have, have stayed in good condition all these years when they've just been stored in a box or in a grocery bag or whatever, I think if the tapes are still there at the Regional History Project office, that they probably could be—if anybody wanted to, and I don't know that anybody would want to, frankly—they could be put onto a more modern format, so if people really wanted to hear what the spoken voice was like of a person born in 1878, they could go to the Fred Wagner tape and—

Vanderscoff: Some of them are indeed digitized.⁴³

Calciano: Okay, good. I guess. I mean, as long as you get the voice right and the right pitch.

Vanderscoff: Would it be different tape speeds for different kinds of voices, in any way, or was it just one?

Calciano: No, I just did 1-7/8, and it worked fine for voices, or at least fine by the standards back then, and the transcribers didn't really have any trouble with it.

So storage was rather basic. But I've also noticed, as things speed up in this world, that with computers that were storing information, the hard drive would break, and people weren't backing up in those first few years. Then I noticed that VCRs all of a sudden were replaced by discs, and if your VCR broke, well, you were out of luck; nobody was selling VCR players. You could get them transferred over to a new format but— So in a way, my old tapes were pretty good because they could be listened to for a good twenty-five years after I recorded them.⁴⁴

So what was your next question?

⁴³ The entire Regional History audio collection was digitized in 2005, including all of the reel-to-reel tapes from the early days of the Project. Multiple digital copies of the oral histories in both audio and transcript form are preserved according to archival standards. In most, but not all cases, edited access copies of the audio are available online, along with the transcripts—Editor.

⁴⁴ Nearly all of Calciano's recordings were still in good condition when they were digitized, in some cases, forty years after the oral histories were conducted. One of the great questions of the digital age is whether all of the data currently being generated will be accessible in the future. Calciano has an excellent point about the relative stability of her recordings over time compared with digital formats. The preservation of digital files requires a commitment to the migration of formats (from mp3s to whatever comes next, for example) and also to the archiving of players. The Regional History Project has archived a CD player in the office, for example. The digital files are archived on a UC-wide server with resources committed to the migration of formats in the future.—Editor.

Creating Archival Oral Histories for the Historical Record:

Audience, Access and Technologies

Vanderscoff: So you had these tapes, and you were doing these interviews. And in those conversations that you had, say, with Don Clark or other colleagues at the library, what was the idea of the target audience for these oral histories? Who were you hoping—

Calciano: Well, initially my instructions were to document the economic history of the Central Coast area, primarily Santa Cruz County in the years from 1890—that was about as far back as we thought we could possibly go with an old-timer, because they would be pushing ninety and recalling back seventy years—oh, up to maybe the war years.

Vanderscoff: World War II.

Calciano: World War II, yes. When I was preparing my notes for my lectures in the *History of Santa Cruz County*⁴⁵ course, I did a little bit more reflecting on the bigger picture, and I realized that Santa Cruz had been protected from that postwar buildup that occurred in San Jose and Mountain View. In all these cities, particularly around universities and scientific places (and large employers), homes were thrown up for veterans because the veterans were going back to college. I've got to say that I think the GI bill was one of the best things that was ever done for the health and growth of the United States. It was letting all of these farm boys and all these kids

⁴⁵I taught the class for University Extension, which was a separate entity from UCSC—Elizabeth Calciano.

that had grown up in the industrial towns, and then also kids that had grown up in the slums—I mean, they had that opportunity (a college education) if they wanted to take it. It propelled a whole bunch of people into the middle class. And then their kids pretty much would go on to college, too. It was more expected. But also, because we had all these older men coming back. You'll recall that war was five or six years long, so a lot of the people coming back were twenty-five, twenty-six or twenty-four and married to their high school sweetheart, so married student housing had to be thrown up. And then small, inexpensive housing for those who were getting their first jobs.

There was this exponential growth up in the Santa Clara Valley. Santa Cruz was protected, pretty much, from that by the Santa Cruz Mountains. We were still kind of a bucolic, nice little town up through the forties and fifties. Tourism, of course, that was the one industry, shall we say, that had carried on from the early years through to the present day. In the early years, the wife and kids would bundle everything into a big wagon and hire a driver to take them over the mountains, and they would spend the summer at the beach, in a beach cottage, and the husband would come down for a week or for weekends. It was a way of life for the ones who could afford that.

Later on, when the road got better—it still was pretty lousy—but better. People would come over for weekends or for day trips. Oh, that Highway 17, even when I started driving it in the early sixties, it was still a hair-raising thing. There was a white line down the center of the road, but there was no white line on the right side,

where there was a drop-off, and if it was foggy up on top of the mountain, you went pretty darn slow and careful and kind of hugged the white center line. It seemed to me it *was* two lanes each direction, but I'm not even positive about that. I think it *was* two lanes all the way over. I remember my mother being very white-knuckled one time when I picked her up at the airport and was driving her across the mountains in the evening.

I digress on that. But the mountains have protected Santa Cruz. So the university coming in was really the big change.⁴⁶ I mentioned a couple of times ago about the locals who weren't all that happy about it. Some were delighted, but others really saw that it was going to be a huge change. And it *was* a huge change, and a whole bunch of different types of people came in, both the faculty and the students, and then the group that hangs around universities came. It made for an exciting time because there were all these ideas floating around.

And the student protests, which started in Berkeley and then migrated out to other campuses and then, as I recall, really took off with the shootings at Kent State University, which I think was 1968.⁴⁷ I think that's when our students at Santa Cruz began to get pretty much involved in student protests, because it seemed to me it was either '68 or early '69 where there was that student strike here, one or two days with no classes. When I was doing the student interviews in 1969, I would ask the students about whether they'd participated in it or not, and got all sorts of answers,

⁴⁶My husband decided to open his medical practice in Santa Cruz because it would soon be a university town.—Elizabeth Calciano.

⁴⁷ The Kent State shootings happened on Monday, May 4, 1970. See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kent_State_shootings

responses, depending on how politically active and interested the kids were.⁴⁸ Some of the science students just viewed it as a good chance to catch up on their studies.

Vanderscoff: So given that you were documenting this history, which was, in some sense, changing rapidly—the present moment for Santa Cruz was this moment of demographic shift, and you were in the business of recording the living history that preceded it, who did you hope would be the audience, who would read these things?

Calciano: With my old-timers, I just figured that people would want to know what was happening in the 1890s through the postwar years. You can pick up a lot from newspaper articles, but it certainly doesn't tell the whole story, by any means. Newspapers make mistakes, as you will have noticed. When I was teaching, when the assignment I made was to do some research in primary sources—for those who wanted to take it for credit—

Vanderscoff: This was at the University Extension?

Calciano: The University Extension. I said, "There are a lot of primary sources you can use, all the way to agriculture extension bulletins," like I had used for the Luke Cikuth interview, "to newspapers." I said to the class, "Newspapers are a great primary source, but don't rely only on them. Just because it was written in 1890 does not mean that it was accurate." And I said, "Would you say that everything in

⁴⁸The 1969 student interviews were conducted during a strike in May of 1969 on the UCSC campus. The strike was held in protest of the violence against demonstrators at People's Park in Berkeley. The strike called for: "Restoration of the 'People's Park' in Berkeley; Payment by the University of California and the city of Berkeley of medical and legal expenses of demonstrators injured or arrested at the demonstration at People's Park; Withdrawal of the National Guard troops from Berkeley; Amnesty for persons arrested in Berkeley. See *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, May 20, 1969. P. 1.

the newspapers today are accurate?" The whole class kind of laughed. And I said, "So you've got to have a critical eye when you use some of these primary sources." Just like old letters, they were from the point of view of whoever was writing them, and if a person had an axe to grind, you learned whatever it was, but it didn't necessarily reflect a large segment of the society or general thought. It could represent just a minority or a minority of one. But you had to evaluate the primary sources you were using.

I got some very good papers, even from people who were not taking the class for credit, some of them. The older people who really wanted to know Santa Cruz history would do some research. Some of them had family documents that certainly were good primary sources. So I took the best of the papers of those years and had them bound as student papers. I don't know if you've seen any of those.

Vanderscoff: Yes, they're still in Special Collections.⁴⁹

Calciano: Okay. And do you find any of those useful for—

Vanderscoff: Yes, I did. I looked over them as a part of my preparation for this. I did that maybe a month ago.

Calciano: You know, your transcriber is going to have a hard time hearing you.

[Transcriber's note: Not at all.]

Vanderscoff: Speak more directly into the microphone, right?

⁴⁹ See the three collected and bound volumes of *Selected Papers on the History of Santa Cruz County* (1967, 1972, 1974). Available in Special Collections at the UCSC Library.

Calciano: Or, just a little louder. [Laughter.] Oh, I'm terrible. It's the last time you'll interview an oral historian. But you used them as part of your preparation?

Vanderscoff: Yes, exactly. I did, I did. And I remember there was a paper about the Ohlone, or the Costanoan Indians, which was the terminology at that time.

So given that you were teaching this class on Santa Cruz history—coming back to the question of audience—

Calciano: I didn't really care who used them. I just wanted to get as much raw material or basic material out and on paper—and I was the one that broadened the Regional History Project from just the economic areas, to the social and cultural, including things like a subsistence farm: "What did you grow?" and so forth that you saw in the Wagner interview.

And also, the change that I was describing didn't happen just in the postwar years. The redwood lumbering died out around the 1920s or so. The lime production probably went on until maybe after World War II. I'm pretty certain it did. But here I'm just using my recollection, which could be very faulty. Tanning was pretty much down to nothing by then. Coastal dairying—I don't know why that phased out—there was some of it in the 1960s, but not like it had been.

And, as I started to say the other day, the farming had changed from hay, to a little more profitable crops, to still more profitable crops, and eventually just apples, strawberries, artichokes and celery. There was a steady line of progression, but the

crops that were growing changed markedly from the 1860s and 1880s and nineties. I thought people interested in agricultural history might find that of interest.

Oh, the wonders of the computer age. I think it's so neat that all this stuff is available now for everybody! Did I tell you my first experience with computers was in 1977? I don't think I did, and if I did, you can just cut this right out. But I think I got a little bit—a jaundiced opinion of them. The law firm O'Meleny and Myers, where I was a first-year associate, had a computer subscription, and they had law cases from various states and the federal courts, the appeals cases. Those are the cases that make it into the volumes of reports. They were being transcribed and being typed into a Lexis [Nexis] database that could be accessed by computers. The young associates were all fascinated with it and said, "Yes!" The Lexis people would send the transcribing over to Vietnam, to people who did not speak English, because the transcribers wouldn't be tempted to change these funny legal words into other words. And certainly, when I was dictating legal stuff, the typists in the typing pool—which is what the first-year associates had access to—would come up with some weird changes of what they thought it should be that I was saying, as opposed to what I *was* saying, including one transcriber that every time I would give a sentence and then say, "Period," which is what you did for dictation back then [chuckles], she'd type, "Period." So got rid of the "periods."

But anyway, I did my research on Lexis. It was a wonderful tool; I was thrilled. And then I logged out, and I realized that I had not logged in the client's file number for billing purposes. So I hit the Go Back button, and nothing happened and so I hit the

Help button, and it came up: “Help is an inappropriate response.” That’s what it said. Seared into my memory! I thought it was so insolent, and arrogant, and frustrating. And, of course, I solved the problem by the next day (because I had been doing this in the evening), by going to the person who kept all those records and telling her who the client was, but—

And then all the early computer instruction manuals, when I bought my own computer, when I set up my own practice—the people writing these things were programmers who assumed things! They would just assume that we would know this step, or assume that we did not need to be told. There were lots of funny stories going around about what the tech staff had to deal with—the questions they’d get. And one of them was a woman—always a woman, you know; it can’t be a man who would ask this, right? Sexism was still thriving in the 1980s and early nineties, and there was a whole period when dumb blonde jokes were the favorite jokes because you couldn’t say Italian jokes or Polish jokes⁵⁰ or, for heaven’s sakes, not black jokes. “Dumb blonde” jokes were very popular, and lawyer jokes were very popular. I was both blonde and a lawyer, so I didn’t think too many of them were funny. I mean, they were the kind that—“the woman insisted on sitting in first class, near the front of the plane, because she wanted to be able to get to San Francisco faster than the rest of the people back in tourist class.” And jokes like the secretaries with their first computer had Wite-Out all over their screens, where they were whitening out their mistakes. I mean, that maybe happened once somewhere, but secretaries were not that dumb, for heaven’s sakes. The legal secretaries, if they had been born twenty

⁵⁰ Italian and Polish jokes had been quite popular in the sixties.

years later, would have been career women of one kind or another. They were very sharp. The ones that were legal secretaries—they were quite sharp, quite intelligent.

So anyway, one of these Help questions was: “I don’t know if my keyboard is plugged into the computer or not.” And technician said, “Well, can you look down and see?”—“No, there’s just a jumble of cords down under there.” “So, okay, well, pick up your keyboard. Now walk back ten steps. Okay?” She said, “Yes, I’ve done that.” He said, “Well, if you got back ten steps, it’s not plugged in.” All right, that solves it.

Another one was: “I can’t seem to get my password to work.” “Well, where’d you get the password?” “Well, I looked at the person next to me, and I used her password?” “And what was that?” “Five asterisks.”

I don’t know if people a hundred years from now will know why that’s funny, but I don’t care. [Laughs.] They can do the research and find that.

So anyway, I really in the interviews was just trying to get as much information about the period of time that I was talking about with that particular person. Because I was an historian, I know how interesting I found letters, diaries, things like that from earlier times. Those were really the only types of clues into the everyday lives of people, because for centuries, written histories focused on kings, princes, battles, wars, and occasionally scientific breakthroughs, things like that. The peons were the peons, and the workers in the cotton mills were the workers in the cotton mills. So I was asking the questions that I would want to know about the

period if I was researching it 100 years from then. That was how I went about figuring out what my questions would be. I think I did a pretty good job on it. I at least got a lot of information into print.

Oh, and then on the university—why I went into the university oral histories that focused on UCSC itself as opposed to the town/region: It was because we were a new university. It was kind of a no-brainer, in a way. It wasn't my original purview, but I asked Mr. Clark if it would be all right if I did that, and he thought it was a good idea.

Vanderscoff: One of the things I'd like to get to today is talking about the context of the library. So going a little further with computerization, now, to access oral histories as the Regional History Project—you can go online. The transcripts are available. In many cases, the audio is also available to listen to online. In your time in the Regional History Project, if someone wanted to access these material, how did they go about doing that? Especially since, as I noted in our last interview, your first interview was already out by November of '63, when you're still at Cabrillo. There's not even a library yet.

Calciano: Well, at that point, probably nobody accessed the finished product except Mr. Clark, and Dean McHenry probably looked at them, I would guess, and the other early volumes, I would think. Mr. Clark probably took them home and read them in the evening as sort of recreational reading. He also wanted to know what the community was like and had been. But once the library opened—I think we already had a Special Collections library, and if we didn't have it right then, we certainly got

it soon after. Rita Bottoms is still in Santa Cruz. I hope somebody, if they're interested in doing history of the library, has talked with her.

Vanderscoff: There is an oral history of her done some years ago.

Calciano: She was Rita Berner during the years that I knew her.⁵¹

We had Special Collections once we were in the big library building. While we were at Cabrillo, the books that were going to be in there were kept under lock and key, I'm certain. I don't know exactly where, but a number of them were kept in Don Clark's office, because he was interested in local history. I mentioned that he wrote this book, *Santa Cruz County Place Names: A Geographical Dictionary*.

Vanderscoff: Thank you for bringing this out. I'll have a look at it after the session.

Calciano: Okay. So anyway, if somebody wanted to do research, they could go to Special Collections. The finished interview volume would be brought out from the locked stacks and given to a person. I think they could not use pen, probably. They used pencil to make their notes. Now I suppose they can take pictures of it or, if they're all on computer, they can take out sections and put them into their notes or whatever. But at the time, Special Collections was where people used them, and quite a lot of people did use them. Later on, I would get feedback from Rita or from her assistant, Carol Champion, in the seventies. So that was always nice to know, that people were using them, because I was aiming for the audience that was fifty

⁵¹ See Irene Reti, Interviewer and Editor, *Rita Bottoms: Polyartist Librarian* (Regional History Project, UCSC Library, 2005). Available at <http://escholarship.org/uc/item/9cf8w0f1>

years from then and a hundred years from then. I wasn't really thinking so much about contemporary users. But once I saw that they were being used, it made sense.

And that's why I kept those student papers, the good ones. There were some awful ones, too. Teachers took the course for credit, and most of the teachers did nice papers. But one—oh, my God!—I agonized over what grade to give her because it was basically a lesson outline plan. It told me everything I ever wanted to know about goats, but nothing about the history of raising goats in Santa Cruz County. But as I said, a lot of those papers were really good and I thought were worth keeping.

So did I answer enough as to what I thought the audience would be?

Vanderscoff: Yes, perfect, and also the processes for accessing.

And I have some question about Special Collections as well, but first, does it make better sense sequentially to talk about your time in Central Services?

Calciano: Yes, probably. And also—can I just briefly ask you: Who do you think *your* audience is going to be?

Vanderscoff: Yes, switching roles again for a second.

Calciano: [Chuckles.] Just for a sec.

Vanderscoff: Well, with the Internet I think it changes, right?

Calciano: Yes.

Vanderscoff: I think there's this accessibility. So for me, very immediately, I have a small community audience. Certainly Irene Reti, of course, looks at everything. But I also have several friends and family members who keep up on things. My mom reads the oral histories that I do. [Laughs.]

Calciano: Well, sure!

Vanderscoff: And, again, I have some friends from Santa Cruz who have an interest in local history or have just heard or had to deal with me talking about it. [They've read a couple of them. So there's that immediate kind of a thing, because people can just go online. But more broadly, I think Santa Cruz is a very dynamic place. I mean, here we're talking about oral history, which is of course a broader thing.

Calciano: A broader thing? What do you mean by that?

Vanderscoff: In the sense of the Oral History Association, oral history in America.

Calciano: Oh, okay.

Vanderscoff: So, my hope is that it will be historians and scholars, but also, I think oral histories are just interesting reads, in almost a literary way.

Calciano: Mm-hm.

Vanderscoff: And so my hope is that they'd be used in a scholarly way, but also very much be treated as what they are, these literary recollections that honor people as authors of their own lives. And it gives that accessibility to history, which is very different than accessing it through a scholarly paper. That's important as well, but

my hope is that it can kind of have a popular function, even if only maybe a few people here, a few people there.

Calciano: Well, I think that's why Studs Terkel's books were so popular. They hit the best sellers list, and you are, I guess, aware of them because they're thirty years old now or forty years old.

Vanderscoff: Yes.

Calciano: They were not really true oral histories, but they had that flavor and were immensely popular. I think linguists might be interested in the spoken word of somebody who developed his speech patterns between 1878 and 1895, like Fred Wagner, will be kind of interested. And, of course, his speech patterns had been molded over the subsequent sixty, seventy years, but still there were colloquialisms and so forth. I think it's got a rather diverse collection of people who will be interested in using it for scholarly reasons and just for fun. You know, you buy a house on Union Street or Elm Street in Santa Cruz, or whatever, and you might want to know a bit about it, and there're occasional references in my books.

And I indexed them very carefully. I taught myself how to index, which doesn't take very much time to teach.

Vanderscoff: Would you say a little bit about how you indexed?

Calciano: Well, I of course, thought of the major topics. But then I went through, and any time there was a proper name, I would write it down. After four or five pages, I

would think more generically: What was this topic? Redwood lumbering or the local grocery store, where Mrs. Wagner would sell her butter and eggs—and that amount would go on one side of her ledger, and then the Wagners would buy a twenty-pound sack of flour—and that would go on the other side of the ledger. So I'd make an entry or two for that. Even though the title was "Blacksmithing," here was "Grocery shopping." I don't remember what term I used in the index.

Then every once in a while, I would just sit back: Okay, what about the last thirty pages? Are there any general topics I've missed? Then I would organize them—well, names alphabetically but also under subject matter, topical matter. I would also put "See also's" in. I spent time on the indexes. I think I did a pretty good job. And when I received my copies of the McHenry volumes from Irene, the indexes weren't there, and I just went, Oh, my gosh! Because to me, that was the access, the place where you would know to turn to page 232, which had three paragraphs on the topic that you might be interested in. I asked Irene about it, and she said, "Well, when we put it on computer files, the page numbers changed, so we didn't include the index." I really felt it cut the value of my work. And she said, "And now computers can just access the words that they want."

Vanderscoff: Search a term, right.

Calciano: But what if the word they access is one of those "See" or "See also's"? They're not going to know that. That's the old-fashioned part of me, I guess. But, still, indexes are useful. Oh, one other thing I want to say. When I said, "If a local resident bought a house on such and so that—we've got a huge photo collection from—the

library will know his name.⁵² He collected postcards from all over the world, but he also collected a lot of postcards of the city of Santa Cruz, and a lot of just random photos of many streets in Santa Cruz, and. I had a crew of volunteer “senior citizens,” we call them “retired people” now, who had grown up in Santa Cruz and said, “Oh, that was the Jones house” and so forth and so on, and “That was on Walnut Street, right after — street.”—I hope those index cards haven’t been dumped because they were the access to that collection of photos. I know Rita was very interested in having these photos from 1890 and 1860 and 1900. There were thousands of photos. I don’t remember what percentage were local, but hundreds. My volunteers would come in and work very hard on that. And so if you wanted to know about a particular area of Front Street, you not only could look in my volumes to see if it had been mentioned, but you also had access to the photos.

The Library’s Original Location in the Central Services Building

Vanderscoff: So a couple of minutes ago, we were about to go into Central Services.

Calciano: Oh, yes.

Vanderscoff: And you’ve said off the record that you have some anecdotes that you’d like to share. So as a part of this larger sequence, before we move into Special

⁵² Calciano is referring to the Preston Sawyer Collection, now MS 82 in the UCSC Library’s archives. This collection includes correspondence, postcard collections, postmark (opening day and final day) collections, historical photographs of Santa Cruz area and the 1915 Panama Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco, photo albums and scrapbooks of the early film stars and movie industry in the Santa Cruz mountains, and miscellaneous Santa Cruz ephemera. Also included are 16mm films of Santa Cruz events, negatives and glass plate negatives. See the finding aid to this collection at <http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/kt7r29p6xf/> The identifying information that Calciano’s volunteers had noted on the photos and in the index files is now transferred to the metadata associated with each photo. Some of these photos are in the Santa Cruziana collection MS 427, which is in the process of being digitized and will be available online within a couple of years.

Collections and talking about the more permanent home in the library, if we could talk about—

Calciano: Well, I hope you're using the word "anecdotes," in the sense of short vignettes or—well, vignettes as opposed to funny anecdotes, because I don't think I have very many funny anecdotes from then.

Vanderscoff: That's all right. We don't require that.

Calciano: Okay. Yes. Don Clark had an office, again, that was just sheetrock of however many feet high, because we were in the basement or the lower floor of Central Services, and I don't know how high those walls were, but it didn't seem to me his office went all the way up. So if he wanted to have a confidential conversation with somebody, I imagine he had to either talk softly, or go for a walk with the person.

I was at a desk out in the main area. There was a librarian next to me, who I think was working on South Pacific materials, because it had earlier been decided that the South Pacific was a natural focus for our library, since we were on the Pacific Ocean. So Don Clark went on a six- or eight-week trip through various South Sea islands and brought back materials. He said, "It sounds exotic, and Emily and I are really glad we did it, but by about the eighth small city that you fly into and get out in the steaming heat and so forth, it kind of gets"—I don't know what word he would use—"repetitive" or whatever. I don't want to put words in his mouth when I don't recall them.

But I remember when my second husband and I took a trip up the Mississippi River on the *Delta Queen*, an old paddle ship, and we got off at a very nice plantation house that had been restored, and then at another plantation house, and then another. Finally, my husband said, "I don't want to see any more plantation houses." I've had that feeling sometimes in Europe. You know, well, here's another Doric temple. I've seen seven already. Do I really want to go out of my way to see the eighth?

So Clark was busy doing that, plus running the library, plus recruiting people, librarians. And I can't quite remember where the librarians, the technical services ones who were processing books. They were on that floor, but out of my eyesight. There must have been a supporting structural wall between where I was and where the technical librarians were doing their indexing.

And about two-thirds of the way through, I would guess, through the time in Central Services, another desk was put in about, oh, twelve feet in front of me, against a partition wall. Martha Ben Susan was hired. She was a wonderful young lady. She had been recently divorced, had three young children, had to use her library skills to help support her kids. From what I could see, she did an excellent job. She was head of the Circulation department.

Oh, there was a young woman in Technical Services, Nadine Maguire, and we would have social events every once in a while, like I had mentioned earlier on, the baby shower that Mrs. McHenry had. Well, the whole university was way too big by then to do that, even though we had no students, but, still—Business Services were gearing up, and the beginning of faculty were gearing up and so forth. But I can

remember that she brought a cake once to one of our library potlucks, a strawberry cake, and it was absolutely delicious. I asked her for the recipe, and I still use that recipe, although I have to adjust it now for the cake mixes of the twenty-first century. But it's my daughter's favorite, favorite cake. I used to always make it for her birthday. Now that she's so busy and I'm so busy, I don't get it done every time.

Getting off the Hill:

Regional History and Outreach to the Santa Cruz Community

It was just a very congenial—nice people—group of people. We were all working hard. I had spoken, I guess, to my P.E.O. group in Santa Cruz about the Regional History Project, because I did do speaking engagements to the women's club and to the Exchange Club, which is kind of like Rotary and so forth, as outreach to the community. That was part of what I was to do also. That was part of why McHenry wanted to have this Regional History Project started, because he did not want the community to feel that the university was just sitting up there on that hill. He wanted townspeople to feel that we were interested. So, I was kind of a public relations ambassador. Don Clark spoke to groups. Technical people didn't. Nobody knew what they were doing. And how many times can you make cataloguing sound really interesting?

Vanderscoff: And were you giving talks to these groups on—

Calciano: Regional History. And I was doing newspaper interviews from time to time, and that's why I said I was noticing my different hairstyles in the photos on

display at the Project's 51st anniversary because there'd be a picture of me, either with a microphone or with a book in my hand—whatever the newspaper photographer wanted me to do and in each photo my hair style had changed. So, I spent a definitely significant amount of time on outreach. And I talked with the city librarian, not a formal speech but established rapport.

Oh, I was going to say about the time in Central Services, that we were a very congenial bunch, but we also were a very diligent bunch. We were all very interested in what we were doing.

Oh, and the other thing, when I mentioned P.E.O., I apparently had given a talk there because one of the doctor's wives was very interested and asked if she could volunteer. I said yes. I can't remember exactly what I had her doing, but once a week she'd come up and spend three or four hours helping us, productive helping, not just busy work. A lot of the doctors' wives could have been doing all kinds of interesting things besides the social and charity work, and, of course, course child raising. We all wanted to do that. But working just wasn't the thing to do, for a doctor's wife. I guess it was seen as demeaning. I don't know.

But Phyllis—oh, gosh, her last name escapes me at the moment. She volunteered for a couple of years there when we were in Central Services. I think maybe she was making a better version of the cut-and paste? I would cut and paste things together, and then I would realize that this repeated what had been said a while before, and so I would X that out, or I would cut a little piece of transcript out and glue it up where the same topic had been discussed, and I'd work that comment in. These

were older folks and the interview sessions were a month apart, so there was no expectation that they would remember everything they said. I didn't expect them to. If they got back on the same topic, I didn't say, "Oh, you already told me that." That would be death to interview with the older generation that had for years been telling these stories to children and grandchildren and nieces, who would say in a bored voice, "Yes, you already told me that."

I had my own daughter say to me when she was about sixteen, "Mother"—when I was talking about some ancestor—"Mother, you already told me about that." Well, that's how oral traditions came down in earlier times, when people sat on the front stoop because it was hot and they would talk about neighbors, and they would also talk about parents, grandparents. "And my granddaddy said that *his* granddaddy came from Such-and so." I remember being a little irritated that my daughter would say, "Oh, you told me that already." Kids are kids. I had very, very nice children, but they also had their moments.

So I think we then made a much neater cut-and-paste. On my original cut-and-paste, I would write on the margin of each piece what page it had come from in the typescript. I don't know if any of those have been saved. I saved them. The pack rat in me or the archivist in me, I saved them. But Special Collections librarians may have decided, or one of the oral history people, may have decided that there was no point in keeping them, and there probably *was* no point. It would just be if you wanted to see the mechanics and the steps that we went through.

After I left, and up until now, what has been done was done, and I have no vested interest, except I was unhappy to see that the indexes to my volumes were gone. That did hurt. But people can still access the interviews. And, oh, my goodness, it's wonderful that they are on the computer, and that people over here and there and elsewhere—when I was doing my thesis at Harvard, I knew that the collection of English history materials that was the best in the nation next to Widener Library at Harvard, where I was working, was at the Huntington Library in San Marino, California. Well, they might as well have said in Samoa or something—no way I would get out there to do any research. Fifty years later you're able to go to Europe to do a little bit of *your* research.

Vanderscoff: Right.⁵³

Calciano: I think that's wonderful. But it just was not—travel was too expensive, too time consuming. I was fortunate. I had all these resources in Widener Library at Harvard. I've often thought, after we moved to La Cañada, that I should ask to go see the Special Collections sections at the Huntington, because I'm a member of Huntington, but I've never quite had the guts enough to do it. Maybe I will now that I'm going to have more time in my life. Who knows? Maybe I'll even volunteer there. What do you know? [Chuckles.]

What else can I tell you about the time at Central Services? Well, it was kind of strange because for the first time, I really didn't know everybody on the—I don't

⁵³ I traveled to Europe in the summer of 2014 to research for my thesis, "The Relational Author: Ethics, Care, and Responsibility in Oral History," with the support of a Blinken Institute Master's Research Travel Grant.—Cameron Vanderscoff

want to say “staff” because McHenry—you don’t characterize him as staff, or Hal Hyde as staff. I guess I was staff. But I didn’t know everybody working at the university. That’s the phrase I’ll use. There were people that would come by, and somebody would say, “Oh, yes, that’s the new professor for such-and-so.” I can’t remember specifically who I didn’t know, but it was a poignant moment to realize that the university was getting bigger and bigger, as it had to, and the period of being such a collective—“we’re all in this ship together, and we’re all pushing the ship forward; we’re all rowing in the same cadence to make the university work and to make it blend into the community”—and all that would be getting less and less as the years went by; which is, of course, what happened.

Regional History’s Place in the UCSC Library

Vanderscoff: I’m curious about that growth. Yesterday, off the record, you were talking about some of the changes in bureaucracy that happened, some of the changes in organization that were attendant to the growth in staff size. I was wondering if you would mind walking through some of those on record, how the Regional History Project got organized into different areas and how the bureaucratic timbre of the place evolved.

Calciano: Well, initially I was this little island unto myself and Don Clark’s secretary, Aileen Sanders,⁵⁴ would transcribe for me when she had time. I can’t quite remember when I hired the first transcriber. She was a Cabrillo student. I think that she was still transcribing when we were at Cabrillo. I’m not positive about that. At

⁵⁴ Aileen was a delightful woman, very bright, and was a great help. Today her job title would at least be “administrative assistant” or something even more prestigious.—Elizabeth Calciano

Central Services, I guess a transcriber sat at the desk where Phyllis would sit on the days that she was volunteering.

And then on the plans for the university library building, they had shown an office for me in the—well, the old entrance (the library now is different)—the old front entrance was between where Special Collections was and—the library when I knew it—the first floor to the right (which was really the second floor) as you went in was the administrative offices: Don Clark and Wendell Simons, and then Aileen Sanders had a desk in front, and occasionally other people, depending on what was going on. Above that was Special Collections. The main entrance was on the second floor, Special Collections was the third floor, and Circulation was on the second floor, so I was on the second floor. You walked in at the loading dock. When you got to the top of the flight of stairs on the second floor, you went straight back and then straight to the left; that was the corner I was in. I would normally say the southwest or the northeast or whatever, but I don't have a plat in my mind as to where due north was in relation to the library, so that's the best description I can give you.

I had input into my office design. It had to have room for two desks and a work table. One desk for me, one for the secretary/transcriber/"girl Friday," although I had students also fill that position. Arno Baule was a student, and he was the secretary/transcriber, or was he just the transcriber? He worked for a couple of years. A very nice young man.

And let's see—a work table, the storage cabinet, and then this big file cabinet that did double duty as a safe. It was much bulkier than a regular file cabinet. I think I

also had a regular file cabinet. And some bookshelves and my little book truck that was behind me because I could just pull it up to me and pick up the dictionary or whatever I wanted to look at, and that's why they were invented, so librarians could pull it up to them or then wheel it through the stacks if they were reshelving books. I didn't reshelve books, obviously, but it was a nice addition to what was in my range of work. I'd had that before in Central Services.

I don't think I had the big safe in Central Services. I think I just locked the regular old filing cabinet, because I was very aware of this confidentiality thing. I'm sure that Willa Baum had talked with me about it. I took that very seriously. You know, in Ames, Iowa—a Girl Scout—you promise something is going to be confidential, it's confidential. All those transcripts were confidential until the person had read the edited version, made corrections and so forth and had signed the release, the legal document, which, as contracts go, was pretty brief. It was a one-pager, but it seemed to cover what was necessary, that they released their copyrights, except for their common law rights, to the library and so forth and so on. I don't know what kind of contract Irene and company use now. Is it several pages?

Vanderscoff: No, it remains one page.

Calciano: Because real estate contracts—when I first started in law practice, the printed ones that all the realtors use—the Real Estate Brokers Association would put them out—were maybe three long pages? I can't remember. Three, maybe four. Now they're, like, twelve or thirteen pages because every time there was a lawsuit over something, that added another paragraph. You know, somebody was drunk

and was showering and fell through the glass door, and it wasn't tempered, and he severed an artery and I think just almost bled to death. He might have bled to death. I can't remember. That's the kind of thing that would generate extra paragraphs, so I wondered if maybe oral history had a three- or four-pager now. But I think they maybe don't because not very many people are affected by oral history, and so there are not very many lawsuits, if any. Santa Cruz hasn't been sued over anything, has it?

Vanderscoff: No, not that I'm aware of.

Calciano: I wouldn't know it unless it was over one of my volumes and I would have been brought in, but nothing. So it can still be a simple contract.

Vanderscoff: To go back, initially you were one-third of the library staff, right?

Calciano: Yes. That would not last. [Laughs.]

Vanderscoff: And then once we get to '66, '67, as we're moving into the library, I suppose some of the structures changed. So I'm curious, if you started out as an island, the Regional History Project—to use your word—what sort of changes happened as time went on?

Calciano: Well, at some point—and I notice that I want to call him Don or Don Clark now, and it was always Mr. Clark when I worked for him, and I don't know why I suddenly feel comfortable using his first name. I will try to say Mr. Clark because that's who he was to me then. People were more formal back then, of course. But he was the University Librarian; he deserved a "Mr." in front of his name. And Mr.

Simons was generally Mr. Simons. I maybe was on a “Wendell” basis with him sometimes. I’m not quite sure.

But Mr. Clark called me into his office and said that it was time, that we’d gotten big enough that the university business types and so forth were telling him that he had to have an organizational chart, and that the two big sections would be Technical Services and Reader Services. They had decided to put me under the rubric of Reader Services—I kind of nodded my head—and so I would be reporting to Carl Wensrich.” I kind of said, “Reporting to Carl Wensrich?” I had always been one-on-one with Mr. Clark. Carl Wensrich was not a Don Clark. He was not particularly, as far as I knew, imaginative.

So I said, “Well, for administrative purposes, but I still want to report to you about new ideas I have for people to interview and topics.” He said, “Yes, that makes sense.” So I still had the direct link with Don Clark for what I considered the important parts of my job that are not on the organizational chart. I was definitely under Reader Services, but I didn’t have a department under me. I always felt lucky each year—when there were budget crunches, I kept thinking, boy, the Regional History Project would be something that could be dispensed with, because I’d already done most of the old-timers and was branching into university history. But it never came up that they were thinking of cutting me. It was just my—I don’t want to use the word “paranoia” because it wasn’t at that level at all; it was just my awareness that things do get cut out when budgets are tight and that that *might* be

something that could be deemed to be cut out. Who knows? Maybe if Carl was in charge, I *would* have been cut out. But Mr. Clark obviously wanted it to continue.

But I never tried to expand it, to get another interviewer in or expand my staff. I wasn't in a power-trip type thing: "have to be bigger, have to be bigger." I was content to be my island because it was a lovely, lovely job, and really interesting, and nice people to work with.

That office is gone now. I noticed when they did all that remodeling and changing things around and I went up there for the fifty-first celebration. It's funny, because nobody thought to do the fiftieth anniversary of the Regional History Project, but they apparently saw all this hoop-de-doo that's coming up for the fiftieth of the university and said, "Oh, maybe we should do it. We've been around longer." So that's when I went up and met Irene and so forth. It was very nice. I'm glad I did it, although nobody thought that I might be on the panel for anything. But okay. I'm old history. [Chuckles.] Ancient history.

So anyway, I didn't try to push my range out. I was getting a fair amount of stuff done. There was no crying need for more staff, whereas Reader Services—they had to get a lot of student employees and also some mid-level librarian employees, because the student body kept growing and growing and growing.

I don't know, really, what happened to Technical Services because they were always down in the basement, I called it, but I think it was the first floor of the library, and the loading dock entered in there. And I got to know Brad Posey because he'd

become the loading dock supervisor fairly early on, because we were getting all these books, and you can't build a library, at least in those days, without lots of books. So he would get those in and, of course, supplies, secretarial supplies and office supplies. He did all that, and he was one-man show, I think for practically the entire time I was there. Maybe he had an assistant. I don't know. Somebody must have been trained to take over when he was on vacation. He was very competent in what he was doing and a very pleasant guy, and he ran his show, I ran my show, and Rita ran her show. She eventually got an assistant.

Vanderscoff: I'm curious about your relationship with Rita, with Special Collections. Now the Regional History Project is housed within Special Collections. But, of course, it does predate it. But I'm not sure when Special Collections came online.

Calciano: Well, I'm not sure when Rita came on board, because my memories of her are pretty much from the main library building. I remember how askance she looked when Mr. Clark introduced her to me. I'm pretty certain that was how it went, and he said, "And, of course, she has some of the Special Collections books over here," which I did. I needed them. I kind of remember her starting, or something. We had a very congenial relationship, but from some things that she would say from time to time, I could see that she really thought that I belonged under the Special Collections wing.

I was protective of my turf. I wanted to report directly to Don Clark. I didn't want to be under a librarian. I think my nose was just slightly out of joint when, probably a year or two after we were in the main building, Mr. Clark began having, once a week

or once a month, a meeting of all the librarians around a big table to discuss things that affected the library and where it was going. I really felt that I, as a, quote, “department head,” I suppose you could say, and as somebody who had a degree equal to the librarian’s degree, that I should have been included in that group. Of course, the librarians, if they’d been asked then, would have fiercely disagreed. They were all very proud of their library degrees, and it is a difficult degree to get. But so is a master’s degree in history. Most of the ones in the Technical Services I don’t think thought beans about me. I didn’t affect them one way or the other, although I would occasionally go down and ask one of them if they could order a particular book or something. I had congenial relations with the ones I interacted with down there. And I had congenial relations with Rita all through the years. My kids knew her. But I always felt that she thought my office belonged *under* her. So I wasn’t too shocked to find out that somewhere along the line, after I left—I don’t know how soon after I left—it was subsumed into Special Collections.⁵⁵

And, of course, at Bancroft—the oral history project there is subsumed under Bancroft Library, and I don’t really know, but I think Bancroft itself is pretty much Special Collections now. But at any rate, Willa didn’t report to the chancellor of the university. She may have reported directly to the Bancroft librarian. But I just was conscious that I didn’t want to go that direction. Nobody ever asked me to.

Vanderscoff: So what was that consciousness, then?

⁵⁵ While Regional History was administratively located under Special Collections and Archives beginning in 2002, it did not physically move to Special Collections until 2012—Editor.

Calciano: It was just kind of there. Rita might say, “Oh, you have that book,” and I would say, “Yes. You know that and there’s an identical copy in Special Collections for the readers to use.” I think all the ones I had, except maybe some of the city directories, had the same volume in Special Collections, and sometimes two of them because Mr. Clark had really beat the bushes in Santa Cruz the first two years he was there, speaking to clubs and saying, “If any of you have books that your grandparents passed down to you and you don’t know what to do with, keep us in mind.” So we had, several times, three or four copies of a book that I also had in my office.

When I first started out at Cabrillo, sometimes I had the only book of Harrison or the only book of such-and-so. But it was safe enough with me. Don Clark was in the next office. It was either going to be in his office or my office. And later I worked closely with Special Collections on that big postcard collection, and my volunteers making this card index of place names. The photos and postcards were all numbered, I think.

Vanderscoff: And these are the community volunteers.

Calciano: Yes, the community volunteers. And that was a nice outreach and was looked upon with favor because I was bringing members of the community in. Byrne, I think, was a son of a founder of Byrne Bros. Hardware in downtown Santa Cruz, I can’t remember, but he was part of the business establishment community. I remember them because he and his wife were the most steady volunteers for two or three years.

After I was put under Reader Services, there were no other changes made. I think I briefly mentioned to Wendell Simons, "You know, if those meetings are discussing things about library policy and where things should go as well as so forth, I maybe should be in on those." And he said, "Yes, you maybe should." But it never went anywhere. Either he never mentioned it to Mr. Clark, or he mentioned it and it was shot down. I have no idea.

Vanderscoff: Don Clark does briefly talk about the Regional History [Project] in his oral history, and he mentions there was some situation where there was a move from either the first to the second floor, or the second to the third floor, and there was an issue over space, where a space that was intended for the Regional History Project wound up being used for the Lime Kiln Press.⁵⁶

Calciano: I've forgotten that. I have totally forgotten it. If my office *was* moved, maybe that's why I was hesitating between whether I was on the second or third floor. The floor plan was duplicated, basically, if I was moved. That's interesting. Yes, I think maybe it did move up to the third floor, because then I would have been taking the elevator, probably, instead of the circular staircase. I always came in through the loading dock because when you got the end of that long bridge from Central Services to McHenry Library, it opened into the big cement area where trucks could turn around and back up to the loading dock, and everybody went in that way.

⁵⁶ The Lime Kiln Press was a fine arts press run by the UCSC Library, under the direction of fine arts printer William Everson. For more details on the Lime Kiln Press see the Donald Clark oral history and the Rita Bottoms oral history.

I had a key to the whole library. I would imagine that the administrative offices were keyed so that my key didn't work on that, I would assume, but I also had no business over there, so I never even tried my key over there. But I had a key so that I could go into the library on holidays and so forth. And did.

Well, it obviously didn't put my nose out of joint too much if I was moved [chuckles], because I really do not remember that. Okay, maybe I was on the third floor the whole time.

Vanderscoff: I think there was a move. That's what I remember him suggesting.

Calciano: Yes. Fine printing, on vellum and on special papers and with special typefaces and so forth was something that Mr. Clark was quite interested in. I think Rita was, too. I don't know how it rubbed off on me, but I learned quite a lot about the small book press business. The owners were all individuals and doing hand work, doing it the old craftsmen way, and did some beautiful work. Maybe I got to know it because Rita would show me some of the works that they had just acquired from such-and-so press or such-and-so press, because that was definitely a significant part of Special Collections. Regional History was part of the focus on Santa Cruz history. And as I recall, the small press collection was significant.

And then, of course, the South Seas. I don't know if they continued with that or not. You can find out. It didn't relate to my position. I wasn't going off to Samoa or somewhere to interview anybody, so that was certainly out of my purview.⁵⁷

Vanderscoff: And so, given that Special Collections, one of its collecting areas was local history, was that an area of overlap between the Regional History Project and Special Collections?

Calciano: Well, it was overlap, in the sense that all my work went into Special Collections. People went to Special Collections if they wanted to see the so and so interview. I don't think Rita ever suggested a topic or a person, because that wasn't really what *she* was concentrating on. If she had, I would have paid attention to it. I spent quite a lot of time interacting with Rita over in her office, usually in her office. I'd go over there and discuss something with her about the photo collection, postcard collection.

It's interesting how the earlier memories of whatever job or athletic activity are always more vivid in a person's recall than the later events. Because by the time the library was growing, I knew what I was doing, I knew where I was going and so forth and so on.

The Campus Guide

Vanderscoff: Let's talk about the *Campus Guide*.

⁵⁷ The UCSC Library no longer collects in this area. See Catalog of the South Pacific Collection, University of California, University Library, 1978 [Z4009.C34 1978](#) for a guide to the library's holdings in this area.

Calciano: Ray Collett and I quite early on collaborated on *The Campus Guide*. It was very interesting working with Ray. I enjoyed that.

Vanderscoff: And he was a geography professor?

Calciano: Yes. I saw that he was offering a ten-week course on the geology of the Central California coast beaches, and I asked Don Clark if it would be all right—if it was all right with Ray Collett, if it would be all right with Mr. Clark if I took that course on an auditing basis on my own time, not on Regional History time. He said yes, and Ray said yes, so I went on probably all ten of the hikes because I loved them. I was a good hiker at that point. I didn't mind climbing over fences and stuff. And he got permission to go in on private ranchlands.

It was fascinating. There was a garnet beach, where the beach was pink because garnets were up in the hills or in the coastal mountains that backed up on that beach, so the streams would carry down small garnets that would get broken up into smaller and smaller and smaller pieces with the wave action, so we had garnet sand. And there was also some black sand, I think, in that beach because the wave patterns—they were red—in my recollection, they were red wave patterns, and then further up on the beach were black wave patterns because the black crystals must have weighed less than the garnet crystals. We also, I think, went to a beach that was all black sands, although maybe the black sands I saw *was* on that one, that it was a composite.

And we went to one where the stones were grapefruit to cantaloupe size. And when a wave would come in, there'd be this pounding of the stones—pound, pound, pound, pound, pound. Stones rolling against stones. And that's where you get the smooth stones that are sometimes used in artwork or in construction. Yes, that was a really fun thing. But that doesn't have that much to do with the Regional History Project.

Vanderscoff: Well, one thing that I do notice is that the references in the back of the *Campus Guide*⁵⁸ are made up of an interesting mix of Regional History Project oral histories and then scientific surveys: mammals of the San Francisco Bay region and so forth.

Calciano: Right, right, because I did the history part; he did the other part. And he had his sources, and I had mine. So if anybody was interested enough, they could go to Special Collections and read the rest of whatever volume I had referred to. And to the extent that any of his references were rare, they would be in Special Collections, too. I don't know. The *Guide* was published in the thousands and lots of them were around, but Special Collections should have some copies of the first *Campus Guide*.

Vanderscoff: It says here that there were copies available at Santa Cruz area bookstores for sixty cents.

Calciano: Oh, good. I didn't know that. I'd forgotten that. I think I have one or possibly two of those. I think just one, but when we did the update two, two or three

⁵⁸ See Calciano, Elizabeth Spedding, and Collett, Ray Thomas. *The Campus Guide: a Tour of the Natural Environment and Points of Historical Interest*, Santa Cruz, Calif: University of California, Santa Cruz, 1969. Available at the UCSC Library.

years later, I kept four of them so my kids would each have one. But that's neither here nor there.

Relationship with Chancellor Dean McHenry

Vanderscoff: So we've been talking a lot about your relationship with your colleagues, with your supervisor. And one notable one that we haven't touched on is Dean McHenry, given his formative role in launching the project and bringing you in, as it were. So would you mind talking about your relationship with him, his role in the Project?

Calciano: I always admired McHenry and liked him. He had this big grin. When you were framing your question, I was thinking, everybody liked him. Well, in the beginning, certainly, everybody seemed to like him because he was a really nice man. I think later on, probably after my time, when there got to be this tension between having the university focused around the colleges or around the departments and so forth, that there were probably people who thought he was a terrible man. But you know how academic arguments can go. My father would always say of some of his scientists—"Oh, he's such a prima donna, so and so is. He wants such-and-so and he can't see why the answer is no, because he's a prima donna." So I'm sure that not everybody all the time liked McHenry, but certainly in the beginning years they did. I did. And after he retired—I don't know how it came about, but he invited me up—when I lived down here in La Cañada, he invited me over to his place in Bonny Doon, and my husband and I went up there. He showed

Robert his wine-making area and Robert mentioned how his grandfather in France made his wine for the family.

And Mrs. Jane McHenry—she was an integral part of the university in its earlier years, and then I imagine stayed an integral part of the university as far as faculty functions and so forth were concerned. She also was a very charming, nice, nice person. Very friendly.

You asked whether Dean McHenry had any input in a day-to-day, or month-to-month, or whatever oversight of the Regional History Project. And I told you that no, he didn't. I think he left that to Mr. Clark, and Mr. Clark pretty much left it to me to pilot myself. But I would bet that he took my volumes home and read them as each one came out. I don't know that, and I never asked him. I never asked Mrs. McHenry. But he was so interested, not only in the outreach aspect, but he was interested in the history of the area and he'd grown up in Lompoc, which was also a coastal area. So he was always very supportive.

I really didn't interact with Barbara Sheriff, who was his administrative assistant. But I would interact on these social occasions. She was very nice, very efficient. She was his right arm, and he brought her down with him. I think she would have had a much higher title, had such titles existed, because she really did a lot, from my understanding and from what Aileen Sanders would say.

I had no trepidation about making an appointment to go over and see him to ask if he would consider doing oral history interviews. He said yes, as you know, but they

would have to be confidential. You can imagine why that would have to be. I had no problem with that. I kind of sensed that there were already maybe some tugs-of-war going on. I had watched my father—he was director of the Ames Lab at Iowa State—and it was the equivalent to being a dean, so whenever the deans of the Iowa State campus met for some policy decision, the director met with them and there were various tugs of war among the various deans and with the president and probably with my dad. At least that was my understanding. Dad reported directly to the university president as well as to the Atomic Energy Commission. McHenry was a very interesting interviewee because he had an organized mind, and he—

Vanderscoff: McHenry or your—

Calciano: McHenry. Actually, my dad was, too. I think that I needed to ask more questions of him than I did of McHenry. I've noticed that I've talked for several paragraphs at a time, and my impression is that McHenry did the same thing. I'm not certain about—I'd have to go look at the books. I've started reading them, but I'm just in the first volume.

So, yes, McHenry had many tugs on his time, because he was reporting to the president of the university and to the Board of Regents, and so he had that ball to keep in the air. He had the faculty ball to keep up in the air. I imagine that any crises and staff things of important staff would land eventually on his desk. So the library and its minions was probably a nice little isle of tranquility as far as he was concerned. I don't really know, but I didn't hear any gossip about any head-to-head battles between Mr. Clark and Chancellor McHenry.

Did you have anything more on that topic? Because I wasn't privy to what went on, really, after we left Cabrillo. And I wasn't actually privy there because I wasn't sitting with my desk behind Barbara Sheriff's; I was in the next classroom over. But, yes, I enjoyed my relationship with McHenry.

Vanderscoff: Perfect. So we're running up against two hours now, and I think this could be a decent place to bring it to a pause.

Calciano: Okay.

Vanderscoff: And so before I shut off the record, is there anything that you'd like to say, commenting on anything we've been talking about?

Calciano: Yes. Well, as you may have noticed, I tend to take the first one to five minutes of each session picking up loose ends, and I have thought, I hope that Irene doesn't chastise him for not having control of the interviewee.

Vanderscoff: [Laughs.]

Calciano: But first, Irene, [speaking to the current director of Regional History] I'm a hard one to control. And second, Irene, he *does* have control of all the rest of the session. I will talk a number of paragraphs at a time, but they're generally on what he wants me to talk about. So I appreciate Cameron asking if I have anything else I wanted to say, and for now, no. I have a lot of stuff I think I want to say—a little bit about Santa Cruz, a little bit about law school, but your main thrust has been the

earlier years and the Santa Cruz years, and so we'll just do as much of the other topics as you feel comfortable with.

Vanderscoff: Perfect. Well, good. I'm glad that's all down. All right, so until we pick it up, I'll close off this record.

The Changing Scope of the Regional History Project

Vanderscoff: So today is Sunday, June 7th, 2015, and this is Cameron Vanderscoff back here for the Regional History Project with Elizabeth Spedding Calciano to talk about her work founding the Project and her life and times in Santa Cruz.

Calciano: And let it be shown that I'm just back from the Black Sea, and may have only half a brain today.

Vanderscoff: Exactly.

Calciano: A ten-hour time change.

Vanderscoff: Exactly, and so we're going to take this step-by-step, of course, and we can make this as short or as long as works well.

Calciano: Yes.

Vanderscoff: And so one key area is this question of scope: what was the scope of the Regional History Project, and what was of interest to the project? Because in some ways that has changed and grown over the years. You mentioned in our earlier sessions that in your very initial conversations with Dean McHenry, he talked about

an interest in Santa Cruz, in the Santa Cruz economy around the turn of the century, 1890s. So for today, I'm wondering if you can comment on how, as the Project grew, as the university opened and the Project increasingly started doing interviews on university topics, how the scope of the project evolved relative to that initial mandate for the local economy.

Calciano: Well, the initial intent was to try and get as many of the people that participated in the old economy, get them recorded while they were still alive, because they were in their eighties and nineties. The economy that basically had kept Santa Cruz going at the turn of the century was lumbering. Up on the coast it was dairying. The tannery—I never did get an interview with the tannery, but it got mentioned in other interviews. Apparently it smelled like crazy, filled the whole area down there by the river with an aroma.

Agriculture, of course, was the big thing in the Watsonville area. And it was rather interesting because a lot of the early agriculture in the Watsonville area was done by people from the coast of Dalmatia. I have the feeling that one or two people found the area and then wrote back to their friends and neighbors and relatives and so forth. And some of the same thing happened on the coastal dairying, with a lot of Italians. The fishing industry was pretty important, and that was Italian.

Regular merchant things went on that any town would have. Tourism wasn't, I think, that big a factor in the economy, but it was certainly *a* factor. People would come over from San Jose or the Bay Area, but they would tend to stay for a month or

more, with the husbands coming down on the weekends or coming down for two weeks and then going back.

Then, after the war, it became a kind of retirement community. A lot of trailer parks, because that was an affordable way to retire. And you could see in the sixties and seventies that that was beginning to be threatened because land values were going up, partly just natural inflation, but also because of the university being there. We knew the university was coming and that's why my husband and I wanted to settle there.

Vanderscoff: And, of course, there has been a fairly fraught history of town-gown relationships.

Calciano: Mm-hm.

Vanderscoff: And that's something that I'd like to discuss when we get to your time in the city of Santa Cruz.

Calciano: That would be fine, yes.

Vanderscoff: So if you're focusing on these main areas of commerce. Looking at a list of early interviews, you have Michael Bergazzi, Santa Cruz lumbering; Thomas Earl Majors, who's talking about the dairy industry—⁵⁹

⁵⁹ See Elizabeth Spedding Calciano, Interviewer and Editor, *Michael Bergazzi: Santa Cruz County Lumbering* (Regional History Project, UCSC Library, 1964). <http://escholarship.org/uc/item/40j5k2bc> and Elizabeth Spedding Calciano, Interviewer and Editor, *Thomas Earl Majors: The Majors Family and Santa Cruz Dairying* (Regional History Project, UCSC Library, 1965) <http://escholarship.org/uc/item/9qj4h9v6>

Calciano: Also, he was picked a little bit because he was a descendent of one of the original landowners.

Vanderscoff: Yes, I've noticed that people were selected because of their individual work, but also because of either belonging to, or their ability to comment on some prominent families in the area.

Calciano: Yes. And, of course, second- and third-hand stories, which is what you're getting when you're talking with grandchildren and great-grandchildren, are not really all that valuable. But I think that McHenry and founding University Librarian Donald T. Clark wanted me to make that effort.

Vanderscoff: A strong example of that of that would be, I think, the Carrie Lodge interview, where she was going back to even the very early Spanish expeditions—her ancestors' involvement, going back into when California was Mexican territory and then back into when it was Spanish. So I was interested in that because there seemed to be this focus on the long-term generational memory in your questions.⁶⁰

Calciano: Yes. I also tried in the Tom Majors interview, without much luck, as I recall. If you've read the Majors interview, you'll notice that he was showing me how dowsing worked, and I thought if there's ever a point for some prudent editing—I think I edited that portion down to: one, two, three, four, five...ninety-nine, one hundred.

Vanderscoff: Right, count—right.

⁶⁰ See Elizabeth Spedding Calciano, Interviewer and Editor, *Martina Castro: The Martina Castro Lodge Family* (Regional History Project, UCSC Library, 1965). See <http://library.ucsc.edu/reg-hist/castro>

Calciano: Rather than print out all those numbers.

Vanderscoff: Sure, sure. But looking at this—so you do see this focus on the major industries and then, to some extent, family life, social life—

Calciano: Right. I definitely wanted that family life, social history, too. In fact, I did quite a bit on that part, particularly with Fred Wagner, regarding blacksmithing and life in the 1890s and turn-of-the-twentieth-century Santa Cruz.

Vanderscoff: Yes.

Calciano: He was a very good interviewee. I would say that he was the most definitive when it came to really describing what it was like to be living back then in the 1890s and 1900s.

Vanderscoff: And so if you see these interviewees, people like Fred Wagner giving a detailed early life, it seems to me that looking over the bibliography around—as the sixties progress—as we come into '67 we start getting these student interviews in '67 and '69.⁶¹ You get these Lick Observatory interviews, which were published in '69 and '70,⁶² and then, of course, the interviews with Dean McHenry, and then later on with Page Smith, founding provost of Cowell College.⁶³

⁶¹ See Elizabeth Spedding Calciano, Interviewer and Editor, *Student Interviews: 1967*, and *Student Interviews: 1969, Volume I and II* (Regional History Project, UCSC Library, 1968 & 1971). Available at: <http://escholarship.org/uc/item/67x8j8hd>; <http://escholarship.org/uc/item/3h0818t2>; <http://escholarship.org/uc/item/06p093mz>.

⁶² See also Elizabeth Spedding Calciano, Interviewer and Editor, *Charles Donald Shane: The Lick Observatory*; *Mary Lea Heger Shane: The Lick Observatory*; *Kenneth Hamilton, Life on Mount Hamilton, 1899-1913* (Regional History Project, UCSC Library, 1969-1971) Available at: <http://escholarship.org/uc/item/4sb4j79p>; <http://escholarship.org/uc/item/7xx603g8>;

I'm interested in the fact that the Project at first was looking outward from the university, and looking as far back, really, even ancestrally, into the local past as it possibly could, through people like Carrie Lodge. And I'm interested, then in that shift towards looking internally, the idea that, "Oh, there's this history happening here at this young campus." Why that shift and when did that happen?

Calciano: Well, I was the one who thought of it. I realized the first graduating class was coming up, and it seemed to me that I should document what was going on now, because that would be ancient history in fifty years, which it has proved to be. I think it was you, or somebody said that the student interviews get used a fair amount.

Vanderscoff: They do. I TA'd a course several years ago where we used them as a part of our coursework.⁶⁴

Calciano: Great. I'm glad they are being used.

It seemed logical to try to balance out the spectrum of sciences and liberal arts, the social sciences and literature and so forth. I spoke to professors and people in the college as to who would be some good students to interview. My intent was to keep them short snapshots. There really wasn't fifty years of memory going on with them, but I wanted to see what their impressions were of the campus, if they liked it and

<http://escholarship.org/uc/item/1z90c0c2>.

⁶³ See Randall Jarrell, Editor; Elizabeth Calciano, Interviewer, *Page Smith: Founding Cowell College and UCSC, 1964-1973*. (Regional History Project, UCSC Library, 1996.). See the full text at <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/9hr6t6b3>.

⁶⁴ In reference to the spring 2013 course, *Oral History and Beyond*, taught by radio producer Nikki Silva. The course developed in consultation with the Regional History Project. The oral histories produced in this class are archived in Special Collections.

so forth. I can remember being interested that one of the young women said—she was a sophomore. Half the students were out of junior college and would be graduating in '67, and the other half were coming out of high school and would be four-year students. And one of the young women, who I think maybe was from the Los Angeles area or Southern California area, said that the kids who had the most trouble adjusting to this rather bucolic campus were the kids from Southern California because there was nowhere to *go* in Santa Cruz. Part of its charm is that there's nowhere to go. You've got this little community of students and professors and beautiful scenery, but some of the Southern California students had dropped out because of just going stir crazy. I have no idea how many dropped out. If anybody wanted to chase that down, they could find it in the records. And then I felt it would be interesting to re-interview those students when the graduating Class of '69 came along. I think I did that, didn't I?

Vanderscoff: Yes, many of the same ones.

Calciano: Yes, and then picked up six new ones. That was '69. There were some political events in the nation; the students were very unhappy about. There was a protest movement, I suppose banners and so forth, and shouting. The campus was kind of closed down for a couple of days, I think, as far as classes were concerned. I remember asking all the students about that and there were varying spectrums, and one guy from the sciences said, "Oh"—I said, "What did you think about it?" He said, "Huh, it gave me a couple more days to study." Is that right? Do you remember reading that?

Vanderscoff: Yes, I do.

Calciano: Yes. I don't know if I mentioned it back when I was discussing working in the Carriage House—that was *when* the whole free speech movement burst forth up at the University of California, Berkeley. It was, of course, on the news, and we always got the Berkeley newspapers, and it was pretty amazing, but it never occurred to me that it could result in President Clark Kerr being fired. That was really earthshaking to me, that a university president, who from all I knew was doing a very good job, could be bounced out.

Vanderscoff: Yes, and I'm curious about those years of then-California Governor Ronald Reagan. I have a quote from McHenry here that I'd like to reference—

Calciano: [Laughs.]

Vanderscoff: —a little bit later in this session, along those lines.

But thinking about the decision to interview these students—of course, university history is now a major focus of the Regional History Project. That's a thread that you inaugurated with those interviews in '67 and is really a core area of inquiry for the Project now. So I'm curious, then, if at the time that seemed to be changing, or shifting, or growing the RHP's mission or scope in some way relative to that original charge, or whether this was an exception?

Calciano: Not really. It just seemed like it was an opportunity. I remember running it by Mr. Clark, Don Clark, and he said he thought that would be a fine idea, so I went ahead and did it.

The Lick Observatory was almost more going back to the original roots because Lick, which had been founded in 1888, had been transferred to the Santa Cruz campus in 1965, I think much to Berkeley's and Lick's dismay. And being able to interview Charles Donald Shane was really a good combination of both science and academic history.⁶⁵ And then with Mary Shane because she was an astronomer, I had academic things in there, but also just life on Mount Hamilton. And then a fun interview was Kenneth "Ken" Campbell, the son of William Wallace Campbell, who in the 1900s was the director of Lick Observatory from 1901 to 1930, and was president of the whole University [of California from 1923 to 1930]. His was a fun interview.⁶⁶

Vanderscoff: So you're saying that at the time, it seemed that there was continuity there.

Calciano: Yes.

⁶⁵Charles Donald Shane was director of Lick Observatory from 1945 to 1958. See Elizabeth Calciano, Interviewer and Editor, *Charles Donald Shane: The Lick Observatory*. (Regional History Project, UCSC Library, 1969): Available in full text at: <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/4sb4j79p>. Also see:

Elizabeth Calciano, Interviewer and Editor, *Mary Lea Shane: The Lick Observatory* (Regional History Project, UCSC Library, 1969). Available in full text at: <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/4q3206g8>

⁶⁶See Elizabeth Calciano, Interviewer and Editor, *Kenneth Campbell: Life on Mount Hamilton, 1899-1913*. (Regional History Project, UCSC Library, 1971). Available in full text at: <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/1z90c0c2>.

Vanderscoff: It was just a continuity of the original mission. Now if you go on the Regional History Project website, for example, there's a university history subsection.

Calciano: When I decided to interview Dean McHenry, that obviously was saying, "Okay, let's document the creation of this university." I guess I didn't think about interviewing Don Clark, maybe because he was my boss. I don't know. But he would have had some interesting perspectives.

Vanderscoff: I have a letter that you wrote to someone named Ruth Teiser, who was a donor of photos. You said that, "It is true that in the last three years I have been concentrating pretty much on the Santa Cruz campus, but I am starting to interview again in the local history field," and this letter was from the early seventies, corresponding to this period in which there had been the student interviews and phasing into the Dean McHenry thing. So I'm interested in that ebb and flow.

Calciano: Well, for one thing, I was running out of old-timers that could recollect well and articulate well. I did an interview with the cook of the Cowell Ranch.

Vanderscoff: John Dong.⁶⁷

Calciano: Yes. But he was not a natural narrator, whereas, of course, Wagner was and also Paul D. Johnston gave quite a lot of generalized, useful information about the mid-county area.⁶⁸

⁶⁷See Elizabeth Spedding Calciano, Interviewer and Editor, *John Dong: The Cowell Ranch Cookhouse* (Regional History Project, UCSC Library, 1967). Available at <http://library.ucsc.edu/reg-hist/dong>

Vanderscoff: Right. So are you saying, then, that a part of this shift into focusing on university history—part of the challenge was that you had an older demographic of narrators? Your initial charge was interviewing narrators who had memories from around the 1890s, early 1900s. After the student interviews, there are the Lick interviews. And the last big local history interview is the Malio Stagnaro interview.

Calciano: Oh, yes. Oh, that was a fun one, too.

Vanderscoff: Yes, that was a fun one to read.

Calciano: He was kind of a spring chicken. I think he was only in his seventies, wasn't he?

Vanderscoff: Right. I've noticed that most of the people you were interviewing were pretty much exclusively in their eighties and nineties, and that's mentioned in the preface to the student interviews, that there's a bit of a shift happening. "Normally we're interviewing people in their nineties and instead we're interviewing students." And then there's this shift happening, interviewing students who are in their twenties, or maybe not even in their twenties.

Calciano: Did I put that into the introduction?

Vanderscoff: It's in the preface for the student interviews.

Calciano: Oh, okay.

⁶⁸ See Elizabeth Calciano, Interviewer and Editor, *Paul D. Johnston: Aptos and the Mid-Santa Cruz County Area from the 1890s Through World War II* (Regional History Project, UCSC Library, 1973). Available at <http://escholarship.org/uc/item/1z90c0c2>

Vanderscoff: We'll pull up the exact quote in the editing process.⁶⁹ But I'm interested in that demographic shift.

Calciano: Well, interviewing is interviewing. You do your homework and then it's the rapport between you and the person you're interviewing. It really wasn't that much different. It was just that the topic was different.

Vanderscoff: The university history as opposed to this older—

Calciano: Yes, right, student impressions of what's happening now as opposed to an older person's recollections of what happened forty, fifty, sixty years earlier.

Vanderscoff: Right. And so dealing with those two different demographics of narrators—I mean, you had someone like Wagner, who was commenting at length on the social life of Santa Cruz, and on continuity and change. I'm wondering if, looking at those student interviews, were you seeing a different Santa Cruz through the perspective of these students? Santa Cruz, of course, has been so transformed since '65, since the opening. I'm curious if these seemed to be very different narratives that you were receiving about the city of Santa Cruz?

Calciano: I haven't looked at those interviews for fifty years, but I was focusing on why they came to the UC Santa Cruz campus and what their experience had been,

⁶⁹ Calciano wrote in her introduction to the *Student Interviews: 1967* volume: "1967 was a year of activity for University historians—they were delving into archives searching for material that would be published in honor of the University's Centennial Year, 1968. During this same year the University's newest campus, Santa Cruz, was preparing to graduate its first class. It occurred to the Regional History Project that here was a unique opportunity for using oral history—instead of interviewing men in their nineties, we would interview students in their twenties; instead of obtaining views that have been mellowed, and sometimes distorted, by the passing of years, we would obtain views with the sharpness, urgency, and, yes, distortion of the present."

whether they liked it or didn't like it and so forth. It really wasn't a question of: How do you think you've affected Santa Cruz city? They would have kind of looked at me and said, "What?" I was just documenting another time, another category.

Vanderscoff: Sure. And some of the early documents that I found talk a lot about ambition for scopes and for projects that either came into being or didn't. So another way of getting at this question of what was the scope, what was the mission of the Project at the time, is talking a little bit about the budget. Like, in our last session, when we were talking in January, you said, "I always felt lucky each year when there were budget crunches. I kept thinking—Boy, the Regional History Project would be something that could be dispensed with—because I'd already done most of the old-timers and was branching into the university history. But it never came up that they were thinking of cutting me." And the Regional History Project always has had this—you called it an island last time, right?

Calciano: Mm-hm.

Vanderscoff: And it's always had this interesting kind of a state. So I'm curious, then, about the ebb and flow of the budget at the project.

Calciano: I did not have any control of the budget. I mean, Don Clark and the accountant types decided whether I was being reasonable in what I was doing. If I'd decided I need a Cadillac to pedal around town in, I would have heard pretty fast, but, you know, I was just doing my job and not spending. I said I needed a locked

safe, so I got a locked file cabinet that was like a safe because we offered people the right of confidentiality [until they released the interview.

Vanderscoff: I've noticed in several of early documents the scope of the project is stated as being, "on the history of Santa Cruz and its four contiguous counties and the history of the Santa Cruz campus." And similarly, another early document states there's a goal to "expand the parameters of our Project's research one county at a time in order to document the economic, social, agricultural, and ethnic history of the Central Coastal region." So in some of these early documents, there seems to be this model being articulated where it's not only the Santa Cruz campus or Santa Cruz County, but these neighboring counties like San Mateo or Monterey.

Calciano: Well, I viewed my area of interest as the Central California Coast area, which would have been Santa Cruz County, Monterey County—

Vanderscoff: San Benito and then I guess Santa Clara?

Calciano: Yes, though Santa Clara was more UC Berkeley's Bancroft Library, the other side of the mountains.⁷⁰

Vanderscoff: And San Mateo County, directly to the north.

Calciano: Perhaps.

⁷⁰ The four counties were Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Benito, and the lower portions, I guess, of Stanislaus and Santa Clara Counties. Monterey County extends pretty far down the coastline—Elizabeth Calciano.

Vanderscoff: I'm interested in that because most of the interviews that you conducted focused on either the Santa Cruz campus in the present or the past, or they were talking about industries that were really particularly endemic to Santa Cruz, like lumbering in the mountains or apple farming in the Pajaro Valley. So it was interesting for me to look at some of those early documents. There is a document from 1971 on fundraising in Monterey and this hope of expanding into adjacent counties like Monterey.

Calciano: I said that? I wasn't going to be doing fundraising.

Vanderscoff: Not that you were necessarily personally going to do fundraising, but the question is could fundraising be done? There's some correspondence with McHenry, where there's a suggestion that he might be able to use some of his contacts in the Monterey area. And what that document cites is that "bleak times in the university budget," what Dean McHenry also calls, "in these times of Reagan."⁷¹ You've written that "we have simply not been able to afford to expand the Regional History Project staff, and any expansion is going to have to be done via research grants and/or gift funds." And so I'm curious about this idea that the Project would have this scope that would cover these four different counties. And ultimately it has, for the most part, been in Santa Cruz County, right?

Calciano: Well, yes.

Vanderscoff: —and it's done a lot of detailed work.

⁷¹ See correspondence between Chancellor Dean McHenry and Elizabeth Calciano, February 24, 1971, archived in the Regional History Project Records (UA38) Box 25.—Editor.

Calciano: You've got to remember, the whole Project consisted of me, a half-time employee, and a secretary/transcriber/typist-slash-everything. You know, there's only so much that one person can do on twenty hours a week.

Vanderscoff: Sure. I'm just curious if it was your sense that the project did run into budgetary challenges or into, like, "bleak times," which is this phrase from this note at the time. I mean, it's been talked about a lot on the more macro level, in terms of how Reagan as governor made heavy cuts to education that affected a lot of UC Santa Cruz and a lot of the UC system and other educational institutions statewide. But I'm curious if you recollect that that somehow trickled down to the Regional History Project.

Calciano: Well, yes, I think that I did not propose getting another person in because I thought the answer would be no, so why bother? I personally was not told to cut back my hours or anything like that. I was just a little bump on the side of the library; the library was a bump on the side of UC Santa Cruz; and the university was just a bump on the side of the whole big overall University of California, with Berkeley and UCLA and so forth. So not very much trickled down to me. I would have had a teeny amount—that much [demonstrates with thumb and finger ½ inch apart], you can describe it, input on budget matters if I'd tried to—

Vanderscoff: Right. Very small, right.

Calciano: Like, almost negligible. It just wouldn't have been my place, really, to go barnstorming. Now, maybe I was just too reticent. But I don't think so.

Vanderscoff: Some of these documents do mention some hope that some fundraising could be done with this through McHenry. It also seems there were at least some preliminary grant proposals put together. And so this is just something that, I mean, that certainly Irene Reti and I are interested in, the history of looking for external support]. Because this is not just the Project's problem; this is the classic challenge that oral history faces, right?

Calciano: Well, I don't remember preparing any grant proposals. I don't think I would have known *where* to apply, frankly. Writing grants has become an art form all itself.

Vanderscoff: Yes.

Calciano: But back then, it was something that some of the science professors might do, or medical professors, but there wasn't tons of grant money running around, and if there was, it would have gone to Bancroft, not to this little appendage down in Santa Cruz. I think you're trying to find more thought and meaning in whatever I was doing than there really was. I just was working away at doing a good job of documenting what I could document.

Vanderscoff: Sure, of course. I don't mean to comment on the thought and meaning, but just to ask about any challenges that might have come up in the process of trying to document these stories and trying to establish an archive of these stories in Santa Cruz. Because we have these stories now, which is extraordinary, for me, to go back and read all these things. But it has been my own experience, certainly, that going

ahead and trying to fund oral history projects can lead to these challenges. So I'm just curious about the particularities.

Calciano: I don't remember trying. If I had figured out some source, I could have written up a proposal and put it through Clark and Assistant University Librarian Wendell Simons and so forth, but it just didn't arise. Maybe I didn't have a big enough horizon.

Vanderscoff: No, it seems to me to be more this question of the classic struggles of the field. In some correspondence with McHenry, there's mention of a wealthy lettuce grower for a proposed lettuce project. And you mentioned, example, the tannery project. But interviewing around tanneries never happened.

Calciano: Well, it never happened because there wasn't any former tannery worker around to interview. That wasn't a funding question. If there had been a worker, a guy who had worked in the tannery or owned the tannery, I would have heard about him, and I would have tried to see if I could interview him. But it was not a funding issue there. I was never constrained in who I interviewed. I think I was doing a good job, and they saw that I was doing a good job. I ran my little show.⁷²

Vanderscoff: And so, cycling back to this note I had on this lettuce grower, he basically stated at the time that he wasn't interested in funding an oral history

⁷² Early on, Don Clark asked me to interview Roy Boekenoogen because he was a collector of any items related to Santa Cruz or California in general before the 1900s. He was very proud of an old wooden chair that was the type the early dentists used, but I got almost no substance out of that interview and Mr. Clark several years later said it was a mistake to send me out on that interview. But at the time it seemed possible that he could have had something to say, and also, I think, Mr. Clark was hoping that Mr. Boekenoogen would donate some of his old books relating to Santa Cruz.—
Elizabeth Calciano

project because he didn't see how the project would function as a "immediate public relations image change."

Calciano: Now, is that letter to me or a letter to McHenry?

Vanderscoff: I believe that is a letter to McHenry.

Calciano: I think so. It sounds more like correspondence he would have had.

Vanderscoff: Don Clark has a section about the Regional History Project in his oral history and McHenry mentions this as well. It's interesting. I noticed they sort of harmonized together when it came to this question. McHenry said, "The Regional History Project was started as a library enterprise, and as much as we would like to get it out of the library budget in these years of Reagan, we've been unable to get it established."

Calciano: Was that in my interview with him?

Vanderscoff: I believe it was.

Calciano: Yes.

Vanderscoff: I believe it was. It was a small section on the Regional History Project. And so it was interesting for me as I was going through and seeing your correspondence from the time, and reading Don Clark and Dean McHenry's oral histories, and the suggestion, across all three sources, that the Project was facing similar challenges—again, which are certainly not strange to anyone who has done oral history.

Calciano: Yes, or any campus-type special project.

Vanderscoff: Sure.

Calciano: No, I just did my thing, and if I had a problem, I went to Don Clark, and if I didn't have a problem, I didn't go to Don Clark. But I always kept him informed of what I was doing. I did my little thing over in my little corner of the library. When I was in the library, I was over in a corner. I could come and go as I wanted, and I did. I'd work later than 5 p.m., but I'd come in later.⁷³

Vanderscoff: Right. Well, one area that you've alluded to in which the Project did grow, is you mentioned there was another employee who was associated with the project, Doris [M.] Johnson?

Calciano: Yes, she was my secretary for many years, a very nice person. Also, I enlisted volunteers to come in and work regularly, organizing the big photo collection we got. We got a huge, huge collection of both photos of Santa Cruz County and the surrounding counties, and also postcards collected from everywhere. There were a lot of photos and we indexed them. The volunteers would write on the back, "This was the corner of such-and-so and such-and-so Street. So and so lived there and did such-and-so." I think it was useful thing. People used it, and it was certainly an expansion of the Project. But it wasn't in the sense of fundraising and grants.

⁷³ I worked] after 5 pm, when most of the librarians and other staff would leave. I also had a key to the building so if I needed to retrieve something from my office on a holiday when the whole building was locked up, I could.—Elizabeth Calciano.

Vanderscoff: But this was a Regional History Project endeavor.

Calciano: Oh, yes, I spread the word around town that I could use volunteers; they worked in my office.

Vanderscoff: And are there any other projects that you can recall that fall out of the scope of more typical oral history programs? There was this photo-identifying project. I'm curious about that because the Project now is focused on oral histories, and what you're describing might indeed be more Special Collections.

Calciano: Yes, this was all done for Special Collections, but I don't think Rita Bottoms wanted to supervise it, and that was fine with me. There was a table in my office that they could work at. They were nice folks and I enjoyed having them come in. There were several different volunteers that did that, long-time residents of Santa Cruz. One couple, the Byrnes, would come up every Thursday afternoon and work for three hours, and another woman came in often—she didn't have quite as regular a schedule as the Byrnes did.

Also, part of my charter was to interact with the community and to kind of bridge the town-gown thing. I think McHenry was hoping for that, and so I spoke to various groups. And [chuckles] I remember that I spoke to the Women's Club, and I'd been asked to speak for thirty minutes or whatever. I prepared what I was going to say, and when I arrived Ada Jane Leamy, I think her name was, said she had brought a lot of photos, and I said, "Oh, well that's nice." "Well, just in case you run out of things to say, I've got all this stuff." I said, "Oh. Well, thank you, thank you. I think I've got

enough for my thirty minutes.” But she really wanted to be part of the show and I referred to her and her photos several times in my thirty minutes. I was supposed to build community relations, not antagonize anyone. She was about eighty-five, and I think she kind of felt threatened because she’d had a position as one of the unofficial keepers of the grail of history.

And she did. She had, not a huge number, but nice photos. I’m not sure why I never interviewed her. She was never really recommended to me by Margaret Koch, who wrote for the newspaper, the *Santa Cruz Sentinel*. Margaret was a source of people to interview. Most of the suggestions of old-timers came from Clark or McHenry because they’d been out beating the bushes before I even came on board.

Vanderscoff: These are people who they heard about in their early pitches to the community in ’62 or ’63, before your involvement.

Calciano: Yes. And even after my involvement, because McHenry did quite a bit of speaking. I don’t think Clark did as much and I did even less. But I remember talking to the Exchange Club. I was the only woman in the room, and it was kind of an all-male bonding kind of place.

Changing Attitudes Towards Women in the Workplace

Vanderscoff: Could you talk a little bit more about that? You said you were the only woman in the room. You were coming down there—you’re talking about the oral histories?

Calciano: The Regional History Project, what I was doing and how they could come and read the volumes, if they wanted, at Special Collections and so forth. They, as I recall, pretty much watched their language, so to speak, when I was there.

I had an even better light on “males only thing” twenty years later, when I was living here in La Cañada. I was asked to bring my Eagle Scouts to the local Kiwanis club meeting.⁷⁴ I’m a member of that Kiwanis now, but it was men-only then. Our troop was quite active, and we had several Eagle Scouts that year. I think it was ’87. And the meeting was at Brookside Golf Course. There was a woman who played the piano in the corner, there was me sitting at head table with my Scouts, and then there was the president and so forth and everybody else, all men, at the tables. The president announced that the national Kiwanis governing board had decided to admit women, and the boos and the hisses and the cat calls. Jeez! I’m sitting there. I mean, it was—partly it was good-humored, and partly it was really men that were pissed off, to use a phrase. (And you can keep that in. I don’t say that word that often, but that’s what describes it.)

A men’s club was a men’s club back then. Women were not particularly welcomed. There were four men’s clubs, prominent men’s clubs, in downtown Los Angeles, where a lot of business got done, a lot of business. Richard Riordan was an associate at O’Melveny & Myers, LLP, maybe ten years before I was there.⁷⁵ He would go over

⁷⁴ At that time, I was the Troop Committee Chair. The Troop Committee of adults was responsible, along with the Troop leaders, for planning or okaying the Troop’s activities. I believe that at that time it was unusual for a woman to be a committee chair, but I had been on the committee for several years (also not common for a woman) and was asked to be Troop Committee chair and happily accepted—Elizabeth Calciano.

⁷⁵ Several decades later he became the mayor of Los Angeles.—Elizabeth Calciano

and play cards with forty-year-old and forty-five- and fifty-year-olds at the California Club, which was the top of the pecking order of clubs. And partners at O'Melveny were saying, "Oh, he just spends too much time there." Well, he was parlaying things so that he could become a gazillionaire. Lots of business was done there.

So in Los Angeles it was the California Club and then the Jonathan Club and then the University Club and then the Athletic Club, and by the time I came to town, the Athletic Club had opened its doors to women, maybe two years earlier. The Jonathan Club had not yet opened up to women, but starting the year I was there, women could ride up in the main elevators. Up to that time, women were allowed as guests in the dining room, but they had to ride up in a separate elevator, and the elevator—I never saw it, but so many people told me about the elevator—it was colored pink!

So these women attorneys, associates at O'Melveny—if their business meeting was held over there, the men could go up in the main elevator, and the women had to go around to the back and ride in this pink elevator. I mean, it was a different world back then. The University Club, the Jonathan Club had not opened their gates to women, and, of course, the California Club had not.

It's hard to explain how separated and kept out of things that women were, even women who achieved things. Maybe this was why I didn't go running around looking for grants at Regional History. I don't know. But when I clerked, between my second and third years of law school, I wanted to go with a smaller-sized firm because I figured I could network with the partners and the partners' wives and so

forth in a smaller firm, and get useful information on who's a good pediatrician, what schools are good, all that kind of stuff that is so helpful when you move into a new situation, a new town.

I clerked at Stevens, Jones, LeFevre, and Smith, a twenty-nine-man firm. It had been going since, I think, 1872. I noticed things got awfully quiet on Fridays, in the afternoons, but I just thought, well, people are leaving early for the weekend or whatever. There were two floors, the eleventh and the tenth, and I was on the tenth. I went out one Friday afternoon, probably five, five thirty, and I punched the elevator button, and it opened up, and there was old Barney Ford, one of the senior partners. When the doors opened, his back was to me, but all the male associates, the young male associates there, were all standing in a circle around him and looking out to the front, and he said, "I tell ya, I never thought I'd see the day when a babe would be in this law firm." And the associates' eyes just got huge with embarrassment or shock. I just shook my head at them and waved gently, let the elevator door shut, and Barney never really knew that I was there. But that was an indication of—

I did not have to face the upheaval, the hurdles that women eight or ten years earlier had—maybe twenty years earlier. I can't remember when Sandra Day O'Connor graduated from Stanford University, but she was, I think, second in her class, and she interviewed at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher. At that time it, along with O'Melveny, were the two real establishment law firms downtown, the real business firms. And she was told that they couldn't offer her a job as associate because obviously she

was a woman. But if she wanted to, they could offer a very good secretarial position, which she turned down.

Life has its ironies. There was a big lawsuit in the late seventies, I think, maybe early eighties, where law firms were being sued on equal opportunity issues, and they were saying, "Well, we're just a partnership. We're not a public business entity." Sandra Day O'Connor was on the Supreme Court by then and helped decide that case that said, "You bet your bottom dollar you are businesses and you better treat women equally."

Vanderscoff: So you've talked about these experiences of being the first woman in the woman, being in the Kiwanis Club meeting.

Calciano: Yes, there was another woman in the room, but she was playing the piano. She was a lovely lady. I got to know her later.

Vanderscoff: Dean McHenry mentions in his oral history that he had had ambitions that something like one-third of the faculty would be women, and at the time of your interview with him, I don't even know that it was 10 percent. We can check the figures. But I'm curious if that's something that goes back to your experience heading the Regional History Project representing this entity.

Calciano: Well, one of the things that I remember quite clearly was that somebody had gotten a petition before the County Board of Supervisors to make the Octagon

building into a history museum.⁷⁶ I spoke to the Board of Supervisors and gave reasons I thought it should be done. I was, what, twenty-nine, thirty. And as we walked out, the city manager, an older Irish guy, said something like, “Well, that was a pretty good speech, little lady.” There was “little” in there. And I merely said, “Thank you.”

Doctors’ wives were just shocked that I kept working. A lot of them had worked while they put their husbands through medical school or met them and worked while they were in residency, but then they stopped once their husband was earning enough income for the family. I kept working. But I was also involved in the doctors’ wives association or group. And I would get things like, “Oh, you’re still working?” I’d say, “Oh, yes, I like it.” And then one of the women said—because I was still working, and it had been about three years, and—“You’re still working?” I said, “Yes, I am.” “Well, I’d heard your husband was doing really well.” I said, “Well, yes, he is.” But to them, the older ones, there was just—they couldn’t comprehend that a woman, a doctor’s wife, would want to continue to work.

Vanderscoff: So, if you don’t mind me asking, what sort of an answer would you give? I mean, if your husband’s practice was going well and you were in this social setting where for many women that meant they weren’t working anymore. You were with the Project for more than ten years.

⁷⁶ Calciano provided the following comment during the editing process: “The Octagon was a lovely, small octagon-shaped building that had been the Hall of Records for the county. It sat on Cooper Street, next to the old courthouse.”

Calciano: Yes. Well, there was less of that in the latter years. Plus other women were coming in, doctors' wives, and were working.

Vanderscoff: Increasingly.

Calciano: Yes. It wasn't common, but it certainly was not such a rare thing later. I was a rather strange bird to them.

What would I answer? I guess I would just say, "Well, oh, yes, he's doing fine, but I've got an interesting job, and I really enjoy working at it" and so forth. I probably also said that it was only half-time, so I had plenty of time for my children. That was a big mindset back then, at least among middle and upper-class women, that those who didn't stay at home wouldn't be able to raise their children properly. I just was very matter of fact about it. I wasn't a big feminist about it or anything. I just said what was the fact.

Vanderscoff: Sure. So you talk about these law firms in Los Angeles and you accidentally overhearing very senior figures, expressing astonishment that there is a woman in the workplace.

Calciano: Yes, "a babe."

Vanderscoff: So I'm curious—so thinking about that work culture, I'm wondering if you could reflect on UC Santa Cruz, whether that was something that you were hearing inadvertently. What was the culture of Santa Cruz? If that's what you found in Los Angeles, five, ten years later—

Calciano: Well, I wasn't involved in law firms and business and banks in Santa Cruz. And I really wasn't in a position to hear all that much about faculty appointments, so I'm not a good person to ask on that line.

Vanderscoff: I wouldn't ask you to comment on faculty hires, but within the context of staff—

Calciano: Well, when I started in 1963 Aileen Sanders had been hired earlier as Don Clark's secretary. The term "administrative assistant" was barely coming to light. Barbara Sheriff was Dean McHenry's administrative assistant, and then he also had a secretary. Later, the library, of course, because it's kind of a "woman's profession," had a number of women. I can remember when I was in high school thinking—I was quite interested in architecture, but it was one of those deals where I knew well that no firm would hire me if I got a degree in architecture. And I remember thinking, well, at least in a big firm I could design the women's bathrooms in buildings for them because the men don't know what they're doing. But yes, I've seen an incredible transition. It gets better every year. It still has a ways to go, but equality for women has come a long, long way. Obviously, I'm glad for it.

Vanderscoff: There's one interesting exchange that you had with Willa Baum in '71. She wrote *you* a note, saying that you mentioned your family life in your vita, including having kids. And she commented that, "We"—"we" being up at Bancroft—"never do. No policy decisions, just an office of women's libbers, I guess." I was struck by that, Willa Baum having the sense that identifying as a women's libber meant that you weren't mentioning your family. You've been touching on a lot of

these themes, such as that it was unusual for you to be married to a doctor but also working. And Willa seems to be saying something here about—

Calciano: Men don't bother to say on their resumes that they're married and they've got three kids.

Vanderscoff: Yes.

Calciano: They don't need to.

Vanderscoff: And so I'm curious about that.

Calciano: Well, I imagine I put it in (a) because I was expected to and (b) because maybe I wanted to show I was a normal, regular woman. I'm not quite certain. I do know that I felt pressure when my first kid went to kindergarten and first grade. I was fortunate that he was just a really normal kid, bright and so forth, because if he had had problems, I knew it would be assumed that his problem were because I was working. I mean, it was a real stigma to be a working woman. Even though I was working half time, I had a housekeeper who came in on the days I was working, so there was always somebody there when the kids got home. It would have been difficult for me if he had had a problem, or if he had been a bully, just because—it wouldn't be his father's fault. Obviously it would be my fault because I was working, and the fact that it might not be anybody's fault wouldn't have been considered.

Vanderscoff: Sure. And I'd really like to get into talking about cultural shifts in Santa Cruz. So you were interviewing these old-timers, but, of course, the present

moment was one that was shifting significantly, women's liberation, as we've discussed, and as Willa Baum is alluding to in this exchange that she had with you—

Calciano: Well, I think she said “women libbers,”—this was '71?

Vanderscoff: December '71.

Calciano: Yes. I can't remember when the bra burners were burning their bras, but I think she was using the word—like, I'm a sensible women libber. I'm not, you know, the nut cases or the—well, I shouldn't say “the nut cases” because sometimes it takes extremists to push along a new idea—

In about 1973 my husband and I went to a dinner party at the home of an attorney and his wife. My husband had made friends with a group of young-ish liberal, liberal-leaning attorneys, nice—I enjoyed being in their company. Some of them were interacting with the university and my husband was also a little bit. There were a couple of doctors and wives—you know, men and women. The men were doctors; the wives were wives or whatever. And several lawyers and their wives. But there was also a couple of faculty people.

And there was a rather forceful woman who was sitting opposite me. It was a big enough party that there were, I think, three tables, at least two tables set up, and she was opposite me. She'd been haranguing in general about the inequities towards women. Women were kept down, et cetera, et cetera. But I guess she was saying that women were dumb and were complacent. She said, “Look at you. You're a doctor's

wife. Your whole identity is wrapped up in your husband's profession. Without him, you are nothing."

I said, "Excuse me! I *am* my own person." I told her I'd graduated from Radcliffe College] and had a master's degree from Stanford; I worked at the university. And the whole room—both rooms fell silent because I think they were glad to finally have somebody stand up to her. I don't know. She was right in a certain extent, that when I got divorced, I lost that whole coterie of social life. But it's also because I was in law school and moved down here. And there were doctors' wives that had to stay, or chose to stay in relationships where their husbands just played around all the time, because they felt they had no choice.

When I came back several years later to give a lecture at Santa Cruz, I was asked to reprise what I'd done when I was at the university.

Vanderscoff: So this was a lecture on the campus?

Calciano: At the campus.

Vanderscoff: Yes. For a class or something?

Calciano: No, I think it was for a lecture series, mainly for townswomen. And I was being driven maybe out to lunch or something, and there was one doctor's wife for sure, and in fact maybe two. And she said, "You know, you're kind of a folk hero around here. You taught us that we *can* get liberated." She was in the process of divorcing *her* husband, who earned a huge amount of money but made no secret, at

least among the other doctors, of the fact that he was “playing around” which was a euphemism for having plenty of sex with other women. I had shown that you can get a decent settlement and a decent alimony and that women were not necessarily just trapped.

Vanderscoff: So you were the first out of this social group to get a divorce, or one of the early ones out of this—

Calciano: I was probably the first of the wives in the early 1960s. There were a few wives, I think, that had been dumped out of their marriages twenty or thirty years before because the doctor wanted to marry their sweethearts. I was surprised when I was told that I was a hero to the women, because that had never, ever occurred to me. But I kind of was pleased about it. There were several that I know were getting or had gotten divorced after me and were able to live, I hope, happy lives afterwards.⁷⁷

Vanderscoff: So in these Santa Cruz doctors’ wives circles, that there was a sense of perhaps changed social possibilities. I mean, if this woman was calling you a folk hero, then she was—

Calciano: I don’t know if she said “folk hero.” I think she said, “hero.” I don’t think she said “folk hero,” now that I think about it.

⁷⁷ “The women who had been divorced in the forties or fifties were no longer members of the wives auxiliary, so really knew very little about these women.”—Elizabeth Calciano.

Vanderscoff: Sure. So I'm interested in that because a part of the interest in this oral history is to get at cultural life in Santa Cruz as well as this Regional History Project. That's one of the smaller topics that really I think would be useful.

Calciano: Yes. Well, I *am* getting really tired now, so I would like to pick up with that when we start again tomorrow.⁷⁸ We maybe should schedule two interviews tomorrow because I'm cutting this one kind of short.

Vanderscoff: Sure, tomorrow I would like to start by talking about your teaching in the Extension—

Calciano: Yes, I would like to do that.

Vanderscoff: —and talk about some of your observations on UCSC internally, and so since we're on this larger mode about Santa Cruz and these social circles.

Calciano: I *do* want to talk about the lectures and the teaching. Yes, I very much do.

Vanderscoff: Sure. Okay. So then we'll continue this conversation, but for now we'll close this out.

Teaching for University Extension

Vanderscoff: Today is Monday, September 28th, 2015, and this is Cameron Vanderscoff here for the Regional History Project with Elizabeth Calciano to

⁷⁸ The interviewee was allergic to something in the air (the interview was in her backyard) and her eyes were getting red and puffy. The follow-up session was rescheduled to the end of the summer—Cameron Vanderscoff.

continue her oral history project. This time we are where it all began, in Santa Cruz, California, or Soquel, California, technically.

So last time we talked about the scope of the Regional History Project—how you went about selecting different narrators, how that changed over the years, as well as some topics about your own life in Santa Cruz. And that’s where we ended, on that latter topic. I’d like to pick that up later in this session when we talk a little bit more about social life in Santa Cruz and your involvement in Santa Cruz, your civic involvement more broadly. But today, let’s start out with talking about something that I’ve wanted to get to for a while and which I’m excited about hearing about, which is your work with teaching at the University Extension, which you did for a number of years, at least from ’67 to ’73. I know you taught a course there on the history of Santa Cruz County and there was also a lot of material on the history of the Cowell Ranch.

Calciano: I wrote about the history of the Cowell Ranch. But I didn’t teach it specifically. Well, I did in Ansel Adams’ course a bit, but no, I didn’t teach it specifically.

Vanderscoff: So if you wouldn’t mind saying how you got into teaching for the Extension because, of course, that would be above and beyond your original purview of interviewing people.

Calciano: Yes and no, in that it really—it didn't count as part of my time working for the Regional History Project, but it was outreach to the community, which was *in* the purview.

But let it be shown first that we are at my son's house in Soquel, which is on a cul-de-sac up high in the hills, that I had really wanted to sit outside, and my daughter-in-law and I cleaned the cat hair off the outside chairs, but Cameron felt that his microphone was too sensitive; it would pick up too much ambient noise.⁷⁹ So we are sitting in here, at the kitchen table, and it kind of reminded me when I first started, Willa Baum, who started the project up at the Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley and was my mentor, told me to get the simplest tape recorder I could find, one that you sat down, you pushed the GO button, you had to look at the light but just once because you didn't want your interviewee to notice that—I mean, they knew they were being recorded, but you didn't want to make it a focal point, and you didn't want to be in a situation where you'd have to keep leaning forward and checking that everything was going right. So let it be shown it's taken about seventeen minutes for Cameron to get this set up inside, because he was having trouble with the connection. But even at my house it would take him at least ten minutes, and I just find that very strange, but—

⁷⁹Audio recorders, even when paired with screened mics, can be susceptible to wind and other ambient surprises outdoors; while we had tried outdoor recording the previous session, it had yielded audio that didn't have the consistency desirable for archival purposes. Fidelity has become more significant because of increased online dissemination and accessibility of digital audio, whereas previously audiotape was physically archived and infrequently accessed by researchers. This interview was recorded with a Tascam DR-100 MK II and two Audio-Technical lavalier microphones—Cameron Vanderscoff.

Vanderscoff: Yes, that's interesting to talk about, about how the technology has changed. And, of course, a lot of what we're talking about here is setting up the lavalier microphones and making sure all the levels are going, so I think the equipment certainly has changed. So what you are talking about using, then, it would be a self-contained unit hooked up to a—

Calciano: Well, or you said it was a choice of either me holding a microphone or using the lavalier.⁸⁰ What's wrong with just a stationary microphone that's in between us that would pick up both voices?

Vanderscoff: Sure, and I know some people do use those.

Calciano: Because this just seems like a lot of folderol, and if it's so sensitive that you're worried that it will pick up the breeze instead of my voice, I think it's counterproductive. Okay, I said my piece, but I was irritated when you absolutely would not go outside into that beautiful back patio.

Vanderscoff: Well, it does look very nice, but the concern becomes audio quality with this.

Calciano: Yes, that's what you said.

Vanderscoff: Yes, and that's a part of getting a closer mic sound. The pro of that is you can do that, but the con is the ambient noise that you pick up.

⁸⁰ In this case, we only had lavalier microphones, but I have worked with people in radio who conduct field interviews with handheld microphones, which I had mentioned while setting up. — Cameron Vanderscoff.

Calciano: All right. Well, you wanted to know how I got into teaching for—

Vanderscoff: Yes, the University Extension. Yes, that's what I would like to talk about today.

Calciano: Yes. Somebody from University Extension phoned me and said they knew what I was doing here and they wondered if I'd be interested in teaching an Extension course. It would be for credit, but people could also take it not for credit. So people who were working on advancing their teaching credential would take it for credit, but two-thirds of my class was always long-time residents who just wanted to know more about the area that they lived in. Some of them had roots that went quite far back. One of the requirements that I had in the class was those who wanted a grade needed to submit a paper based on primary sources. Most of the work I got from everybody was very good. And it was fun teaching it. I taught it in a classroom at Cabrillo College because that was in the middle of the county and that's what University Extension arranged for me. I didn't have anything to do with that. And they made it very clear that I wouldn't be working for the University of California system; I'd be working for UC Extension and would receive a different paycheck. It was fine with me.

Vanderscoff: And so, you were initially approached by University Extension because they were aware of you as the director of the Project.

Calciano: Mm-hm.

Vanderscoff: And then as far as setting up the course, was this something where they had a very clear mission for you in teaching this course, or was this something where you—

Calciano: The mission was to teach the history of Santa Cruz County. So I did. I had to spend a fair amount of time in secondary sources, getting prepared from 1542 up to the late 1800s. Starting in about the period of 1850 on, I had local newspapers to rely on in preparing information. And then, of course, I had my own interviews for the later period. It took quite a long time to write the lectures out, but then I was able to use them several times.

Vanderscoff: And so you're teaching this course, and you're teaching these students over the course of this year. So this was now for your own oral histories to be used as curriculum material. I'm interested because several years ago, I TA'd a course on university history, and I found that the sorts of papers students were turning in transformed some of my own thought about the campus. And so I'm curious, given that you were interviewing people about these topics and then teaching people about these topics, whether that was a learning experience for you as well.

Calciano: Well, of course. Any time you prepare a lecture series, you learn that you've got to nail down your facts and you have to make sure you're giving a fair presentation. I couldn't just concentrate on Santa Cruz. I needed to concentrate on the whole county. I used secondary sources on the earlier periods. And among them, Kroeber's, which at the time it was written was still the ground-breaking treatise on

the Indians of California,⁸¹ but he very much had the opinion that because they didn't have a culture like ours, that they were a lower culture. The fact that they lived harmoniously where they were really didn't count. And so the first version or two of my lectures reflected that, but I edited that out and got a more even-handed presentation as things went on.

But for the rest of it, the part that I was dealing with, things that I had researched on my own, in preparation for asking the oral history questions and then conducting the interviews, that didn't change much at all. Oh, I think on the last lecture I would update the agricultural production of the county: how much money was brought in with strawberries, lettuce, so forth and so on, because that would change a bit.

“The Changing Culture of Santa Cruz County”

You kept trying to ask me about the changing culture of Santa Cruz County last time.

Vanderscoff: Mm-hm.

Calciano: Over and over again. I kept thinking, he wants me to say something that I cannot say. Your questions were a paragraph or two paragraphs long. And I'd say, “Well, I can't really say much about that,” because I was there from 1963 to '74, so, yes, I'm sure there were changes. The women's lib things changed— And there were some things that I noticed, and I've spoken about those, but I didn't interact all that much with the student body or the professors.

⁸¹ See Alfred Kroeber, *Handbook of the Indians of California*, Smithsonian Institution, 1925.

As I think I mentioned the last time, a number of people in this area settled here as a retirement area because it was inexpensive. It was over the hill from San Jose and San Francisco. That is a good part of what had protected Santa Cruz from being built up with a rash of housing the way San Jose and Mountain View and so forth were. I think it was very beneficial for our county. But it did give it a—I don't know if I would use the word "bucolic," but it certainly it had a different ambience than later, when the university was here.

But I think now the change is even more. I mean, I used to go down on Front Street, and there were students, and there would be some shaggy type of hippie types.⁸² There were a lot of hippie camps up in the mountains. And I can remember thinking at the time, "I wonder if, among all the drivel that's going to come out, there's going to be some real masterworks that come out of"—because, you know, some of them were really creative. I haven't kept track of it. Has there been any William Faulkner or John Steinbeck or anything of that caliber come out of all that commune stuff?

Vanderscoff: Locally? I don't know. I mean, a whole artisanal culture has come out of that, right? I think you have a lot of people who are working in a lot of media. But as far as if someone has come from here and reached the sort of international level of someone like Faulkner, I don't know, I wouldn't know.

Calciano: Well, I don't either, but—so the people—you've already interviewed some of them—who could give you much better evaluation from the university point of

⁸² But now [in 2017], I was walking down Pacific Avenue with my son in the early evening and it felt somewhat dangerous. My son said it would not be wise to walk there by myself in the evening—
Elizabeth Calciano.

view are some of the professors. I was just thinking this morning that it might be an interesting idea—maybe Irene Reti has done this already—but to locate some people in Santa Cruz who were living here in 1955 and on, and who watched the University come and who would now be eighty, eighty-two, eighty-four—interview *them* about their view of how the university affected the community, how it affected it in the first ten years, how it affected it through the decades, what they thought of it now. I would think that about four or five interviews with people with that kind of knowledge would be interesting. I don't know how you find out which ones are good talkers, because you don't want somebody who'll just say yes or no in answer to a question.

Of course, I didn't give long, paragraph-long questions. I tended to ask very open-ended questions: What do you think about...? Did you like...? I wouldn't say, "A lot of people like this, but a lot of people didn't, and I wonder where *you* come down" or something. But times were different, and my interviewing technique was different, and I'm fine with your interviewing technique. Still mad about not being outdoors, but—

Vanderscoff: Oh, yes. Well, it *would* certainly be nicer to be outside, but it's dictated by the machine.

Calciano: Yes, I understand. I think it's nuts, but I understand. And so I'm not at all critiquing your interviewing style. I just noticed it was very different than mine.

Vanderscoff: Yes, I think there are some differences.

As far as the sort of project that you're talking about, actually, for you and for any future listeners to this tape, I did an interview several years ago with John Daly, who was mayor of Santa Cruz in the early sixties and moved here himself in the fifties, prior to the San Lorenzo flood.

Calciano: That's great.

Vanderscoff: So Irene and I worked on that, and that would be one resource because he provides that sort of longitudinal perspective. He lives in Scotts Valley now, actually, and he provides that sort of an angle.⁸³

Calciano: Well, I think that I prefaced my statement by saying, "I'm not sure; maybe you folks have already done this, but—"

Vanderscoff: No, it was a totally enriching interview—really interesting to hear his perspective.

So in a previous session you mentioned being in the line at the bank in 1962 or 1963—

Calciano: [Laughs.]

Vanderscoff: —and being surprised that these individuals were speaking in a less than receptive way towards the university that would be opening two or three years later.

⁸³See Cameron Vanderscoff, Interviewer and Editor, *John C. Daly: A Life of Public Service in a Changing Santa Cruz, 1955-2013* (Regional History Project, UCSC Library, 2013). Available at <http://escholarship.org/uc/item/4zm9j9q3>.

Calciano: [Chuckles.] Oh, that's a—boy, that's "pussyfooting along"—

Vanderscoff: That's very political.

Calciano: —on little tippy toes. They were *mad*.

Vanderscoff: Sure. And so then that sort of thing surprised you at the time. If you were to be standing in line at the bank, say in '72, '73, '74, after the university has been here, would that sort of thing still have been surprising to you?

Calciano: No, it would not have been, and if anybody in line was bothering to talk about the university then, I would imagine it would have been mainly negative.

Vanderscoff: Negative in what way?

Calciano: How it had disrupted the Santa Cruz life and economy, how housing was more expensive. I don't think they complained about traffic, although they might have. Traffic up here now just amazes me. I don't think that's all the university's doing; that's just population growth and whatever. But yes, there were a number of people, average citizens that were not happy having the university here, particularly because students could vote in national elections. I think that was a bone of contention. Oh, and in local elections, too.

Vanderscoff: Yes, in municipal things.

Calciano: Yes, which would have more effect. Professor William Domhoff mentioned yesterday at the Alumni Weekend that the city council became quite radical or—I don't know that he used *that* word, but—very liberal—but I think he

said it also wouldn't let the university build or do some of the things that it wanted to. That surprised me because the city council really would not have any governing power over the university property. Do you know what he meant by that?

Vanderscoff: He could have been alluding to many things. There've been a lot of contentious moments. But it's possible it could have been water. When the university needs to expand, it needs to deal with the city in terms of water and getting water to the new colleges. And the university is always sort of trying to expand one way or another, so that might be it, where that municipal authority comes in. And that, I think, is an ongoing—I'm a little out of date now, but—

Calciano: Well, yes, I think that that's the type of thing where they could— As far as water goes, I was in Berkeley when we went through the big drought of '74 through '77 or something. Santa Cruz, I don't think, was that hard hit. Santa Cruz just never—it just rained. It just—there was never any question about it. It just came from the sky. Sometimes too much came and the rivers would flood, and that was bad. But water itself just wasn't even on the edge of thinking, I think, with even the most far-sighted planners.⁸⁴ But traffic would be, and zoning maybe, if the university tried to rezone anything else outside of the university property. But anyway, it just kind of surprised me.

Vanderscoff: I think that relationship has evolved in a way that certainly the planners of UCSC would be surprised by, and I think were surprised by.

⁸⁴ See the John C. Daly oral history for discussion of some early debates over water in Santa Cruz County, particularly the Loch Lomond Reservoir and the debate over the Zayante Dam.

So as far as what you're talking about, if you were standing in a bank line in, say, '74 as opposed to '63, that that's sort of a negative opinion of the university—

Calciano: I think it was beginning. I mean, there were still—people who liked the idea of the university weren't going to shout from the line in a bank and say, "Oh, you're full of" whatever.

Vanderscoff: Right.

Calciano: It's people who are *unhappy* that tend to be the most vehement in their expressions. But, yes, well, by '73 there definitely was a feeling that the university was, at best, a mixed blessing.

Vanderscoff: And is that something that you perceived in your own social circles? Because we've talked a bit about how you worked at the university, and then you were also in the social circle of doctors' wives. So I'm curious, then, if what you're talking about—is that something that you saw manifest there?

Calciano: Not really, because doctors' wives by just the fact that their husbands tend to earn a fair amount of income would be middle class, upper middle class. They weren't worried about the trailer park rents and so forth and so on. I think most of the people I knew were like my husband and me. We were pleased that we had the opportunity to go to things. It was bringing culture into the area: bookstores and kind of hippie coffee/beer house type thing. I don't know that they were happy about *that* development, although I thought it was fine. It was natural and outside of the campus, to have some place.

They were not at all happy, and I wasn't either, with all the hippie types. I don't know if you have to define what "hippie" means, but unemployed, basically, pretty much unkempt people that sort of settled in here because it's a nice area. I don't know if they would have settled in here anyway without the university. I just don't know. But the university certainly got blamed for it.

Vanderscoff: And so what was the impact, then, of the hippie element coming in?

Calciano: Well, I can remember one morning my husband—he had the phone by his bedside because he was a doctor and he'd get called at any time of the night or day. He picked up the phone, and he went, "No. Oh, no, no, no, no. What happened?" Well, our friends, the Ohtas, Dr. Victor Ohta and his wife, who lived up a hill outside the city limits without any neighbors close by, had been brutally murdered along with their housekeeper and two of their four children. Well, that was just horrendous. I can't remember what year it was, but my family had gone to a Christmas party at their house the year before, and my daughter was two, so it was around '68 or '69.⁸⁵

And I remember later being up with my husband in San Francisco. He was at a medical conference, and the *San Francisco Chronicle*, above the banner headline, up in the upper left-hand corner, it would always have a teaser about a story that people would want to read. Thursday it was a story about Santa Cruz; Friday it was a story about Santa Cruz; Saturday it was a story about Santa Cruz; Sunday, "General's Remains Removed." I thought, oh, my God! Well, it was about General

⁸⁵The Ohta family was murdered by John Linley Frazier in October, 1970. This murder, along with several others, put Santa Cruz on the map as one of the Murder Capitals of the United States, a distinction which resulted in a decrease in UCSC enrollment figures in the mid to late 1970s because parents were concerned about sending their children to school at UCSC—Editor.

Philippe Pétain in France. I had begun to think of that little square as my local history source because there *was* a lot of bad stuff going on in the hills and so forth. Certainly people in other areas were not happy with the hippie movement. Berkeley wasn't happy with that, all the panhandlers on Telegraph Avenue.

Vanderscoff: Some people chart the murder of the Ohta family to the beginning of this period in the seventies where you did have a few serial killers in the Santa Cruz area.

Calciano: I don't know if that man who—I think it was a man who did it—in the Ohtas' case was a serial killer or not. He certainly had some derangement. I don't know if he was looking for drug money or what, but he had no reason to kill the two children and a housekeeper and a wife and husband. And you said it was contained. I think it just—it sort of died out. You know, the Charles Manson thing in 1969 had a huge amount of publicity and was not looked on with favor anywhere. I didn't hear too much about that kind of stuff after the Mansons. I didn't hear much of anything like that in '74 through '77, when I was going to Boalt Hall, Berkeley's Law School. I think I would have, even though I was spending half my time on the road, commuting from Aptos.

Vanderscoff: So you've talked about this particularly horrible event, what happened to the Ohta family. And so that happens, and that's an extreme example of how something has changed, that you have someone, John Linley Frazier, who seemed to be a part of this hippie thing or a part of this element that you talked about. And so then in your day in, day out, are you noticing things change? I mean,

obviously fashions are changing. People are presenting themselves in a different way. And that's a very extreme negative example, and then the question that I have is day in, day out.

Calciano: Well, not so much in Aptos because it was just a little town by itself, eight miles from Santa Cruz. Of course, eight miles is nothing. But it's kind of funny. It was a big deal in the horse-and-buggy days, but when I was there, it was easily traveled, and now it's back to horse-and-buggy speeds because the traffic is so congested. It's just amazing. I started to get on the freeway the other day. I think it was to go up to the university. And I got on at Porter onramp, and I looked. It was stop and go all lanes, and so I zipped off at the 41st Street exit (the next exit) and went on Old Soquel Avenue all the way until I got to where I could shift over onto High Street.

Aptos was just a nice little suburban and rural community. Cabrillo College had been established there, so there were a number of faculty, and I was in one of the newer areas. It wasn't tract homes—like, ticky-tacky-ticky-tacky. People could—oh, that's a reference to a song.⁸⁶

Vanderscoff: Oh, the “houses of ticky-tacky.”

Calciano: “And green and blue and pink and yellow ticky-tacky-ticky-tacky.” It looks like that has stayed with me a long time, because I will now see developments that are all buff colored with—for a while it was with shake-roofed houses and now with orange tile roofs. But they're much more upper scale than they were back then. That

⁸⁶The song Calciano is referring to is “Little Boxes,” by Malvina Reynolds.

was the postwar housing boom when a lot of people were flooding into the Bay Area, or were staying on, no longer in wartime jobs but staying on. But those were the days when a person with a working-class income, if he wasn't a ditch digger, if he was in one of the trades or anything, he could make quite a decent living and could afford a house that was pretty nice, even if it was one of the ticky-tackies.

So anyway, I didn't notice it that much in Aptos, although every once in a while some of the tattered-looking people, unkempt, would come through because I think some were camping up in Forest of Nisene Marks Park—I'm not even sure if Nisene Marks was already a park then or if it became a park during that period.⁸⁷ But anytime I'd go down to downtown Santa Cruz, which was quite often—to go to a department store or whatever—you know, I'd see all these people on the streets, some playing music and having their hat out and so forth. I certainly observed it. I didn't feel threatened. Now I guess if you go down Pacific Avenue, or at least a few years ago, you had to be a little careful. Wasn't there some problem with assaults and so forth about three or four years ago?

Vanderscoff: I don't recall. What you're talking about—having musicians on the street, that sort of thing—that has certainly been the rule now for a long time in Santa Cruz. But what we were talking about is seeing a change then. Like, walking down the Pacific Avenue Mall in '63 versus '74.

Calciano: Not in '63, because the university hadn't opened yet.

⁸⁷ The land for the Forest of Nisene Marks State Park was donated to California State Parks in 1963, with the help of the Nature Conservancy.

Vanderscoff: Right, but the difference being that by '74 it had changed. People were dressing differently.

Calciano: Yes. Well, I was dressing differently, too. I remember going to an oral history conference at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. We had a two-day workshop held before the national conference, and I was in charge of it, deciding the topics and getting the speakers. At the workshop, I was wearing the very short skirts that Californians wore in 1973, and I got some wide-eyed looks from some of the gentlemen who worked on the East Coast. I didn't care. I had good legs and that was the fashion. I wasn't doing anything blatant. So yes, my dress changed, sure, like everybody's did.

Vanderscoff: And would you say that professional attire changed? If you think about Santa Cruz, when you first—you know, the Project starts in July of '63 and you're hired the April previous. Is professional attire changing?

Calciano: Well, when you say "professional," I think of the bankers, the lawyers, the doctors and so forth. I think you're thinking the professors and—

Vanderscoff: What you'd wear to work at Santa Cruz, yes.

Calciano: I don't think the business climate changed that much. It was almost all men, and it was almost all suits. My husband always wore suits except on the weekend he would wear a turtleneck with a sports jacket and pants. And the university—I didn't really keep track of what the professors were wearing. The student clothes changed some over the years, but everybody who came to the

library looked pretty well scrubbed. They hadn't been living out in the woods. They had access to showers. So, I'm not certain how much the professional attire changed. I came to work wearing usually a nice skirt and a nice blouse and high heels, stockings, of course. I hated stockings even back then, but that was what you wore. But I didn't have to wear gloves or a hat or anything silly like that—well, I shouldn't say "silly" because forty years earlier, I might have had to if I wanted to work in a university climate, but I probably wouldn't have been hired, so—

Vanderscoff: I just asked that because in our original sessions back in January, you talked about your interest in color—

Calciano: Well, I remember getting a dress that was orange, basically, with geometric—not rectangle-type but more Paisley, curved geometric—

Vanderscoff: Kind of the teardrop affect of—

Calciano: Yes. Well, the dress was long-sleeved but short. It was some designer's lower-level one. It's what Saks [Fifth Avenue department store] would carry or something. And no, it was just a busy pattern all over it. I always had liked colors, as I said. I thought that it was fun and it looked good on me. I stayed away from purple because it didn't look good on me. You know, blondes really very seldom can wear purple well. Somebody told me, "Well, when you get white hair, then you can wear purple." I thought, well, I don't want to wear purple *that* badly. [Laughter.]

So, yes, I saw changes, but I think a person like your Mr. Daly would be much better. He would have always, I gather, been middle class, upper middle class since he eventually became mayor.

Vanderscoff: Yes, he was in optometry.

Calciano: Okay. I don't know if there were any people who were clerks in stores who dressed differently. Back then, there were clerks that had been at Ford's Department Store in Watsonville and Leask's here in Santa Cruz and you would see people who had spent their whole career in that store—you know, just a working as a clerk, middle-, middle-class job or something. I'm not good at valuing whether somebody is upper-upper or middle upper or lower upper, whatever. But it might be interesting if you could find somebody, or somebody's whose mother or grandmother was living in a trailer, and asked him or her what that grandmother or grandfather thought about the changes in Santa Cruz; I think there you would get an even better handle on what changes came as far as the perception of the general, run-of-the-mill Santa Cruz person.

Student Protests at UC Santa Cruz

Vanderscoff: Sure. And so another reason that I ask about this is looking over the course of the interviews—so you do the Student Interviews in '67—

Calciano: Yes.

Vanderscoff: —and in '69, and I made a quick note on them. What really struck me was how quickly some of the students charted some of these changes happening.

There're not a lot of traces of it in '67, but if you look in '69, one student said there was "virtually none," as in political activity, "two years ago." And, of course, around the time of this, you have the blockade of Central Services by students.

Calciano: Yes.

Vanderscoff: So I'm wondering if that's something—

Calciano: Well, the whole unrest in Berkeley did filter down to us. I wasn't involved in Berkeley at that time, but I remember the People's Park thing in Berkeley was a big deal. I might have my facts wrong, but I think a developer wanted to develop a piece of property, and it was a piece of property that people had been using as sort of a de facto park for quite a while.

Vanderscoff: So I'm curious. Central Services—I know about that takeover.⁸⁸ In '65 that wouldn't have happened. If you listen to these students, it sounds like in '67 that wouldn't have happened. So I'm wondering about your recollections of that event and of that context of students actually taking over.

Calciano: You see, I wasn't working at Central Services at that point. Originally, the library had been in the bottom floor of that, but we moved over to the library, in I'm not sure, '66 or something, and so I wasn't directly affected by it. But I saw signs all over the place, and I'd always park in that parking lot that's below Central Services—I think it's called Student Services now—and walk up and across the

⁸⁸Calciano is referring to the student strike of late May and June 1969, in which Central Services was taken over by student activists protesting police violence in the People's Park incident at UC Berkeley—Editor.

bridge, so I was aware of it, but it didn't affect my everyday thing. But that's why I was asking the question in the oral history in 1969 when I was doing that second set of interviews. They went the whole spectrum of opinions, from the very pro take over, to the guy who said, "Oh, it gives me more time to study." Half of the classes were shut down.

The stuff that happened in Berkeley in '64, I just was aghast. I just didn't believe that a student uprising would cause a president of a campus to be fired, Clark Kerr. I guess he was fired because he couldn't control these rabble-rousers. Well, people learned pretty soon: nobody could control them. But that was a real shock wave when I learned that, because I had been raised in kind of an academic community— And if you were a professor, you were a professor and you didn't get booted out just because somebody did something— Well, if you were caught in bed with a young girl or a boy, then your career was over. But as long as the president of the university didn't do anything really stupid, he would not be ousted. He served until he wanted to retire. That was a rather bawdy example I gave you.

Vanderscoff: Right, the point being that of course a university president had a lot of leeway in this position, and it was not easy to get displaced from that. And all of a sudden you have a situation where, with the Free Speech Movement in Berkeley in '64, '65, you have this chain of events that leads to then-California Governor Ronald Reagan removing Kerr.

Calciano: Yes.

Vanderscoff: And so, you used the phrase earlier that this trickled down from Berkeley to Santa Cruz. I've heard that before on these interviews, this sense that some of the things that were happening in Berkeley kind of had shock waves over here.

Calciano: You would hear this from the professors that you've interviewed?

Vanderscoff: Yes, I've heard that, and in a lot of the archived interviews as well. Berkeley was much more intense than it was here, to some degree. Here it wasn't at the level of People's Park, but you still had these events happening.

Calciano: Did Bancroft's oral history project interview any of the Mario Savios and so forth?⁸⁹

Vanderscoff: That, I don't know.

Calciano: Of course, Mario Savio—you didn't have to interview him to find out what he was thinking. He was all over the news—

Vanderscoff: Well, he was standing on a car and saying it—

Calciano: Yes. But I wonder if they tapped into that change that was going on at their own campus.

Vanderscoff: Well, yes, I don't know. There's a quote, actually, from you in the later sixties, in one of the interviews that you did, where you said, "I'm exposed to all the

⁸⁹ The Regional Oral History Office at UC Berkeley conducted a series of oral history interviews about the Free Speech Movement. They are available at <http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/ROHO/projects/fsm/transcripts.html>

Peace and Freedom people in the library, and then all the conservative types in the business and professional community.”

Calciano: That’s what *I* said.

Vanderscoff: Which is basically what you’re saying here.

Calciano: Yes, that’s accurate. Was this in the student interviews?

Vanderscoff: I believe it was. I’ll have to look, yes.⁹⁰

Calciano: Now that I’ve met a number of the students in that class that came in ’65—I met them yesterday—I want to go back and look at those student interviews. I never have. And I guess they’re online now?

Vanderscoff: Yes, they are. And let the record reflect that there’s a series of events happening at UCSC this weekend for its 50th anniversary, and both of us are actually, in addition to doing this oral history, are there to participate in some of those things.

Calciano: Yes, I think it’s called Pioneer Days or something.

I was kind of surprised when I found out that my interviews were on the Internet, but it didn’t bother me because the whole point of why I was hired, it was to gather information and disseminate it. And the best we could do was send these first carbon copies—because when I started it was four carbon copies and an original—to send the first carbon copy up to Bancroft, for Bancroft Library.

⁹⁰The quote is from Volume III of the Dean McHenry oral history.

Several people came up at the weekend events and said they were one of my student transcribers, and said, "I was so nervous when I got to the last line." But actually, if they were just transcribing, they could just X out if they made a mistake. But in the copy that was going up to Bancroft, we wanted it to be clean copy.

Vanderscoff: And so they were doing transcription for the Project.

Calciano: Yes. And also final copies. I didn't have a secretary for, I don't know, the first three years maybe.

Vanderscoff: Because then Doris Johnson—

Calciano: Doris Johnson came, yes. She might be an interesting person to interview. I think she was a patient of my husband's, but she lives in Hawaii now but comes here periodically. I can't remember exactly what her husband did, but they were just sort of regular Santa Cruz people. Obviously, she liked the university or she wouldn't have applied for a job there. But they had been there for at least ten years or maybe twenty years before she came to work for me. So if somebody wants to follow through on that, I can tell them how to get a hold of her.

Vanderscoff: And so for the record, she did transcription for the Project. So what would be an example of the division of labor? Obviously, you were doing the interviewing.

Calciano: Well, I did the research ahead of time, and that was a really important part of the job. I did the research, and then I arranged my questions. I did it on four-

by-six cards. I wrote down notes or topics of things I wanted to be sure to ask and then, as I thought of something as I was researching, I would jot it down, and then a day or two before the interview I'd put them into various piles by subject matter and then organize each pile. It worked well during my interviews.

So when the person transcribing it was done, I then would listen to the entire tape while reading the transcript and would make changes. Because lots of times, particularly since I was using such an "old-fashioned" recorder, there were places where the interviewees mumbled. By the way, "old-fashioned" is in quotes. I'm being sarcastic, but your typist might not pick that up.

There were places where it would be unclear, and I would remember enough, and I would know the person's speaking pattern enough that I could put in the correct things. If I sensed a problem, I would listen to the sentence three or four times to make sure that I had it right. I imagine that goes on today.

Vanderscoff: Yes, there's a lot of auditing.

Calciano: And then after that was done, I would organize the interview. I would cut and paste, so if a topic that we discussed in detail in one session and then in the next session—"Oh, and I forgot to tell you about—" Well, I would move that up to where it fit in with the regular topic, and I said so in the preface, that they'd been edited in this way. So I did the editing with a carbon copy, I guess—a carbon of the transcription. I remember one of my volunteers did the business of cutting and pasting things neatly so that when it got to a typist they would have organized

pieces of paper, not stuff kind of—I always Scotch-taped—I always got ink on the sticky parts of the tape, so my Scotch-tape things were always smudged. This didn't hurt the print. And sometimes I would change my mind and X a section out. So anyway, that was done either by my secretary or a volunteer and was sent to the interviewee. I think we typed the draft before we sent it to them and they would write in any corrections or additions. Then my secretary would type the permanent copy and I would proofread, and she'd have to retype pages where there was an error. And that was it. We sent it off to the bindery.

Vanderscoff: Right. And so, she stayed with you, then, for the rest of your time?

Calciano: The rest of the time I was there, and I think she stayed for a quite a while—

Vanderscoff: With Randall Jarrell.⁹¹

Calciano: —with Randall, I think. You can ask Irene about that. I think she did. She would be in her eighties now, but she might be an interesting source. And then she could say what she thought about *me*. [Laughs.]

Vanderscoff: Well yes, maybe you could say a little bit about what you thought about working with her, the sort of the dynamic that you had because now Irene—it's entirely a one-woman office, as it was when you started out. There's not a secretarial position at this point.

⁹¹ Doris Johnson retired from the Regional History Project in 1988.

Calciano: I think she was half time—I think Doris was half time. She wanted time to get to her kids' sporting events and stuff. So now what, Irene contracts out the transcribing?

Vanderscoff: Yes. She'll do some of it; I'll do some of it; sometimes she'll contract some of it out. But, no, there's not someone on staff who would serve that sort of a function outside of Irene herself.

Calciano: Okay. One of the people who came up to me and said she had been one of my student transcribers—I didn't really remember her because they kind of changed every quarter—said, "I remember because you were pregnant with your second child." I said, "Yes, I was." And I remember particularly a couple of the male librarians were very nervous when I said I would work up until I gave birth because—I said, "I don't want to quit six weeks ahead and sit home and watch my tummy grow. I want to work until I deliver and *then* have six weeks with my children." Because there was no such thing as maternity leave. I think I asked for four months off after each birth and got it, and then I'd come back.

Vanderscoff: And it would be Don Clark or whomever—

Calciano: Yes, I thought both Dean McHenry and Clark were very nice, good bosses, and I think Doris would probably say that *I* probably was a good boss. I wasn't crabbing at her or whatever, you know. I crabbed at you because I was pretty mad when you said we *had* to sit inside, but I'm not the kind of person that would crab at somebody if they made a mistake. If they showed up late, well, that's not great, but

we'll work a little later, and that'll be fine. But, yes, Clark was a very nice boss. So was Wendell Simons, his assistant, because some technical things, money things like getting the locked safe to keep records confidential. That, I would tend to go through Wendell rather than Mr. Clark, but—

UC Berkeley's alum magazine used to have a "Quick Twists" or something, a segment where—and they stopped it about ten or fifteen years ago, and I pretty much stopped reading their publication because I'd always go to that first and then I'd look at the interesting stories. And Twisted Titles was where you would change one letter in an already-existing phrase. I saw one today, in a Volkswagen repair shop: "Old Volks Home," instead of "Old Folks Home." So "Twisted Tales" or whatever it was called—it was like that. And every once in a while, I'd see Wendell Simons' name. He would have submitted one that had risen to the top of the ones that were worth printing.

What else did you want to know?

Vanderscoff: Well, we've talked a lot about the cultural changes going on within the university, things like Kresge being started, Kresge College, or Oakes College.

Calciano: I talked about Kresge?

Vanderscoff: No, we haven't yet, actually.

Calciano: Because that was barely on my peripheral awareness.

Vanderscoff: Right, and so I'm wondering about that. To what extent are you, within the Regional History Project, are those things that you're aware of?

Calciano: Well, I was certainly aware of them, and when I needed to take my law school aptitude test, the LSAT [Law School Admissions Test], it was at College Eight, and I knew College Eight was a new college on the far side of the campus. Oh, my goodness, I prepared for it, and I went over to the college several days earlier, and I figured out what seat I wanted to sit in near the front, and I figured out where the ladies room was and all this stuff, and I drove up, and there were about twenty people waiting outside the building, and it kept getting closer and closer to the time, and a few more people came. And I said, "You know what? College Eight used to be in the building by the Quarry Amphitheater. I will drive around and see if that's—"

So in my big old station wagon—you know, I couldn't drive through the campus [no one could], and I went lumbering around the campus to the Quarry and ran in and said, "Wait, you can't start, you can't start because there's twenty-five people that are waiting at Campus Eight, the real College Eight. This is not College Eight." It was not fair to start.

And then I got back in my car and drove over there, and people piled in my car and other cars, and we came around. I think I was the last one in, I guess, because I waited for people to get out of my car. I remember walking really fast in. And there was a seat right on the aisle, in the front row, and I sat down in it, and he said, "Start!" It was that quick after I sat down. Maybe it gave me enough adrenaline to do well. I don't know. But I'll never forget that.

I came home and asked my husband to go back to our bedroom where I cried. And then there was this knock on the door. My son, who was about twelve, and—knock, knock, knock. “Oh, Andrew, can’t you leave us alone for just a minute?” He said, “Well, there’s a fire in the oven, and I thought you’d want to know.” [Laughs.] We got the fire out. But it was a big day.

Vanderscoff: Right. So what you talked about, the administrative and actual geography of the campus changing, that is one of these threads that you see in UCSC history.

Calciano: Yes. I was aware that the sciences building was up and that a lot of things took place in the sciences building. But I didn’t realize that it was where a great deal of the stuff took place in those first two or three years, because I just wasn’t involved.⁹²

Ansel Adams

Vanderscoff: So one thing that I realized that I wanted to talk about, that we talked about briefly on the phone yesterday, was you mentioned that you were a guest in Ansel Adams’ courses.

Calciano: Yes.

Vanderscoff: And I realize that we left the University Extension before discussing that, so if you would—

⁹²Calciano added the following comment during the editing process: I understand that the friction between the faculty and the chancellor began then. The faculty did not want to spend as much time with their small college obligations as the chancellor and Clark Kerr had envisioned, because they felt they had to spend more time on their subject matter because of the pressure to “publish or perish.”

Calciano: Yes. I don't know who asked me to do it, but Ansel Adams for at least two years taught a photography class, and people came from all over the country to be in his class. They wanted me there to give a very brief history of the area. They didn't want chapter and verse; they just wanted to get the people to know what's around. I remember being asked, "Who would be a good face to interview?" And I said, "Well, Malio Stagnaro down on the wharf would be a good one" because he'd weathered all those years being a fisherman, and he had a happy and expressive face.

And I answered other questions about "Where would I find such-and-so locale?" "Where would you find such-and so?" If I knew, I'd answer. Then they printed out a booklet at the end, or a pamphlet, and I think I've got both of those pamphlets.⁹³ I don't remember who asked me to do it, whether it was through Extension—it probably was, I guess. I don't know. Ansel Adams was such a special person in his own right, it could have been that the university here sponsored the workshop. I just don't recall. And I remember after either the first or second class, the whole class was invited down to Ansel Adams' house.

Vanderscoff: This was in town?

⁹³ The photographs and books created in this course have been archived in the UCSC Library's Special Collections Department as UA57 Images and Words Workshop Records. The description of the project reads as follows: "During the summers of 1967-1971 the University of California Santa Cruz extension program offered a series of photographic workshops entitled, *Images and Words: The Making of a Photographic Book*. The instructors were Ansel Adams, Beaumont and Nancy Newhall (1967-1971), Pirkle Jones (1969-1970), Robert Katz (1967), and Adrian Wilson (1968-1971). Students came from across the country and enjoyed a photographic exploration of Santa Cruz County via daily field trips. The goal: to learn what is involved in working with professional designers, typographers, engravers, and printers, culminating in the production of a photographic book. The 1967 workshop attendees produced the photo essay, *Twelve Days in Santa Cruz*, and the 1968 workshop attendees produced, *Project FIND: Friendless, Isolated, Needy, Disabled: In Santa Cruz County, California*."

Calciano: It was near Big Sur. Oh, I wanted to go, but my husband was “babysitting” with our son, and I just felt, “Oh, I’m not supposed to stay away from Andrew for that long” because women—I alluded to it last time—women of—whatever my status was, whatever class or whatever, whose husbands earned enough to let them stay home, were expected to stay home. It was very foreign that the doctor’s wife would be working. Later on, it became not at all unusual, I think.

Also, I was so inculcated with this “You work at the peril of your child” thing that I’d forego the chance to go down to Ansel Adams’ studio and instead went home and my four-year-old—he’s the man who owns this house now. He was a sweet four-year-old and I’m sure was happy to see his mom. But I doubt if it would have killed him to have me gone another six or seven hours. It might have killed my husband. He wasn’t used to babysitting much. But anyway—

You wanted to know about Ansel Adams. Yes, he was an interesting man, and, of course, he was the photographer for the campus before it was built, of all the old buildings. But it was fun to be in his class. It was nice.

Vanderscoff: You consulted on who they could go shoot or where they could go shoot.

Calciano: Where. I didn’t phone Malio and say, “Hey, would you mind if some people come down?” That was up to them. But, yes, I guess you’d say I was a consultant.

Vanderscoff: Right. Because I know you also worked on *The Campus Guide*. So then that might have been one of the sources of knowledge that you had. When was this Ansel Adams class relative to that?

Calciano: Well, Andrew was four, so that would be 1966 or '67. It was pretty early. When I get back to La Cañada, I'll pull out that pamphlet and I can give you the exact time. Also, I should look at my old résumé that I sent off to law school because—I was thinking, was I chair of that museum advisory committee, or wasn't I? I think I was, but I— Some things are not clear as a bell.

Vanderscoff: I have some things written down, which might be—

Calciano: Yes.

Vanderscoff: And we can talk about those, actually.

Detail on *Campus Guide* and Talks on Santa Cruz History

Calciano: But at any rate, it was pretty early on in the history of the university. Working on *The Campus Guide*—ah, that was fun, with Ray Collett.

Vanderscoff: So what was the impetus, then, for *The Campus Guide*?

Calciano: Well, probably the chancellor wanted to have something. It could have been Don Clark, but I would say that probably came from the chancellor, and he told Don Clark, and Don Clark told me, and the chancellor told the geology department or geography department, and they picked Ray. And—as I said, it was just a fun thing to do. We did a good job. I'm sorry it's out of print, but—

Vanderscoff: There are some in Special Collections, and I read through it, and actually I learned a lot about the campus when I was preparing back last December. So was that a unique publication? I mean, obviously you were working on publications all the time in terms of these oral histories, themselves, but this collaborative process—

Calciano: It's the only one that I know of. Now, it could well be that an economics professor and a philosophy professor joined forces and wrote a pamphlet or a book. We certainly did not have a university press at that time. In fact, I don't think we do even now. I could be wrong. We might have the fine art kind of printing. Do we?

Vanderscoff: That's a good question. I mean, because there's the UC Press [University of California Press], but that's up in the East Bay, of course.

Calciano: Right, right, because fine printing was one of the interests of Rita Berner Bottoms.

Vanderscoff: There is a press at Cowell College now and they do exactly what you're talking about. They do small runs. It's been around for a while. I'm not sure when it started.⁹⁴

Calciano: But the pamphlet, I'm sure, was done by some commercial printer somewhere. So, yes, it was an unusual thing, but it was a new campus. It was a new

⁹⁴See Gregory Graalfs, Interviewer, and Irene Reti, Editor, *The Cowell Press and Its Legacy: 1973-2004*. (Regional History Project, UCSC Library, 2005.) Available at <http://escholarship.org/uc/item/0mz917dq>. The Cowell Press is now run by fine arts printer Gary Young, who teaches courses in making the artist book for UCSC students.

position. I did—if they'd asked me to go murder somebody, I wouldn't have, but if there was anything that was halfway interesting, I was up for it. Sure, yes!

Vanderscoff: Of course, the job was being defined by you and by these other people as you were doing it.

Calciano: Yes, *the* reason it started was McHenry wanted to start it. He knew about Berkeley's oral history project, and he thought it was a really good idea. He was very interested in the history because of the Cowell Ranch, the old buildings and so forth. Also, I think he saw it as a way of building town and gown rapport. So I didn't do a huge amount of speaking things, but I think I mentioned in the last session that I did some speaking.

I can't remember why, but for some reason I was asked to give a round-up speech on Santa Cruz history when I was about to leave for law school. Is there an amphitheater around where the old quarry was?

Vanderscoff: Yes, there's the amphitheater with the wooden seats built there, in the Upper Quarry.

Calciano: Oh, okay. Well, I think it was there and it was pretty well filled, and that was kind of nice.

Vanderscoff: And that was for?

Calciano: Because I was going to be leaving, and I knew all this stuff about Santa Cruz history and the campus history. I don't even remember clearly what all I talked about.

And then I was asked—about two years after I finished law school, which would have been five or six years after I left, to come up here to Santa Cruz. There was a lecture series that I referred to in the last session. I can't remember what it was called—maybe the American Association of University Women AAUW—but they would have a different speaker every month for four months, and I was asked to be one of those, which was, I thought, quite an honor. I asked one of the partners at O'Melveny & Myers, LLP—Larry Preble, the partner that I worked most closely with, whether it be allowed that I do that. And he said, "Yes," he thought it would be great, so I flew up and I did it. And it was fun. That's where I learned that the lives of doctors' wives had changed significantly in the intervening five or six years. People were not putting up with husbands in the ways they had had to before.

Civic Activities in Santa Cruz

Vanderscoff: So I'm interested in the town-gown function of the Regional History Project. You taught in the University Extension, so you did some additional things, but I've also noticed, as you were alluding to a minute ago, that you were very civically involved with Santa Cruz. These are things that I pulled from your c.v., so maybe this'll provide some context. You were the chairman of the Public Buildings and Property Committee; you were on the Grand Jury.

Calciano: I think I was the first woman on a Grand Jury in a long, long time. I was nominated in '70, but they draw names out of a hat that has about thirty nominees, and I wasn't selected. So I was nominated again the next year, and my name *was* drawn. There was a Hispanic businessman from Watsonville who was thirty, and his name was drawn and I was thirty-one by then, so I was not the youngest ever, but I was the second youngest ever, and the only woman. Don Clark had been on the Grand Jury, either the year before or two years before. It was all men, of course. It always was all men. And the foreman had asked him if he would be secretary, and Don Clark had said—he just was telling me this as an anecdote before I went down there—that he said, “I really can't because my secretary is paid for by the university. I cannot use her to send out notices and to type up things and so forth, so I think you really need a business person who has a secretary who can do that kind of thing.” So he was not the secretary of that Grand Jury.

Well, the first thing the foreman did when we met the first day was to say, “And obviously our secretary will be Elizabeth.” I said, “Oh, no, no, I can't. My secretary is paid by the university, etcetera.”

Oh, I would have hated that job!

Vanderscoff: So if you were nominated as secretary, then, that meant that your secretary would be the person who would then—

Calciano: Or I would sit down, typing notices and minutes and sending them out. That was the kind of stuff I hated doing, so they appointed a business type. I loved

being the chair of the Buildings and Grounds section because I was interested in architecture and I had some experience in it. That was fun for me, and I had a good committee. There was somebody who was in commercial real estate, and then a couple of others. He was very helpful when we had to review some existing long-term leases. But I did use Doris to type the Public Buildings and Property Committee report. But I got permission to do that, and I paid her out of my own pocket to do the typing on that. I think it was a pretty good report, and it was a very fun year.

The year before, on the Grand Jury, I think I'd been pregnant, and the young attorneys in the area just really wanted me to go into court and go in obviously pregnant and in a short skirt because the presiding judge was such that he—somebody had called a witness who had a short skirt, and he sent her out of the courtroom; it wasn't respectable. So they thought it would be wonderful to have a grand juror wearing a short skirt. I thought, well, you'd like it, but I'm not sure I would enjoy the experience. [Chuckles.] I think I dressed in some of my longer skirts. They were still above the knee because that was the fashion, anyway.

Vanderscoff: So could you say a little bit more about the focus of the report?

Calciano: Well, the Grand Jury had two functions. One was to hear criminal indictments when there was a reason that the district attorney didn't want to bring an indictment in front of the public at that point, and the other function was to examine the county government. Once it was a highway patrol officer accused of raping a college student at Cabrillo, and a kind of "hippie type," in Ben Lomond or Scotts Valley or somewhere—there was just no nexus. The DA's didn't want that all

over the papers until they figured out that there was enough evidence to bring him to trial. So we voted that yes, there was, although I remember some of the older men when I was in an elevator with them saying, “Well, you know these girls. They can just say anything.” And I was saying, “Well, I don’t think there’s any collaboration going on between these two,” because they were in such different milieus geographically and economically, socially. One was a student; one wasn’t and so forth.⁹⁵ I think we heard seven or eight criminal cases—and we were asked to bring down indictments.

And then the other half of our job was to investigate county government. There had been rumors going around about what had been the county poor farm, and it had been turned into the county hospital. I’m not quite sure where it is now, or was. But when Community Hospital went up and then when Dominican came, the county hospital was phased out. But there were rumors about hanky-panky with the leases for that property, and there were rumors about this and about that. So the real estate guy and I looked at the lease and it looked quite straightforward to us, and so we said so in our report. We also had received some criticisms of various things which we looked into. I don’t remember at this point, but it was I think a good report. At the end of the year we submitted our reports and we were done.

Vanderscoff: So you actually had an interesting first look at these situations that there was concern as to whether they should go before the whole public or not.

⁹⁵ And we voted for the indictment.—Elizabeth Calciano.

Calciano: Yes. And now, at least down in our area in Los Angeles, I think they sit two grand juries: one to do criminal indictments and the other to do the government inspections, to look into whether the bureaucracy is functioning right. There's pressure *not* to have these grand jury indictments be an alternative to the public preliminary hearing. I don't do criminal law, so I don't know the status now.

Vanderscoff: But you were doing both criminal and civil—

Calciano: Yes, yes.

Vanderscoff: —in that case. So when a case came up, like this rape case—you said that, for example, the older men were opposed to the idea of handing down—

Calciano: Yes. Some of them had their doubts about it, but most of the other men said, "No, we've got to indict him. This is not an acceptable thing to do."

Vanderscoff: Is this a setting where—are you the only woman?

Changes entered to here—IR-Dec 2, 2019

Calciano: I am the only woman on the Grand Jury, the only woman in the elevator. That's where I remember hearing the comments. One of the older guys was talking to one of the others, about two layers of people in back of me, and I guess they thought I couldn't hear. I don't know. But I did. I didn't turn around and say, "You're jackasses for thinking this." When they polled the grand jury, I just said that I felt that this man had done it and should be indicted. I don't remember whether it was a

unanimous vote. I don't even remember if it had to be unanimous. A petit jury or the regular criminal jury, I think, has to be unanimous.

Vanderscoff: Or it's hung, yes.

Calciano: Yes. I don't think the Grand Jury—because this was just a preliminary step; it wasn't putting anybody in jeopardy of their life or their freedom. So I don't think it had to be a majority of the Grand Jury, but I could be wrong. It's a long time ago. And, as I said, I have had nothing to do since with criminal law, so I haven't seen the other side of it at all.

There was an arson case that was brought to us, a husband and wife, and they said they had not set fire to their house and, that their Christmas tree had burned up and so forth. But we had a lot of testimony of fire department inspectors asserting, "Well, there was this trail that showed that accelerant had been used, and there was this—" So we voted an indictment, and I didn't really have too much trouble with voting that indictment. Of course, we don't see the people we're judging.

Vanderscoff: They wouldn't come in and—

Calciano: They're not allowed to, I think. It's secret. As I recall, I voted to indict without any real misgivings. And then later, maybe six, eight months later, the accused had hired their own experts and had proven that it was an electrical fire that set the Christmas tree on fire. So that has always been a good lesson to me, to not always believe, quote, "experts," particularly if you're only getting one side of the presentation, because defense attorneys were not in there; you were just getting

the prosecutor's case— Was there enough to indict? And based on those arson inspectors and so forth, there was. But they didn't—they weren't right. They didn't know what they were saying. I was glad that justice was done because when the owners hired an attorney and he hired experts, they were able to prove, at least to the satisfaction of a regular jury, that—I don't know if it went up for trial or if it was dropped after the district attorney was shown all the evidence that it was really an electrical fire. But whatever it was, it got into the newspaper because that's where I read that they had been exonerated.

Vanderscoff: Yes. And pardon me if I missed this, but how did you come to be on the grand jury in the first place?

Calciano: Well, the judges, the Superior Court judges of Santa Cruz County—I think it was the way it was done in every county; I'm not certain—but they each put several names in the hat of people they thought would be good. And one of our friends was Nick Drobac, who was a judge from the Watsonville area. He apparently put my name in, which was very nice of him. I was very capable of doing it. I was intelligent and thought I could sift evidence. It turned out I was wrong in the arson case, but, as I said, you're only presented the one side. And the question is, is there enough to indict?

Vanderscoff: Right, that's the burden. That's very interesting to hear that. So you do that, and then I also have here that you were on the Historical Landmarks Advisory Committee, on the board of directors of that from '68 to '74.

Calciano: Okay. Was I chairman of that at any point?

Vanderscoff: I've written it as "board of directors," so I don't think so. But we can check that for the final—

Calciano: There's no separate line for the Octagon Museum, is there?

Vanderscoff: No, and I remember you talking about that last time, giving a speech and receiving the response of—

Calciano: "That was a nice speech, little lady."

Vanderscoff: And so I'm curious, then. You talk about situations where you're the only woman in the room, and you have this individual at the Octagon saying, "Little lady."

Calciano: Well, he wasn't in the Octagon. He was one of the big administrative types in the county. I can't—I don't remember right now what he was. If I looked at the county structure, I could tell, but he might have been the deputy or the—the Board of Supervisors get legal advice also, but not from the prosecutor's office; they get it from county attorneys. I don't remember what he was. But he was a "people-knew-his name" kind of person. I knew I had done a good presentation. But, you know, you just didn't make waves in court—or at least I didn't.⁹⁶

⁹⁶ The "county" attorneys were actually "court" attorneys who were employees of the court, and were paid by the county. Back then they might have been practicing attorneys who were engaged to give advice on a specific matter.—Elizabeth Calciano.

Vanderscoff: I'm curious about the sort of reception you got on the grand jury and that sort of a thing, if you're the only woman in this room in what had been a boys' club.

Calciano: I would say these gentlemen were fine. Most of them—if there were some that thought this was terrible to have a woman on the Grand Jury, they kept it to themselves, because I'd obviously been nominated by a judge, and my name had been picked, and there I was, and I'd been sworn in. There wasn't any question about—they didn't have any choice as to whether I was on it or not. They might have been surprised when I was made chair of the buildings and properties committee, but the foreman felt I'd be the best chair, so I said yes.

Vanderscoff: Right. And as far as the building and properties things go, I also noticed that you won a prize in a county competition for—

Calciano: Oh, for designing a medical building?

Vanderscoff: Yes.

Calciano: I designed our house, although that was with the help of the contractor. And I learned a lot of things from that, not just from the contractor, but I went and visited the lumberyards and would ask questions. I was, you know, pretty attractive when I was young, and so I would always get long explanations of this and that, and that it kills them at the lumberyard when an architect designs a room to be thirteen feet this or nine feet that because you have to saw off three feet of perfectly good two by fours or four by fours, so my house was in increments of four. I did not do the

plumbing layout, but I knew to design so that the two bathrooms were back to back and relatively near the kitchen.

But by the time I did the medical building for my husband, I did everything except—I did all the angles, because if you ever drive by it, it's still an attractive building.

Vanderscoff: Where is this building?

Calciano: On Paul Sweet Road, near Dominican Hospital. It's sort of nestled down below the road a bit. It's got some quite angled roofs because my husband liked that style, and it was a pretty new style at that time. If he had wanted Spanish Colonial, I would have designed Spanish Colonial. I would have done whatever my client, who was my husband, wanted. I wanted to make sure the roof didn't blow off and it had to be graded at a certain level so that we'd hit the sewer lateral so we didn't have to have an expensive sump pump. And because I wasn't a licensed designer or architect, it had to be redrawn by somebody who *was* certified. And I said, "Fine. Please use my configuration, but I want you to do the math on making sure the roof doesn't blow off and on siting the building." The first thing we really found out was he'd sited it too low, and we had to pay for a sump pump, so I just kept my fingers crossed that he knew what he was doing on roofs, and as far as I know, they've had no problem with that.

The roof went up to sixteen feet in my husband's office and up to that in the waiting room, and then lower angles on the other rooms, on other sides. I remember going in when it was being built, and in my husband's office there was a closet for storing

things and so forth and so on, under these windows. It had windows from the eight-foot level up to the fifteen -or fourteen-foot level. And they were busy framing things all the way up to the top. I said, “No! No, it’s only to go to eight feet and then needs to be flat so that the windows, among other things, can let in light.” And the carpenter said, “Well, look-it here, (pointing to the drawing of the floor plan) here it says—” I said, “Yes, but it says to eight feet, and I drew elevations. See? This is the elevation of this room: the east side, the west side, the north and the south. And see?” “Oh.” And they had to tear down what they’d built and build it properly.

But yes, I liked that. I think I might have been good at architecture, but, as I said, it just wasn’t a career for women at that point. Then when it came time to pick a new career, I thought, I don’t want to go back and learn all that calculus and stuff. Law seemed a lot easier. You brought what knowledge you had to law school, and it turned out that, yes, I could do that.

Vanderscoff: So you mentioned the fact that you worked part time at the Regional History Project and that was unusual in your social circle.

Calciano: Yes, pretty much.

Vanderscoff: And so then this civic involvement. I’m curious about—were there other people from your social circles who were doing this work?

Calciano: Well, I think here, being a doctor’s wife probably helped my visibility in the community, I would guess. Being a doctor’s wife didn’t have anything to do with the grand jury except that we’d made friends with attorneys and judges and so forth.

But it was logical to have me be on the Historical Landmarks Committee and so forth—whatever it was called. And when the Octagon Museum was being proposed and I went to the Board of Supervisors' meeting and I spoke for the group—that's why I think I might have been chairman, because I remember Ada Jane Leamy, who I discussed last time—the eighty-year-old, I'll say now. I don't know how old she was, but a nice lady. But she had kind of ruled the roost in history things along with much younger—Margaret Koch, who was the writer for the *Santa Cruz Sentinel*—and she did a lot of historical things. But between them, they were the two experts on local history, and here comes this whippersnapper.

Ada Jane Leamy was going to be on this commission. I remember thinking, how in the world do I diplomatically run this? I don't think I was chair from the start, and I may never have been chair, but I think I was. But at any rate, for the Civil Service interviews I was one of the three people picked to interview the candidates for curator at the Octagon, which would become a museum. The head of Parks and Recreation was the second, and I can't remember who the third was. The Civil Service Commission had winnowed out everybody, and there were three left. There was a woman, a bit plump, but she had been a curator of a small museum over in the Central Valley or Salinas or somewhere. I thought she sounded like she really knew what she was doing.

There was a guy with some museum experience from San Francisco, and he was kind of flamboyant, and he was as naive as I was. I could tell he was probably gay, but, you know, if he can do the job was my feeling. I don't remember the third

person but he was somebody who just didn't— And I remember the Parks and Recreation person just was not going to have the woman, even if he had to take a deep breath and swallow to have a gay person on his staff. You could see he was torn, but obviously a woman was the worse of the two evils. Oh, what was his name? He got the job, and he did a nice job—and yes, it was a good choice. I think the woman would have been a good choice, but—

It's just hard to believe how much things have changed since back then. And back then reflected pretty much what it had been for the preceding 200 or 400 years or whatever.

Vanderscoff: So would he express these arguments, or is that something that you understood? I mean, this opposition to having a woman in this curatorial position.

Calciano: Yes, he just didn't want a woman. I think he just said that. About the gay, you didn't talk about if anybody was gay; it was just sub rosa. But you could tell he just—"Oh, I've got to choose between this awful choice and that awful choice."

Vanderscoff: That was his perspective on it.

Calciano: Yes. I can't read minds, but his body language and his facial expression sure communicated that attitude. I thought the woman was better qualified than the one we hired, but the one we hired did do a fine job.

I guess the Octagon is no longer there, but when it was being turned into a museum—it had been the old Hall of Records building for the court and the county,

and it was built in the octagon shape, which was kind of fashionable in, I don't know, the 1880s or whenever it was built. And now they needed more room near the courthouse, and so there was a proposal to knock it down and build something else. And the Landmarks and whatever it was called Commission said, "Wait a minute! This is a really neat building, and there are not too many of these octagonal buildings left in California."⁹⁷

Vanderscoff: So it was a conservational function.

Calciano: Yes. The museum seemed like a good use to put it to.

Vanderscoff: So you mentioned that you were sort of the newcomer on this scene.

Calciano: As far as the field of history goes, yes.

Vanderscoff: But you named these two more established ladies. So you had a sense that you were coming into someone else's—

Calciano: Mm-hm, domain.

Vanderscoff: —domain, yes. So I'm interested in that, whether you agreed on things or what the dynamics were.

Calciano: Well, I don't think it came down to agreeing on things with Ada Jane Leamy. It's just that she thought she should have been the one who was going to talk if it had anything to do with history. And, of course, I was not talking so much about the history of Santa Cruz County as I was talking about what the Regional History

⁹⁷The Octagon now houses a coffee shop.

Project was, what oral history was, because people had no idea. That term was not in common use at all.

Vanderscoff: So people didn't know—

Calciano: No. And that's why we didn't name it an oral history project; we named it the Regional History Project because our emphasis was going to be on getting interviews of people who were in various industries that were the economic backbone of Santa Cruz before the World War II—actually, before World War I, even. So I really wasn't poaching on her territory that much, but she really wanted those pictures to—she wanted to be the one to show them. So as I referred to her several times during my talk—I was supposed to make good communication.

Margaret Koch was very nice. I think she regarded me as sort of—you know, “What's the university doing, taking over this? This is local history.” A little bit like that. She later published a book on local history, which I think was pretty nicely done. We were cordial, but we never discussed whether or not the Octagon should be saved. She was the one who talked to McHenry and probably Don Clark and gave some of these names of people that I could interview, because she'd sniffed them out in her years as a reporter for a human interest or a historical interest feature, a picture of the person and then, depending on what, several columns' worth of story about it. So she knew which people could really talk and which ones would just say, “Yeah, yep.”

Vanderscoff: So I'm interested in this thing about oral history. So if you had to explain what—

Calciano: It was *not* the history of dentistry.

Vanderscoff: Right.

Calciano: That was the big first question. It's not about dentistry. It's about oral speaking and recording the recollections of people who have lived through something—in this case, Santa Cruz County, just living in Santa Cruz County— not living through a Holocaust or being an assistant to the president of the United States. The first two oral history projects—Columbia University very much went after the big—well, you're there now; you know.⁹⁸ And Berkeley kind of went after the big names in California politics and then also in some of the industries. But that wasn't my charter. I was supposed to get first-hand information about Santa Cruz in the 1880s, 1890s, and early 1900s.

Vanderscoff: So you talked about your oral history work. Was there any overlap between either oral history and the Regional History Project and these civic involvements that you're talking about, or were those separate endeavors?

Calciano: Oh, well, they were separate in that I didn't get paid to attend any of these. That was all just civic duty or willingness.

⁹⁸ The Columbia Center for Oral History was founded in 1948 and was the first oral history archive in the United States. More recently, it founded an M.A. program in oral history, where I was working on my thesis during the period of these interviews. —Cameron Vanderscoff

I started to say I think that being a doctor's wife probably made my name more familiar to people on the Board of Supervisors and so forth, and particularly because one of the attorneys that we were friends with in the seventies or something, he was elected and became a supervisor. In fact, I think I phoned him. I said, "Am I allowed to talk with you about the Octagon and what I think, or is that not allowed?" He said, "Go ahead and talk. I'll listen, and you tell me what you think. Doesn't mean I'll—" He said, "And I'll just weigh it along with everything else." I said, "Okay," and I talked with him on the phone, and later did that little talk or "nice little talk" or whatever it was. God, it was patronizing. But the man meant well. This was a big deal for him to say that to a woman, so— He was not the Parks and Recs director, absolutely not.

I remember coming home from vacation with my husband, and I was going through the old newspapers, and there was a headline—about that size or maybe that size [demonstrates]—

Vanderscoff: We're looking at the sports section of the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

Calciano: I am showing it's a half inch high or a little more than half inch.

Vanderscoff: Sure.

Calciano: I don't remember what the points are called, the type points. And there's this heading: "Mrs. Calciano Named to Commission." I thought, what? I've been named to the Santa Cruz Historical, Natural History and something or other commission? I was flabbergasted. Nobody had asked me. I said, "Tony,"—and if they'd asked me, I would have said no because it meant in the evenings, and I did

not like evening engagements. That's when I was supposed to be home with the kids and my family. I think I also just didn't like driving at night even then, although I did it all the time. I can still do it, but I think even then, I didn't like the glare of lights coming at me. But that was a shock, to find my name in moderate-size headlines saying that I'd been appointed to something.

Margaret Koch or somebody like that had done several stories about me in the context of the Regional History Project. It wasn't me; it was the Regional History Project, and I happened to be the human face of it.

Editing *Oh, That Reminds Me* . . .

Vanderscoff: We've gone more than ninety [minutes] here, and just before we close out, I do have just two quick questions. I noticed that you edited a book on Santa Cruz history by one Mrs. Phyllis Bertorelli Patton, called *Oh, That Reminds Me...*⁹⁹

Calciano: Oh, yes. Yes, that was quite an experience. I did that as a university employee, and *The Campus Guide*, I did as a university employee. This sweet little old lady—she was about eighty-nine then—wrote—I don't know if you've—have you looked at it at all?

Vanderscoff: I haven't found the book, itself, no.

Calciano: She had a very flowery way of writing. It wasn't the way she spoke, but "We had our something or other al fresco" or we—there were all these kind of big

⁹⁹ Phyllis Bertorelli Patton, *Oh, that reminds me . . .* Edited by Elizabeth Spedding Calciano. (Felton, CA: Big Trees Press, 1969).

words. She certainly hadn't gone to college; I'm not even sure if she had gone all the way through high school, but she obviously was a reader and had put this vocabulary into her brain. It was part of her writing style. But her sentences would get quite convoluted, extremely convoluted. So I tried to edit it with putting a verb in here or there or semicolon and that kind of thing. Sometimes I just had to scratch out two lines and summarize—

Vanderscoff: So she came in with a manuscript.

Calciano: Yes, and I guess she talked to Mr. Clark. I wouldn't have had the authority to say, "Oh, yes, I want to do—" And Wendell Simons was involved. I said, "I've never edited anything like this before, and I want to make sure I'm not using too heavy a hand but that I'm not leaving it so convoluted that nobody can read it." I gave him the editing I had done along with a Xerox of the original, and for the most part, he agreed with what I did. He made some changes, which were helpful.

But I remember the head of Special Collections, Rita Berner Bottoms, had a nice little reception for her, and I was there because I had edited it. I remember somebody came—"Are you the person who edited this?" And I said, "Well, yes." "Well, you didn't do a very good job." "Wow, okay." [Laughs.]

Vanderscoff: Criticism from the crowd. And so for the record, the subject matter—this was about local history?

Calciano: These was her recollections of growing up in Santa Cruz: the buggy ride here and so and so getting measles or typhus—I don't remember exactly, but it's just

vignettes, and there are different chapters. They were wonderful vignettes; it's just that they weren't too readable in the original version. I'm sure Special Collections has at least one copy and maybe a bunch, so when you're in there, you might just look at it for a minute or two.

Vanderscoff: We've covered a wide purview of things that you were doing in Santa Cruz at the time, and, of course, we still have more time tomorrow. But before we close out today, is there anything else you would like to say about your civic work in Santa Cruz or about any of the things that we were discussing last session? Tomorrow we'll talk about the Oral History Association, and we'll talk about leaving the project, but if there's anything else that you'd like to talk about today—

Calciano: No, I don't think so. I think you covered quite a lot of territory.

The Early Days of the Oral History Association

Vanderscoff: Today is Tuesday, September 29th, 2015, and this is Cameron Vanderscoff here with Elizabeth Calciano to finish up her oral history project. We are in Soquel, California. We've alluded several times to the Oral History Association, but as a part of thinking about your own work as an oral historian in the larger context of oral history at that time, I'd like to make that our first topic of discussion for today. The first meeting for the OHA was in 1966 at Lake Arrowhead. I'm curious about how you heard about the OHA and how you came to attend those early conferences.

Calciano: Well, it was, as you said, the first conference, and I was amazed how many people showed up because as far as I knew, there was Columbia University and University of California, Berkeley, and UCLA had started an oral history project in 1959. Some of the people who came were people who were thinking of starting one at their institution.

Willa Baum and I had both given birth. I don't know when her son, Noah, was born. So we were two nursing mothers, which was kind of interesting, although we left the children at home. And there were a number of other women. This was one place where there were, I would say, maybe 30 percent women, 40 percent. I didn't feel like the pioneering one, which was nice.

I imagine the way I got to know about it, Willa Baum probably phoned me, I would guess, or else Don Clark told me about it. I don't remember. But I said, "Oh, can I go?" "Yes, you can go." They would pay for it. So I went and it was very interesting.

I remember [Charles T.] Charlie Morrissey. I'm pretty certain he spoke at that first meeting because we were all outside on chairs. He stood against a nice background of trees. He was pretty young. He was thirty, thirty-one or something. He had been at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum doing interviews about JFK. And he had left. You'll have to ask him, but the impression I had—I think this is what he said to me, that was he just didn't like the constraints that were put on him as to what he could ask or what could—what would be proper or whatever. I think that's what he said.

He gave a talk, and it was marvelous! But he started it out with, "And if there are any reporters here, I want it noted that this is off the record." I thought, well, that's interesting." You know, that was the *big* time.

I became friends with Charlie and with Peter Olch and with several others. I still have talked with Charlie once a year or so.

Let's see, I'll concentrate on the first year and then I'll tell you about the second. It was a very collegial group. I don't know how many were there. I'd guess sixty or so, but I could be wrong. Enid [H.] Douglass from the Claremont Colleges was there. She had been doing some oral history. [William] Knox Mellon [Jr.] was there from Immaculate Heart College with a young woman who later became his wife, Carlotta. She later became appointment secretary for Gov. [Edmund Gerald] Jerry Brown's [Jr.] administration. And that doesn't mean keeping the appointment schedule; it meant screening the people who were being considered for various positions in the administration.

Oh, [Louis M.] Louis Starr from Columbia, of course. Couldn't miss him. He was always a larger-than-life presence. And his long-time assistant, Elizabeth Mason was there. And there was a lot of buzzing about how we were going to set this up and who would be the first president, who was Louis Starr.

I knew there was buzzing about me, whether I would be selected to be treasurer, and I thought, well, that's fine if they do it." But they chose Knox Mellon from Immaculate College because he was in his forties. This time it wasn't sex

discrimination; it was just because I was young. Elizabeth Mason said, “Well, yes, your turn will come later.” So okay, that was fine.

Then I went to the next oral history meeting, which was either in New York or Virginia.

Vanderscoff: In '67 it was in Arden House, in Harriman, New York.

Calciano: New York, okay. There were a lot of East Coast professorial types there as well as the cadre from the first oral history meeting. I remember the topic came up: should you edit or not edit transcripts. And there were people who said yes, you need to because there're all these false starts. There's a lot of clutter that you need to get out, and you might want to organize, as I said I did, topic by topic a bit.

Then that professor said, “No, you're tampering with primary sources. You cannot do that. It's terrible.” I got up and said—I guess I was fearless back then—I said, “Well, sometimes you have no choice” because I interviewed a elderly Yugoslav farmer, and the condition of the interview was that I put it in, and I said, “King's English.” He hadn't said, “King's English”—he'd said, “Correct” or whatever. And about two weeks later, after I got back home, Ward [H.] Bushee, who was the editor of the *Watsonville Pajaronian*, called me, and he said, “Hey, did you know you're on the front page of *The Wall Street Journal*?” I just about died.

Well, first I thought he was joking. I knew him because he was good friends with the doctor my husband was working with. But he wasn't kidding. There I was. They had a column every once in a while for things of general interest to people, and this was

a new field, so he was talking about oral history. I was quoted because I had given a very quotable type response in this debate. There had been no “off the record” business, and it hadn’t even occurred to me that there’d be a reporter there. And I nearly died because I thought if Mr. Luke Cikuth or any of his relatives or anybody in the Yugoslav community in Watsonville read this, boy, the Regional History Project was going to go down the drain, at least as far as that part of the county was concerned. I was really concerned. I took it to Don Clark. And, you know, what can you do? It’s after the fact. As far as I know, there were no repercussions.

Vanderscoff: You never heard anything.

Calciano: I never heard anything. I’m one of the few people that has twice landed on the front page of *The Wall Street Journal* while not doing anything particularly notable.

Vanderscoff: The other thing that’s interesting there to me is that *The Wall Street Journal* was covering the OHA. Now I would be very surprised to see proceedings for the OHA covered.

Calciano: I agree, but it was something new and different. If our group was studying a new kind of green caterpillar, they might have come. It wasn’t a great affection for oral history *per se*; it was just something new, of human interest. I would imagine Louis Starr phoned him. I don’t know. I’m just guessing.

Vanderscoff: And you said that Louis Starr was larger than life?

Calciano: Kind of, yes.

Vanderscoff: How so?

Calciano: I mean, he knew that he was the one who thought up the idea of recording people, and he had recorded all these luminaries that had been big shots in the President Franklin D. Roosevelt administration and who were now in their sixties and seventies. He just felt like it was kind of his colloquium, I think. He didn't do anything overtly rude or anything at all, but you just kind of knew it was his puddle and we were being welcomed to the puddle. So that was fine.

I think after Louis died, Elizabeth Mason may have taken over the helm at Columbia, but I don't know that for certain, but she was certainly the behind-the-scenes person who did a lot of the work. I don't think she got very much credit on her earlier years, but, again, I could be wrong. You've studied there. Did you see her name?

Vanderscoff: Yes, she became a significant figure and I also know that [Ronald J.] Ron Grele was at those early conferences.

Calciano: Yes.

Vanderscoff: But I don't know that he was with Columbia yet at that time. Because he was with Charlie Morrissey, I know—

Calciano: That's right.

Vanderscoff: —at the Kennedy Library, so—

Calciano: I can't remember if he was at the first conference or not. I didn't get to know him until a year or two later. There was somebody from UCLA, Bernie Galm. He served as the de facto bartender for all of us at the conference when we'd gather for the—

Vanderscoff: Was James Mink there, by any chance?

Calciano: James Mink. Yes, he was the head of the UCLA program—I have a feeling because he was a librarian or something. I'm not certain about that. But Bernie was kind of new, and he was about my age and was making himself useful. He was fun to talk to. The four of us talked quite a bit one evening, Olch and Morrissey and me and Bernie. It was a very collegial and nice group. And, of course, it grew larger each year a bit, and by I think it was 1973 that it was going to be at [the U.S. Military Academy at] West Point, New York. That place had been selected.

Oh, I had been nominated to the Oral History Association Council. Seven of us would meet in the winter at whatever place and discuss the various venues for the following year or two. We began to learn that we should plan several years ahead by then. I think it was before I was there that the military academy had been picked. I thought it was a neat thing, and the views were great.

I guess it was whoever was president then had decided to put on a workshop two days ahead of the actual symposium because there were lots of new projects starting, lots of new people coming in. Someone phoned and asked me to organize it. I said fine, because for me that was a very easy thing to do. How do you pick who

you interview? Be sure to take a simple tape recorder. [Laughs.] And so forth. Oh, and have it run at as slow a speed as you can because you don't want to interrupt the interview by getting up and changing reels because it was reel-to-reel back then, changing reels every half hour.

I knew people from the Oral History Association, so I just phoned various people across the country that I thought would be good. And much to my amazement, everybody I asked said yes. Years later, I realized, well yes, they loved it because then their institution would pay for them to go. I was pretty naïve. I've always been kind of naïve. So it was a good workshop, and it was the first one ever.

Vanderscoff: This was at West Point?

Calciano: Yes. But there was a big to-do because John [E.] Wickman, who was the president that year [1972-1973], had reserved forty rooms or something like that. West Point had assumed double occupancy, and it only reserved half as many rooms as we needed for the workshop and for the colloquium. Wickman very nearly canceled the whole darn thing. I didn't want it canceled. I was really pretty proud of what I had accomplished, getting this all together. But cooler heads prevailed, probably Charlie and Knox Mellon, I guess, because they found some place they could rent, some motel or hotel or something that was a short bus ride away. And the rest of us were in the rooms at West Point. I can't remember if it was—it wasn't dormitory style; it was I think rooms they had for, I don't know, VIPs or whatever. It wasn't opulent, but I didn't feel like I was in Motel 6—put it that way.

Vanderscoff: It wasn't in the barracks.

Calciano: Right, it wasn't the barracks, as far as I can remember.

The workshop went on pretty much without a hitch except the afternoon of the first day or the morning of the second day, there was one person who was blind and had a seeing eye dog, and I was in the back of the room, and when we broke for coffee break, somebody came up and tapped me on the shoulder and showed me that there was a big pile of dog poop in the center aisle, which surprised me because I thought service dogs were pretty much trained not to do that. Who knows what had caused it. She said, "What are you going to do about it?" Well, I certainly wasn't going to go grab a bunch of paper towels. I went and talked to one of the West Point staff, and they quickly got it cleaned up, and it was all nice after the coffee break [chuckles]. But that was the main unexpected thing that happened because it all went really quite smoothly. People who were there for just the workshop and not the colloquium were very pleased with all they had learned and went off to various parts of mainly the East Coast and South, as I recall, because it was more affordable for them to travel to New York than people in the Midwest or West Coast.

Vanderscoff: So it was like the first Oral History 101.

Calciano: Yes.

Vanderscoff: Because there still are workshops at the OHA Annual Meeting now. The tradition is they have them on the Wednesday prior to the conference.

Calciano: Yes, that's what it was. Well, I'm glad that it is still going on because at least at that point, we felt it was *very* necessary, and I think probably for new people coming in, it still is, so that's good.

Oh, it was a beautiful location. I'd never been to West Point. It was up on this bluff, and a couple of years earlier, I think we'd been to Airlie House in Virginia, which was also a beautiful location. We were at Jackson Hole one year, which I loved. It must have been in '74 because I had just started law school. I remember the ride from the airport to Jackson Hole was a fairly long ride, and there were fences on each side, and I saw a broken fence rail, and I thought, Oh, my gosh, that's a tort waiting to happen. Well, of course it wasn't. I mean, it was out in the middle of nowhere.

Vanderscoff: In Wyoming.

Calciano: And as long as it kept the cattle in, that was all that mattered.

But at the meeting before that year, there was a big push to have me become the first woman president of the Oral History Association. I said, "I can't because I'll be a first-year law student." And I said, "I will still come to the colloquium, and I'll still go to the winter planning session as a council member, but I just can't." There was a lot of lobbying in the evenings for me to accept it. If I hadn't already accepted law school—I mean, if it had been a year earlier, I would have said yes in a flash. So I think Alice [M.] Hoffman became the first woman president. She was very good, and she was at Penn State. She was doing nice work and was a good choice. I stayed on the council for that three-year term and that was the last year.

Vanderscoff: I have it through '76 you were on that.

Calciano: I did keep going to the winter meetings. One was at the Brown Palace Hotel and Spa in Denver, and that's where the head footman, so to speak, or head of the bellhop group or whatever would go up to the top—you've heard of this?—go up to the top of the building and let the ducks in that had been in the pond up on the roof, let them in, and he would take the elevator down to the main floor, and these ducks would come out and march out one by one, directly towards the big fountain that was in the center of the lobby, I think. It was quite a show! Everybody stood around and watched the ducks walk. That was fun.

We accomplished a good deal at those meetings because we had to set up the framework for where the next session would be and what the emphasis would be.

Vanderscoff: Do you remember any of those debates around emphasis? Each annual conference still has an emphasis theme, and I assume there must be some debate behind that.

Calciano: Well, there must have been, but we were very collegial. I'm sure that various ideas were proposed, and we discussed the merits of each and then picked one, but I don't remember any clash of three on one side and four on the other side. The only real clash that I noticed was in that second year, when these history professors were just aghast that any of us even *considered* editing the transcript. And yet they would consider newspapers a primary source.

And there were several newspapers in the Santa Cruz area, and I think only the *Santa Cruz Sentinel* has been microfilmed, although maybe they've microfilmed some of the other early ones since. But other newspapers went out of business at various times, and I guess their archives weren't kept. But there were several editors, and they'd have feuds between them and so forth. It was much more genteel by the time I moved to Santa Cruz County, but I found it very interesting.

We lived in Aptos, which was halfway between Watsonville and Santa Cruz, and the *Watsonville Pajaronian* which had won a Pulitzer Prize somewhere along the line. It was a very good, well-run newspaper, and it tended to take quite a liberal position. The *Santa Cruz Sentinel* was definitely very conservative. I subscribed to both. I would read about the Board of Supervisors meeting in the one paper, and then I'd read about it in the other. You'd hardly know they were talking about the same meeting. But between the two, I'd get a pretty good gist of what was going on. As long as I was in Aptos, I subscribed to both. The *Santa Cruz Sentinel* was the larger of the two papers, but the *Pajaronian* was actually the more interesting.

I was middle of the road. I never swayed to the radical left, as it was called, or the arch-conservative positions. The Republican Party at that time had a lot of people who were moderates, who are bemoaned by the current Tea Party types or ultra-right types in our Congress for giving away the store or whatever. But I would vote equally for a Republican or a Democrat, depending on who the person was.

When I was growing up my mother always said that she and my father were independent, and I said, "Why does anybody join a party and vote a party line? That

doesn't make sense to me." She had to think for a minute and then said, "Well, I guess it's because if you are really a Democrat or really a Republican, you want to get the best nominees possible, and so you work within the party to get—" And that made sense. I was about twelve or something.

And then I don't remember if it was—well, in '62, when I registered to vote for the first time, my choice was Republican, Democrat and "decline to state." And I chose "decline to state," but it seemed like a stigma to me because one of my first political awareness of things was the Army-McCarthy hearings, and the way [Sen. Joseph] McCarthy carried on [deep prosecutorial voice] "And do you and so forth. And I have here!" You know, he'd wave a paper with the names of "twenty-five such-and-so's," and he had nothing on the piece of paper. But "decline to state" was very reminiscent to me of the people who had been in the Communist Party or just peripherally registered and declined to testify. And "decline to state" didn't really have that much stigma in the sixties, but I didn't like it. And so the first time there was a hot primary on the Republican side, I registered Republican, and I decided the next time there's a big controversy on the Democratic side, I'll change my registration.

But the Democrats seemed to not have these internal fights as much as the Republicans did back then. So I had no reason to change my registration, so technically I've been a registered Republican since like '64. So I get all their soliciting for money and questionnaires. I remember one questionnaire I got. It was, "Do you agree that everybody—that every United States citizen should speak English?" or

something like that, “Agree, disagree, don’t know.” And I put “Disagree.” And I’d been reading through the questions, and a couple of them were really badly phrased. Their grammar wasn’t right. So I put a marginal note: “But I do think that legislative assistants should all speak proper English.” [Laughs.] And I put an arrow up to where I had made those corrections.

Vanderscoff: That’s right, that’s not the moment for a grammatical error.

Calciano: Yes. [Laughs.]

Vanderscoff: So you talk about your own approach to politics and being in a swing vote sort of position. When I go to the OHA conferences now, there is some political dimension to it. Were there any politics discussed, or was there a sense that there was left-wing or a political orientation to the work in any way?

Calciano: Well, there weren’t Republican-Democrat or conservative-leftist tensions. If I had to guess, I would say that most of the participants were on the more Democratic side of the dividing line. I think a number were kind of independent, and then I think there were a number of conservative—but conservative back then didn’t mean rabid conservative like it does now. We had people from West Point who were running an oral history project and people from some of the Eastern and Southern universities, and they were people who were conservative, but there was also a number of people who were liberal. It just really wasn’t an issue because the Republicans had lots of candidates for the various offices that were somewhat moderate, and the Democrats also had—most of their people were somewhat

moderate. The two sides could work together in Congress. That, to my way of thinking, is how it's supposed to work. You get some of your positions into a bill, but you give up on some other positions, and you never consider shutting a whole government down, for heaven's sakes, which is going on right now. It's being debated, I should say.

Vanderscoff: Furloughing and all that.

Calciano: Last I heard, they have enough votes to give a temporary extension to December 13 or something. I find it amazing that the conservative wing wants to shut down the government. I mean, they're doing it over Planned Parenthood.¹⁰⁰

They tried that in when then-Republican Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich was in. And a lot of people were really, really unhappy. People who rented to government employees, their rent was going to be held up. People who supplied pencils and paper to the offices, their invoices would not get paid. Essential services were kept going. I don't know by what sleight of hand they were able to do that, but there were a *lot* of people that just were on an enforced and unpaid vacation. My sense was that a lot of the American electorate was really angry, so I'm kind of surprised that they're doing it again.

Vanderscoff: Right, there is this depressing cyclical pattern.

Calciano: And, of course, they'd been swept in in 1994. And so they felt they had a mandate, I guess.

¹⁰⁰ Calciano is referring to Republicans wanting to defund Planned Parenthood in 2015 after a controversy over an edited [and in many opinions, distorted] video by an anti-abortion group.

Vanderscoff: Right. So one thing that you mentioned was that the only really significant disagreement you could remember was the disagreement with the historians about maintaining the integrity of these sources. So was that a debate less within the oral history community and more with these historians who came?

Calciano: Well, you didn't hear Louis Starr advocating no editing. I think most of us who were practicing the art, or skill, or whatever you want to call it, the profession of oral history, were for some editing. Some were for wholesale: "We'll pick out the parts that are good, and that's what we'll print," but most of us were just trying to clear up the text. I don't know that all the pro—"don't do any editing"—were history professors that were not involved in oral history. I don't know that. Maybe it was only two or three or four out of the eighty or so people. But that was a rather dramatic debate. Of course, it did not get resolved. It was just debated.

I'm sure over the years there were other discussions, energetic discussions, but I don't remember anything quite as large as that. But possibly the reason I remember it so well is that I landed on front page of *The Wall Street Journal*, because that's something you cannot forget, particularly when you think your whole project's in jeopardy.

Vanderscoff: So Charlie Morrissey was interviewed in the *Oral History Review* in '97 and what he says about these early meetings really chimes in with a lot of what you're saying, because he said there was just an extraordinary collegiality, and "we'd sit up half the night talking and enjoying each other." So there's this sense that it was

this really, at first, quite a small and then slowly growing but a tight-knit community nationwide that you became part of.

Calciano: Yes, absolutely. Certainly when I served on the board, I was serving with people from all over the country, seven of us, and it was very collegial and interesting. And as it got larger and larger, some of those of us who had been there from the beginning tended to gather together more—Amelia Chita Fry Davis from Berkeley, I think she and Willa both came sometimes. Sometimes just Chita came, I think. Amelia Fry is her proper name.

But yes, it was just really fun. It was a kind of convention, so to speak, where you really looked forward to going and exchanging ideas and getting new ideas and so forth. So I'm not surprised that Charlie's recollections are similar to mine. I'll have to go read what he said sometime.¹⁰¹

Vanderscoff: Yes. So you have this small group. One particular colloquium that I'd like to talk about is the one at Pacific Grove that happened at—

Calciano: Asilomar Conference Grounds.

Vanderscoff: Exactly. And that's in '70, and I ask because UC Santa Cruz was actually the cosponsor of that event, and apparently Dean McHenry gave the welcome on the second day of the conference. I think now the administration is supportive, but the idea that the chancellor would come would be—

¹⁰¹ See Tracy E. K'Meyer, "An Interview with Charles T. Morrissey Part I: Getting Started: Beginning an Oral History Career." *Oral History Review* 24/2 Winter 1997: 73-94.

Calciano: Well, as I said, the whole reason my project existed was because the chancellor wanted it to exist, and he thought it was a good idea. He must have learned of it from Louis Starr's project and from Willa Baum's. I remember I was hired as an editor because when the Berkeley oral history project had started the pencil pushers in the administration had no idea how to classify Willa and the other people. So it was decided she would be an "editor." Is that how they're still classified?

Vanderscoff: No. I believe they just did some rebranding up at Berkeley.¹⁰²

Calciano: Well, at any rate, so I was an editor, and I went up the steps—you know, there were five steps in each rank, and then I became a senior editor.

But I remember when my husband's uncle was visiting us—he was a charming man. I think he was born in Italy; my husband's father was born in the United States. But he made his living—well, for a while I guess he ran gambling parlors [chuckles], but I don't really know about that. But in his later years he'd do aluminum siding and this and that, and there were always a number of jobs available for people like Big Uncle Jim. He was Big Uncle Jim because one of my husband's brothers was a Jim also, so he was Little Uncle Jim. I could tell that Big Uncle Jim was very pleased by the fact that his hourly wage was considerably higher than mine.

And I actually raised Jimmy. His senior year in high school he came out because he and his parents were arguing, as teenagers might tend to do, and I would edit his

¹⁰² Oral historians are still often classified in the editor series at the University of California campuses. Also, Berkeley had recently changed its office name from Regional Oral History Office to 'Oral History Center.

essays and things and do some tutoring and he did the dishes in return. His grades got up enough so that he could go to Humboldt State [University]. He thrived there. Then a couple of years later, they asked if I would take the younger son, Frank, and I said, "Well, I'd be happy to." This would be for his junior and senior years. I was twenty-four when Jim came, so I went to Parents Night, and one of the teachers said, "Oh, you must be Jim's mother." And then he adjusted his glasses and said, "Oh, no, you couldn't be his mother." [Laughs.]

But when they asked if I'd take Frank. I said, "Well, yes, but I don't think Frank would want to come. He's on the football team; he's active in Scouts. He's already up to star Scout or something. I'd really be surprised if he wants to come. But if he really wants to come, then yes." Well, we picked him up at the airport, and he didn't know quite what had happened to him. He was just stuck on a plane and sent out. He'd never been asked.

Vanderscoff: Wow.

Calciano: Yes. It could have been a disaster. Imagine having a sixteen-year-old that was getting into fights with his father and all of a sudden was shipped off and he didn't know where or why. Well, it turned out he was a lovely young man, and I did a lot of tutoring because he was, I guess you'd say, dyslexic or something. When he first came, I had him write a one-page essay for me so that I could see where he was in his development. He'd never written an essay in his life because the schools in an industrial city on the East Coast were not geared to sending kids to college particularly. And he didn't know when to put a "d" on the word "and" and when to

just leave it as “a-n.” I edited his paper, and he said later that when I handed it back to him, he said it looked like I had butchered a calf over it. It was so much red. [Laughs.]

Vanderscoff: The red ink.

Calciano: Yes, the red ink on it. Jimmy had switched his speaking language from Eastern, working-class lingo, with lots of “ain’ts” and “whoses” or “youses” and stuff to Standard English within six weeks of his coming to us. Frank was very cooperative, but he kept his language that year the way it had been. But he went back home to Bristol, Connecticut for the summer and worked in the factory that his father had worked at. His father got him a job that summer. He went back to Bristol and realized he could hear the difference in the language. He could see the job prospects for his coworkers, and he decided he better pay attention to Standard English. When he came back to us for the senior year, he converted over to Standard English in about six weeks and still speaks beautiful English. Even though he was dyslexic then, he’s quite a reader now and has done very well in his own appraisal business up in Eugene, Oregon.

I remember one evening we picked him up, when we were riding home from the airport, I turned to Frank, and I said, “Well, I guess you know what the deal is. You do all the dishes, and I do the tutoring.” And he said, “What?” Nobody had even told him that! He’d never washed a dish in his life. That was what women did. And so the fact that he was so pleasant and polite and nice when it could have just been a

disaster—I was twenty-seven; he was sixteen. But anyway, it worked out for the best for the two young men.

Vanderscoff: It's interesting that you were an editor in the Regional History Project and then at home you were doing all this editorial work on these papers.

Calciano: Right. Well, not—well, editorial in the sense of correcting grammar, correcting misplaced modifiers. I remember in Jim's, in the older one's English class, they had a series of questions, and he absolutely could not see why this sentence was wrong: "We rented a house on a lake with five bedrooms." He couldn't see what was wrong. I said, "Well, have you ever heard of a lake that has five bedrooms?" "Oh." So I was doing a lot of that kind of teaching.

Vanderscoff: So before we move on from the OHA to some closing topics, I'm struck that in the first couple years, it seems that it's mostly you and Willa. To some extent, it's you and Bancroft, as far as '63, '64.

Calciano: Yes. I didn't have much interaction at all with UCLA, but it was just a matter of distance, I think. I really didn't go up to Berkeley very much at all after the first summer that I was working. Willa was a good teacher and also, obviously, a good head of the project or it wouldn't have succeeded so nicely.

Vanderscoff: If you look at the cosponsorship of this Asilomar conference, it's you; it's UC Berkeley; it's UCLA and it's the Forest History Society, which was affiliated with UC Santa Cruz, actually, for a while. Charlie Morrissey, in the same article, mentions a particular bonfire on the beach of Pacific Grove as a gathering point. So it

seems that you became a part of this much larger community. And so I'm curious, then, what your sense of what the value or impact was for you as an interviewer, and then for the Regional History Project?

Calciano: Well, I learned a great deal. And perhaps people learned a little bit from me because I was, I think, one of the few projects that was not interviewing the great luminaries of the time, the ones who had been leaders in the region or the nation. I was doing the common man. Later, in '69, '70, '71, somewhere in there we had a young man speak to us who was a history teacher, Eliot Wigginton, in a high school in the hills of Tennessee or Georgia—hillbilly country, to use the pejorative that was used back then.¹⁰³ He had his students going out and interviewing their parents and, when possible, their grandparents about everyday life—because life was already beginning to change there because first the radio came, which gave them all exposure to how other people spoke the language. I've been told that the old-timers there were still speaking a version of seventeenth-century English. I don't know personally that that's true, but they lived pretty isolated in those hills for years in the Tennessee hill country. And then Wigginton put together a book of 200 pages, 250 pages of these interviews that his students had done, and it was called *The Foxfire Book*. I still have a copy. I have no idea whether Special Collections has a copy, because it's really not their geographical area, but it was very interesting and he was one of the main speakers at that colloquium. He was doing what I was doing but he was trying to get to that earlier generation by having his students

¹⁰³ See Eliot Wigginton, *The Foxfire Book: Hog Dressing; Log Cabin Building; Mountain Crafts and Foods; Planting by the Signs; Snake Lore, hunting tales, faith healing; moonshining; and other affairs of plain living* (Garden City, N.Y. : Doubleday, 1972).

interview—and it might not have been a perfect solution as far as were they all skilled interviewers? I don't know. But he was gathering all kinds of information from these students who learned from their grandparents. It was really pioneering work down in that region. But I was doing common man interviews.

Vanderscoff: Right.

Calciano: I brought a couple of my interviews to the first couple of meetings, just like Willa did and other people, and they were put on display somewhere where people could thumb through them. Several people at that first and second colloquia would come up and say, "That's interesting. We never thought of just doing the common man," because the pattern had been set for doing the luminaries.

Vanderscoff: That's very interesting to me. Because I think the motion in oral history has been in exactly that direction. The idea is that the real function of oral history, or a big part of the purpose of oral history, is interviewing everyday people. So that's interesting to hear you say that people were sort of surprised that you were doing this Regional History Project work before the *Foxfire* and all of that.

Calciano: Mm-hm. And I'm surprised to hear that the emphasis in a lot of projects is the common man, because it was definitely luminaries before then. Even Berkeley, they were doing politicians and university presidents and deans. I think they were beginning to do interviews in the wine industry, with the heads of wineries and so forth. I shouldn't speak for Berkeley because they can speak for themselves, but my impression is that they were mainly doing the important people in each field.

Of course, I did McHenry and Page Smith, but I was surprised when current director of UCSC's Regional History Project Irene Reti said that a lot of the work that the Regional History Project is doing now is documenting university history because I had viewed that as a one-time thing, in the case of the students, twice. But there's only one first chancellor, only one first provost of Cowell, and I was getting them on record. My impression was that people wouldn't be all that interested in who was teaching in the eighties or the nineties but apparently the project, probably under Randall Jarrell, took that turn to—

Vanderscoff: Yes, there's an extensive university history archive.

Calciano: Yes, that's fine. I just was surprised.

Vanderscoff: So it's interesting to hear that part of what *you* were bringing to the OHA was this project that was oriented towards viewing everyday people as opposed to these more elite figures that you might be getting.

Calciano: Well, let us not give me too inflated a reputation here, because I was definitely one of the small fry, although I guess I was articulate enough that I was being bandied around as possible treasurer of the OHA, which was being created then. But maybe just three or four people had looked at my volumes and had said that that was interesting. I don't want to give the impression that I was the junior Louis Starr, because I wasn't. I was twenty-six, and I was learning as much as I could from all these other people. But yes, I was doing the common man—ones that could describe the industry that they worked in, like lumbering—and that was unusual.

We would usually have a very interesting speaker at our national meetings. We had Alex Haley, the author of *Roots: The Saga of an American Family*. Before that, we had Cornelius Ryan, who did a lot of documenting of World War II, and he was interviewing soldiers as well as generals. At least that was my impression. And we had William Manchester. We were a small enough group that in the evening, after dinner, those who were interested would just gather around and have a general conversation with these famous authors, who were charming. Well, William Manchester wasn't that charming, but he was pleasant enough and agreed to answer all the questions we had. I didn't have many questions for them, but I was all ears, just sitting there, absorbing. And it was really fun. I just brought back generalized knowledge, I guess.

Vanderscoff: Some of your notes are in the Regional History Project archival files. I've seen lots of notes on tape preservation and on how Columbia did it versus how Berkeley was doing it.

Calciano: Oh, okay. I'd write, what, memos to Mr. Clark?

Vanderscoff: Yes, there's a memo. They're mostly really enthusiastic. There is one where you criticized a session for using very scholarly "gobbledygook" language and that sort of a thing.

Calciano: Well, that's the one that I was referring to, where the issue of editing or not editing was raised, apparently, the Second Colloquium.

Vanderscoff: Right. But yes, a wealth of notes about that generalized knowledge.

Calciano: This is just a side thing, but it was kind of interesting that Page Smith, when he wrote his *City on a Hill* book—he asked me to be one of the readers, and about ten years ago I came across the critique I made of it. And a lot of his book was fine, but when he was talking about the period that I knew about, which was Tudor and Stuart times in England, he was way too general in places, or wrong. I read what I wrote. My God, that was the Harvard training coming out of me. I'm embarrassed, but I sounded like a real pedant. I was using all that professor-type lingo in this critique. He thanked me, and he thanked me in the preface to his book, where my name was misspelled. So it's all right, but it was kind of ironic. I was not particularly influential on him, but I remember noticing that he had kind of cleaned up those passages that I was questioning. That was kind of funny. Yes, I did a lot of different things in the beginning years. Somebody at the weekend alumni reunion was saying that one of their various jobs was to go out and chase the cows out of the parking lot when the VIPs came.

Vanderscoff: [Laughs.]

Calciano: I was never asked to do that, but all of us were doing whatever we could to make the university work and make it work with the townspeople. Obviously the Regional History Project has lasted, and I'm really pleased that it has lasted all these years.

Vanderscoff: Absolutely. And so just for the record with the OHA, so your involvement with that then ends in the middle seventies, after your council term.

Calciano: Yes, but I kept up with some of the people I knew. John Wickman headed oral history for the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library, I think—I remember discussing with him (on a phone call) at one point something about that he was getting a bit restless and was thinking about looking for a different position somewhere else. I don't really know if he did or not, but presidential libraries were always well represented at the colloquia, initially the Kennedy one but then the others: Eisenhower, and I think we had somebody from the Harry S. Truman Library—yes. And then I still talk with Charlie Morrissey. He had been at the Kennedy Library soon after they started their oral history project. When he quit, he went out on his own, freelancing, which he was very successful at, but it was a courageous thing to do. I believe he was at the Vermont Historical Society in between the Kennedy Library and freelancing.¹⁰⁴ Another friend, Peter Olch, unfortunately died too young. I think he was maybe in his sixties, but he was interesting because his father was a doctor and wanted him to go to medical school even though his interest was more in history. And so he did, and he became board-certified as a surgeon, I believe, and didn't like that. So he went back and became board certified as a pathologist, and he

¹⁰⁴ "Charles Morrissey started in oral history by interviewing former members of the White House staff during the Harry Truman presidency and subsequently became director of the John F. Kennedy Library's Oral History Project. While directing an intensive two-year oral history of the Ford Foundation (1971-1973) he served as President of the U.S. Oral History Association. Frequently he teaches intensive "how-to-do-it" oral history workshops, ranging from Vermont College in Montpelier (since 1975), Portland State University in Oregon (since 1979), and San Francisco (since 1995). He has lectured about oral history applications and methodologies at more than 50 American colleges, published more than 50 articles on the same themes, reviewed books in 30 publications, and from 1948 to 1988 edited the *International Journal of Oral History*. Currently near completion is a book chapter of 14,000 words about oral history interviewing skills." See https://www.pritzkermilitary.org/whats_on/pritzker-military-presents/charlie-morrissey-his-life-and-career/ See also: Tracy E. K'Meyer, A Two-Part Interview with Morrissey: "An Interview with Charles T. Morrissey: The Oral History Career of Charles T. Morrissey. *The Oral History Review*. Volumes 24 and 26.

still didn't really like it, and he found that he was able to become head of oral history at the National Institutes of Health, which was his niche. I remember that when we were in—I don't even know if NIH is housed in New York or Washington at this point.

Vanderscoff: I don't know.¹⁰⁵

Calciano: But I remember him taking Charlie and me and a few others through their library, and he said (pointing to a separate room) this is where the incunabula is, which was what the books printed before 1500 was called—I think that's the definition of the term. The librarians had been very concerned about what happens if there's a fire in the library, with water damage and all that, so they rigged up a system that if there was a fire, that room would immediately fill up with carbon dioxide. And then somebody pointed out that if they did that, whoever was in that room might well die before he could get out of the room. So there was a lot of pioneering going on in a lot of different areas.

Vanderscoff: Lessons learned.

Calciano: Lessons learned. Fortunately, nobody died. But yes, there were things like that that stand out. I think I've given you most of the highlights and pretty much the feeling. And it's coming up on the fiftieth anniversary of the Oral History

¹⁰⁵Headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland.

Association, and Charlie will be going there, and I may go, too.¹⁰⁶ He thinks we're the only two still alive from that early, early group. But we may not be.

Vanderscoff: It'll be right near here in Long Beach.

Calciano: Yes, so I probably will go down.

Vanderscoff: In about a year from now. That'll be great. I'll be there.

Calciano: Oh, well, good! [Laughs.] I then will know *two* people there.

The Impact of Watergate & Interviewing Page Smith

Vanderscoff: Exactly, exactly. In the remaining time, I'd like to talk about the end of your time at the Regional History Project. It seems to me that the last interview you did there was the Page Smith interview that you've alluded to for a while.¹⁰⁷ I thought that was an interesting interview in that he didn't want a transcript rendered of it. He only wanted a tape. He was concerned about Watergate having happened recently and transcripts misrepresenting, and that led to a long discussion at the end on—

Calciano: On the tape, right?

¹⁰⁶ Calciano and Morrissey were both honored at the 2016 Oral History Association conference in Long Beach, California as founding members of the organization. The records documenting the history of the Oral History Association are held at the University of North Texas Library. A guide to the collection is available online at:

<http://findingaids.library.unt.edu/?p=collections/findingaid&id=127#.WjheZYZrzxo>

¹⁰⁷ See Interviewer and Editors Elizabeth Spedding Calciano, Interviewer and Randall Jarrell, Editor, Page Smith: Founding Cowell College and UCSC, 1964-1973 (Regional History Project, UCSC Library 1996). Available at <http://library.ucsc.edu/reg-hist/smith>.

Vanderscoff: Yes, exactly, where you mentioned that you've already sunk quite a lot of resources into transcribing this, and so him getting cold feet in this way was really problematic. And it wound up being sealed for twenty years. It wasn't published until after he passed away and his daughter signed off on it.

Calciano: I had totally forgotten that part of that interview, but when you refreshed my memory two or three sessions ago, yes, I was just astounded at that time that all of a sudden he wasn't going to release it, because we'd done, I don't know whether five or six interviews—

Vanderscoff: Yes, there were several, at least.

Calciano: Yes, and all the ones up to then had been transcribed because I always waited until I had a transcript of the prior one before I'd start the next session, so that I could see if there were loose ends that I should pick up. And we'd spent all this time transcribing all this. Of course, it was interesting stuff that he was telling us. But I had totally forgotten that.

[pause] Anyway, I can remember when I applied for law school—I was in the university library when I was applying, and we got the Berkeley paper, and we of course got the *Sentinel*. And about the time I was applying, the fictional character, Joanie Caucus, was applying to law school, in *Doonesbury*.

Vanderscoff: Garry Trudeau's *Doonesbury*.

Calciano: Yes. And, of course, she left her children, which I did *not* do, but when he sent her application in to the admissions office at Berkeley, they said: Well, you know, she seemed really qualified, but they would need a Social Security number. So *Doonesbury* said, “Well, what about Richard Nixon’s? He won’t be using it anymore.” [Laughter.] And Joanie said, “No! Not a number of a known criminal!” This was in the Berkeley newspaper; I don’t think the Nixon thing was in the actual comic strip.

And then actually at my law school graduation, “Calciano” is not too far from “Caucus,” and I think there were one or two chairs next to me before there was an empty chair with a cap on it, and that was Joanie Caucus’s chair, and Garry Trudeau was our graduation speaker. You know, of all the people who have spoken at various formal events in my life, I remember that about as well as any because it was Garry Trudeau, and I’d been following Joanie Caucus’s exploits through two or three years at that point.

Vanderscoff: Sure. And so there you see the influence of Watergate.

Calciano: Oh, that was big.

Vanderscoff: So Page Smith had this concern. Was that a unique interaction that you had someone with that preference for tape over transcript and this interest in sealing something?

Calciano: Well, we always gave people the right to seal something if they wanted to, my everyman-type interviews, because I wanted them to feel free to talk and not be watching every word. That’s why I asked for a safe, which was a filing cabinet safe,

but it accomplished the same thing. Doris knew the combination, I knew it, and Clark and Simons I think knew it. I don't even know if Rita knew it. I don't think so, but I could be wrong.

I found Watergate fascinating—just absolutely fascinating. And, in fact, it was after my husband and I had listened on the radio while we were driving home from somewhere. He said, “You know, you should go to law school.” I said, “Oh, that would have to be Stanford or Berkeley. It would be a long way.” But he kept urging me, and I kept thinking, well, actually, I wouldn't have to go back and study a lot of calculus—

Vanderscoff: As you would if you were to do architecture.

Calciano: Yes. And there was no point in going back to get a Ph.D. in history, which I could have, at Stanford. Because of the draft deferment during the Vietnam War, the field was getting crowded. At the oral history conventions, I would talk with people who were in academic institutions. They were saying, “It's terrible. We don't even have places for all our PhDs to go.” And this was PhDs in English history or Medieval history or whatever.

So I was well aware that there was this glut of young, bright PhD people—and maybe not so bright, the ones who were only there for draft deferment. So it would have been kind of futile to for a PhD in history because I assumed I was going to live in Santa Cruz the rest of my life, and I could have only applied for teaching positions at San Jose State University, St. Francis [Career College] you know, schools that were

within a halfway reasonable commuting area. And the chances that as a new PhD I would get a position when there were already many, many people knocking at the door was not very likely.

So yes, I picked up lots of general information at the oral history conferences because that's where I learned about the glut of young PhDs coming. So there were lots of peripheral benefits, both for the project and also for me that I picked up in the colloquia, even if I can't bring them all to mind right now.

But Watergate was a really big deal. As I said, I found it fascinating. And in '74 I took my son, who was then eleven, on the first backpack I had done since I'd been a kid. I'd gone on a few of my parents' backpacks. Andrew was eleven and scrawny, and he couldn't carry much weight, and I couldn't carry much weight, and so I spent months figuring out what's the lightest this and the lightest that—and reading books on backpacking and so forth and so on. We had a very nice three nights, four days on that hike, and we came out and scrubbed up a little bit, and then we were driving down out of the mountains, and the news on the radio was just full of Watergate.

They kept saying, "After the events of Monday, I think it's almost certain President Richard Nixon will have to resign." "Well, yes, after what occurred on Monday, it's almost positive." They kept referring to the events of Monday, and they never told us what Monday was. My son was only eleven, but he was listening to all this stuff and saying, "Well, what happened on Monday?" And, of course, that was I guess when the "smoking gun" was discovered.

So I'm not surprised that Page Smith was extremely aware of Watergate. The fact that he thought it should stay in tape form only just astounded me. I think in that early debate at that second-year colloquium, there were a couple of advocates of not doing any transcription, just leaving the tapes there for future people. My policy was the tapes would be there if there was a scholar who wanted to listen to the actual tape. And if it had been released, I wouldn't let anybody listen to a part that had been deemed confidential or that the person had excised from the manuscript, although nobody ever excised a whole chunk of anything. In fact, they didn't edit it very much except to correct names and places and maybe add a little bit of this and that.

So when I heard that now the tapes are available—I learned this from you—as well as the transcript going on the Internet, I thought it was wonderful. The whole point is to disseminate information. But I was really worried about the Cikuth tapes. I don't know whether Irene or Randall released that or not.

Vanderscoff: My understanding is that that is not online.¹⁰⁸

Calciano: Great, because I liked his speech, and I thought it was interesting and so forth, but it was not 100 percent Standard English, which was what Mr. Cikuth insisted on. He would not do the interviews unless I promised to edit his answers to my questions into Standard English.

¹⁰⁸Due to Calciano's concerns about releasing the audio for this oral history, the current director decided not to make the audio for the Luke Cikuth oral history accessible online or in the library.

So anyway, Watergate was a huge influence. But the only time I'd ever heard anybody advocate just listening to the tapes and not transcribing was a couple of history professors at that second colloquium, who were very much purists.

Vanderscoff: This must have been strange, then, to hear Page Smith.

Calciano: I haven't had a chance to read that, but you said that I was trying to dissuade him.

Vanderscoff: Yes, and saying that he was wasting the resources of the Project, effectively—and also concerns about whether he might have said anything libelous, which is an ongoing thing with the project. We always keep tabs, just to be sure that someone hasn't said something that could be construed as libelous.

Calciano: And, of course, I was not a lawyer then, but I was well aware of libel and slander laws because if you're running an oral history project, you've got to be aware. I never interviewed any of the flag-waving types or the arch conservatives or the people who were inclined to say whatever they think, whether it's libelous or not. The people I was interviewing were sensible old-timers or were students, in the student case, and then the chancellor and then Page Smith. And nobody said anything libelous. McHenry wanted his sealed for a number of years because he would still be working with these people, and he made some descriptions of some people, particularly of Reagan, that would be unflattering, but they wouldn't have been libelous.

But anyway, yes, I was aware of libel and slander, as young as I was, and probably I became aware of it partly from those colloquia because people like Louis Starr really had to be aware of what their interviewees were saying. I don't know that he felt that way in the beginning, but I think by '67, '68 he and Elizabeth Mason must probably have been aware of slander and libel. And, of course, Columbia right from the get-go offered the right of confidentiality, that the transcripts not be released until either the person died, or earlier if they agreed to release it. And that's what Dean McHenry did.

My second husband, Robert Georgeon, and I were up in Santa Cruz, and I think McHenry had written to me or something, maybe about the transcripts being—that he'd released them. I can't really remember. But anyway, we were invited to see them in Bonny Doon, and so Robert and I went up there and had a very nice talk with—I still called him Dean McHenry—I mean Chancellor McHenry. Dean was his first name, as well as he *was* a dean for a long time. And Jane McHenry, she was always, of course, Mrs. McHenry. But the faculty speakers at the Fiftieth Anniversary celebration were reminiscing about how friendly and down-to-earth both McHenry's were.

Vanderscoff: So you develop all these relationships with these individuals, and you interview Page Smith. And I think this is '74. Shortly after this, you leave the Project to go to law school at Berkeley—and so if you could just walk us through leaving the Project.

The Decision to Leave the Regional History Project

Calciano: Well, it was not a decision I made easily, because it was a lovely job, interesting job. But I knew it was kind of a dead-end job, in that I couldn't go on to establish a project at the University of Chicago or somewhere. I couldn't go on the national job market because I thought I was always going to live in Santa Cruz. And my job was half time. I still had small children, so half time was fine, but I guess I just wanted to not be doing the same thing for thirty or forty years. And, given how young I was when I started, that's what it would have been.

My husband put this idea of law school into my head and kept advocating it, and I kept saying, "Well, I'd have to rent a student apartment up there in Berkeley, so that I'd have a parking space, and I probably would have to stay a couple of nights." And I did. I'd go up Monday and come home Tuesday, up Wednesday, home on Thursday, round trip on Friday. That was a grueling commute because Highway 17's never fun, and it was even dicier back then. And, of course, six in the morning is not my favorite time to get up, but you do what you've got to do.

So, it took me a while to decide I really wanted to do that. But my husband was pushing law school, and it did seem to open up a lot of avenues, which it indeed did. Unfortunately, we also ended up having a long, prolonged divorce. I don't even know how I survived through law school because the divorce was so wearing on me psychologically. But I did survive.

Fortunately, I had my own way of studying. I didn't have a lot of time to study. We'd been advised by a couple of young faculty people, "Don't bother to buy *Black's*

Dictionary of Law,” and I thought, “I’m the kind of person that needs to have that kind of reference.” So any time there was a word I didn’t know, I’d go to *Black’s*. And, of course, there were lots of words I didn’t know, particularly in the early case laws of the 1600s, 1700s. But somehow I’d studied well enough that I was able to pull out good grades in that semester and then the next one. Law Review was the top eight percent of the class or something, and thank God I didn’t make that. I couldn’t have done it because that’s a lot of work, to be on Law Review. But I was in the next group, approximately 9 to 13 percent, and was asked to be on Moot Court, which I did.

So I interviewed for summer clerk positions between my second and third year. That’s what lots of people did. I remember when I was in the first year of law school, going into the locker room or whatever, and all these male kids that had been grunge personified—you know, sweatshirts with the arms pulled off—all of a sudden they were in three-piece suits, and their beard was either gone or it was trimmed. I didn’t know what had happened. And somebody told me, “Well, it’s interview time for the students,” and so of course they spiffed up a little bit.

I knew that that would be my best chance to land a position because I was certain my second-year grades were not going to be anywhere near like the first, and that indeed is true. My grades came back up in the third year, thank heavens. So early in my second year I interviewed with a lot of firms, including Stevens, Jones, LeFevre and Smith. I wanted a small firm because I didn’t know anybody in Los Angeles. I definitely did not want to go to San Francisco with its cold fog and stodgy and

snooty old partners. I interviewed with a number of firms and had a lot of offers, but I had decided I wanted Stevens, Jones. It took several weeks to get the offer from them. They weren't sure because they had never had a woman before, but I kept waiting for them to respond because I was getting a lot of offers, which was very nice, from other firms.

I was not in the generation of women that had to be the first of everything, as far as female law students getting into the big firms. O'Melveny & Myers had taken its first woman six years earlier, and she made partner just before I joined them in '77. There were a handful of women associates I got to know because it was like fifteen of us out of 200 attorneys. I got to know them because O'Melveny always had one weekend where the whole firm would go somewhere. Some of the more feminist women were really unhappy that the firm would pay for the greens fees for all the men, but nothing comparable for the women. They were not offered a chance to golf. Some of the women negotiated a "perk" that all of us could manage. And somebody the next year who was a seventh-year associate, female, was passed over for partnership in spite of the incredible amount of work she produced. She dressed too "womanly." She didn't put on pantsuits or, you know, equivalent of a skirt and blazer or whatever. She apparently did dynamite work, but she was a woman. This is at O'Melveny! But it was the bond department, which was full of older gentlemen, and they would not give her partnership.

So Pillsbury-Jones, which then was a San Francisco law firm, had been wanting to break into the Los Angeles bond market. And as I had been told at the time, and I

believe it, that O'Melveny pretty much had a lock on all the bond business. If a New York firm was going to make an offering and they needed a Southern Californian legal opinion and they really wanted the gold stamp of approval, they got a legal opinion from O'Melveny & Myers. When this woman was passed over for a partnership, Pillsbury hired her right off the bat and she started a bond department for them in Los Angeles and it just took off like crazy. The O'Melveny grip on the bond business—they didn't lose a ton, but they no longer were the only place to go because all these underwriters knew Ruth. She had been interfacing with them for seven years, editing the proxies and so forth. So the worm kind of turned there a little bit.

Vanderscoff: And so you move into this world in Los Angeles, this legal world, facing this resistance against female attorneys. So this is then when you move away from Santa Cruz permanently?

Calciano: No, I stayed in Santa Cruz through law school and did that commute all the time.

Vanderscoff: Through '77.

Calciano: Yes. I'd always been too cold in Santa Cruz, and particularly because we settled in Aptos, which has—the fog comes in everywhere, but it lasts longer in Aptos than it does in Santa Cruz. Also, I didn't want to be where I would be running into my ex-husband every time I turned around. Once I realized I was going to be divorced, I knew that I would move to Southern California.

Vanderscoff: Santa Cruz can certainly be small that way.

Calciano: Let me just get back—did I tell you in the earlier interviews we’ve done that I got a phone call from Stevens, Jones the spring of my third year, saying that the small, all-male law firm had broken up because they couldn’t—I told you about Barney Smith, the old partner who said, “I never thought there’d be a babe.”

Vanderscoff: Right.

Calciano: Well, there obviously were other tensions within this firm, but my hiring became the catalyst for that firm of twenty-nine men to break into about four or five different pieces, none of which could afford the luxury of a first-year associate. So they helped me get a couple of interviews, and I had interviewed with O’Melveny in the second year, but because it was a big firm, I had not accepted their offer. I can remember Lowell [C.] Martindale [Jr.]; I ran into him early in the third year as he was interviewing, and I said, “Well, I’ve accepted a permanent position.” And he said, “Okay. Well, if anything ever happens, just give me a call.” And I thought, “Well, that’s nice.”

Well, then the world kind of fell apart, and so I gave him a call. So I interviewed with three firms, and O’Melveny seemed to be the best of the three big firms. I think I would have found it easier to blend into Los Angeles and La Cañada’s—not “society” but just, you know, learning who the best doctors were, know this, know that, if I had been hired by a twenty-nine-man firm, (which would have become a thirty-

person firm), if that had worked out. But obviously, if there was enough hostility to a woman being hired, it would not have been a nice, fun, easy place.

O'Melveny was very nice. I knew that being a single parent, it was very unlikely that I could carry the billable hour requirement. The requirement wasn't too bad when I joined O'Melveny, but the handwriting was on the wall that it would be going up. And, you know, single parents have got to do other things. So I had decided that I would leave at the end of the third year. And I think the O'Melveny partners had decided it would be time for me to leave. But the partner that was the closest thing to my mentor said, "But you take your time. There's no hurry." I said, "Well, that's nice." And I went with a small firm, and then a couple of years later I went out on my own.

Vanderscoff: Which you're doing currently.

Calciano: Yes. I'm winding up now. I'm not taking new clients, because when I had the breast cancer and the chemotherapy I had to farm out most of my regular clients, and I didn't try to scoop them back in, but I did see my old clients and was finishing all that, but one old client, who came in about a year ago for a new will and trust and so forth, and so I worked with him on that. And there kept being time gaps, as there often are, between sending out the draft, making the changes he wanted to correct on provisions he wanted to add, so I didn't finish him until this spring, so I had to re-up my malpractice insurance because I wanted to be covered for this one client I was still—

Plus, I am now working on a trust for my secretary, a will and a trust. I'd told her all along—she's worked for me eight years or something—"Whenever you want, I'll be glad to do a will and trust gratis." But she has just gotten news that she has some health issues and so the time has come for her to do a will and a trust. So I'm in the middle of that now. So in a sense, that's an existing client except she really hadn't been a client.

Closing Retrospective

Vanderscoff: So you stay here through '77, and you leave the Project in '74. I know your successor in the Project is Randall Jarrell. And so I'm just curious, then, about how she was picked. She had been working with you? Or how she came—

Calciano: No, she had not been working with me. Wendell Simons or the human resources person, I think, probably put the word out on the campus and to other campuses and so forth about the opening, and she was somebody who applied. I don't remember if I was very involved in the selection process or not. I had to have been involved at some point—somewhat. She had the best credentials. I hoped she would carry it on, which she did in her own way, I guess, from what I've heard from other people. I felt I was leaving it in pretty good hands. But I never got to know her very well. I remember one time she phoned my exchange and said that she had to be put through to me. It was, I don't know, a Saturday or something, and she prevailed upon them to put her through to me. "Oh, Randall Jarrell? Sure, I'll take her call." And she was going to be giving a talk somewhere and she needed to nail down one or

two facts. Well, it didn't have to be that day, and she didn't have to browbeat the exchange people.

Then I said, "Now, what about those three volumes, McHenry volumes that I have? They're tied up with string. They're in the bottom drawer of the file, the locked file cabinet. I had arranged with Wendell Simons—I paid for the Xeroxing of those pages so that I could have a copy when they were released, and could you please send them up?" And I never, never got them. I just didn't push for myself as much as I should have, so I was delighted when I spoke to Irene Reti about the fiftieth anniversary of the Regional History Project that she said, "Oh yes, I'll send them up," and they came up right away. And it's because she had an extra set, "somehow," in her office. Well, that was my set, obviously. She didn't know it.

Vanderscoff: So you didn't have much contact with Randall or Irene—

Calciano: No. I didn't have any contact with Irene until I got this note from her: "By the way, we're having a fiftieth anniversary. Would you like to come up?" I frankly kind of thought I'd be on a panel or something, but I was definitely an afterthought—but okay.

I think part of the reason is the entire library staff, once we moved into the library, was in a group photograph. And the photograph was taken on a Tuesday, and I worked Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. I remember Aileen Sanders, Clark's secretary, saying, "Oh, you missed the photograph." And I said, "Oh, really? I should have been part of that." She said, "It just came up suddenly. I couldn't even phone

you.” I said, “Well, I guess forty years from now they’re not even going to realize I was such an early hire.” Irene certainly knew I was an early hire, but I think the people who put together this pioneer Alumni Weekend—because several of the people, staff were asked to come. I stood up when staff were recognized because I thought she was just asking for people in the audience, but they all had prepared little reminiscences. I had not been contacted.

And she said, “Say a few words,” so I just said maybe four or five sentences and sat down. Some of these other people, they had all kinds of different memories, but some of them were taking seven, eight minutes, and had I known, I could have made my little talk a little broader. But you just do what you can do, and I was right all those years ago that not being there for that picture was probably going to have ramifications in later years.

Vanderscoff: You think that that means that you haven’t made some of these lists that people might be running down.

Calciano: I think so. But there is nothing *I* can do about it. I was glad that Irene sent me a note, kind of a “by the way” note, and I phoned her and said, “Well, do you want me for a panel?” “Well, no, those are all set up already.” I said, “Oh, okay. Well, I’ll just be in the audience.” But the panel referred to me a couple of times, and in the question and answer period there were questions for me, so I got to say my say at that time, not that I had anything earthshaking to say, but it was kind of interesting how I was hired, that it was because the chancellor wanted to have this type of project at Santa Cruz.

Vanderscoff: So it sounds like you've come back into more contact with the university, because clearly you've been coming back and visiting Santa Cruz over the years to see your son.

Calciano: Yes, but I very seldom went up there. I was afraid of too many memories, I think. I did go up about fifteen years ago, maybe, and met Carol Champion in Special Collections. I guess this was maybe before the big renovation to the McHenry Library, because I seem to remember that she was still in Special Collections, which was across a wide bridge to link the two sides of the building at the third-floor level. And now it's just all jiggered around differently. Rita was retired by then, but I got a nice note from Rita. She's been publishing, and I'm just not good at responding when I have to write something and so forth. If somebody phones me, I'm, "Oh, yes, sure." So that's on my list of things that I need to do, is phone Rita and just say hi and I enjoyed working with her and so forth.

Then I also got a note from my secretary, Doris Johnson, who's now in Hawaii, and when I get home I will pick up that phone. I don't like making phone calls, I guess. I don't know. I've always had kind of a layer of depression ever since Santa Cruz, I guess. And sometimes it just—I don't follow through as quickly as I should, but I have to learned to deal with it, and I think I pretty much have. But that's one place where I have been delinquent, is keeping up with old friendships.

Vanderscoff: And the memories that you're talking about are the memories of when you worked there.

Calciano: Yes. And there was some event—I can't remember, two or three years ago—and I asked if Aileen Sanders was going to be there, and they looked at the list and said no. I said, "Oh, because if she was going to be there, I would come up."¹⁰⁹ I've learned since that she died a couple of years ago. She was maybe ten years older than I was. She was quite a mentor, speaking of mentors, as far as learning the ropes of the University. She was my first transcriber, something she had never thought she'd be doing. But you know, we all did whatever. And so she did it. Whenever Don Clark didn't have correspondence to go out or whatever, she'd pick up the earphones and start transcribing.

And I remember on the Boekenoogen tape, which was really just a tour, literally, he said something that sounded to me like "a flat iron," and she told me, "No, he said 'sad iron'" because that's what the flat irons back then were called. They came in different sizes, that you heated up on the stove top. She was a very smart woman and really lovely.

But no, I have not had much contact. I don't think there's much of anybody to be in contact with in the Oral History Association anymore, but Charlie and I have kept up, about once-a-year type of phone calls.

Vanderscoff: So you haven't had much contact, as you said, and you also talked about these memories that you have for this time. So I'm wondering, then, when you look back and you personally reflect on all of this work—I mean, because it's there now, right? I have read it. Irene's read it. People consult these transcripts, and that's

¹⁰⁹Sanders was Donald Clark's secretary.

the beginning of this whole archive and this Project that's gone on for fifty-plus years now. Of course, as we've talked about briefly, you went on to a long career in law. So I'm curious, then, when you think about that larger arc, what you hope your work did?

Calciano: I am very, very delighted to hear that the transcripts are now available to people in Ohio and Minnesota and who knows where, Florida, and can access them if they are researching something that involves the Santa Cruz community or any of the ethnic groups. I'm proud of the work I did. It probably came through in the interview that I'm proud that as a woman I got hired.

There was a wave of women in the 1920s that went ahead and got a college education and in many cases went on for a master's degree. My mother was one of them. Mary Shane was another one.¹¹⁰ When I went to college—my parents never expected this—but the general feeling was you go to college to get your “M.R.S.,” you know, to find your husband. I think I felt that I'd be a failure if I didn't also find a husband while I was in college, because that was just the milieu. Everybody expected that you would graduate and get married and stay home with your children.

But in the twenties there were a number of women who didn't care whether they married or not, and you've seen there have been some women who were flying airplanes and pioneers in a lot of things. So there was an earlier wave of women

¹¹⁰ See Elizabeth Spedding Calciano, Interviewer and Editor, Mary Lea Heger Shane: The Lick Observatory (Regional History Project, UCSC Library, 1969). <http://library.ucsc.edu/reg-hist/mshane>.

being hired to do—well, still mostly women’s jobs, but when I was a kid my doctor was a woman, and that was very unusual, to have gotten your medical degree sometime in the 1930s.

But post-World War II women had this envelope of expectations around us. So I’m proud that I was able to break through that. Of course, Dean McHenry didn’t have any such prejudices, and neither did Don Clark. But as you can tell from my experiences with the law firms, there were a lot of people who felt a woman’s place was in the home. It was fine to get a college degree because that way you’d be a good mother to your children—not because *you* would benefit from it.

My parents did not think that, but they never countervailed it. I don’t think they even realized how much the pressure was on everybody. The expectation was you’d get married when you graduated college. I remember my dad telling me that if something happened to him and he could no longer afford Radcliffe—because it was a push for him on the salary he had—that I should just knuckle down and get myself through. My mother had gotten herself through the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Toronto for a master’s degree. And indeed her older sister had done that, and her younger sister had done that, and that was all in that 1915 through 1925 period.

Of course, we know now that just knuckling down and working odd jobs isn’t quite enough to pay the tuition, and kids are being saddled by these huge loans. But back then, even places like Harvard weren’t building new athletic facilities for the football team and for the basketball team.

But the expectations now of the kind of lab equipment you ought to be able to get in the sciences—I guess in all fields now, they realized somewhere, I guess in the sixties, that if they wanted to do X, Y and Z, they better apply for a grant. E.O. Lawrence and Frank [H.] Spedding in the twenties at Berkeley—I mean, there was meager material. I don't know how Lawrence got his great big electromagnet. He must have lobbied the president of the university or something. He might have gotten a grant. I don't know.

My father got a Guggenheim Fellowship, which took my mother and him to Europe for a year, and he was going to study with some of the preeminent physicists and chemists in Germany, but by 1934 they were seeing the handwriting on the wall and were getting out of there. So they spent most of this time at either Cambridge University or Oxford University. Then he got a teaching fellowship at Cornell University for two years. But jobs were scarce; equipment was whatever had been accumulated in the 1900 to 1930 period. I mean, it was just bare bones.

I would somehow have gotten myself through college. I might even have been able to stay at Radcliffe because they did have loans for needy—but needy meant really needy back then, and my mother was always indignant that they called them scholarships. “They got that because they needed it, and I'm glad they got it, but they shouldn't call it a scholarship. You should get a scholarship because you're a good scholar.” And I don't know, she must have gotten a scholarship somewhere along the line that helped her.

So it's interesting, the ebbs and flows of history. Women in the forties got really used to being independent, because an incredible number of men were overseas, and for long periods of time—none of this coming back every six or nine months. It's fine now that we can do it, but my uncle was gone for four years, and his little girl didn't even know him when he returned. She was scared of him.

Those women had been the Rosie the Riveter types, but they were pretty much forced to get back into the housewife pattern and the husband was the sole breadwinner. The pay for what you'd call blue-collar, factory jobs had gone up thanks to the unions. I wasn't too pleased with unions later in high school, when they threatened to shut down the steel works and so forth. They had gotten a little bit too big for their britches, and then they got cut down, and now they're not big enough, I suppose. But because the unions had demanded good wages from the auto and other workers, many people had been able to afford a house. And there were G.I. loans and, of course, the G.I. Bill for education. That transformed our country—all these bright kids that would have been on the farm forever or clerking at Penney's forever got their college education.

I wish we could do something for our students in this generation, but until Congress decides to think things through and raise taxes a little bit so that we have some money in the government, I don't know what will happen. I'm interested in watching, seeing what the next number of years brings.

Vanderscoff: I'd like to thank you for the work that you've done with the Project. You've generated a lasting archive.

Calciano: Well, thank you.

Vanderscoff: I certainly have learned a lot by consulting it, and I'm sure I'm not alone in that.

Calciano: Thank you.

Vanderscoff: Before we close out, is there's anything else that you'd like to say about the legacy of the project, your work—

Calciano: No. I am very pleased that it's gone on. I'm very pleased that the work I did is being consulted. I'm also pleased about the class I taught and about the *Campus Guide*. And I think I was fortunate, very fortunate to land in that position. I did well by it, I think, and I'm glad I did. It's a very nice part of my life, and I look back on it with pleasure.

Vanderscoff: Great, perfect. And with that, we'll close out this record.

About the Interviewer

Cameron Vanderscoff lives in New York City, where he is an oral historian, writer, and educator, working with Columbia University, the Apollo Theater, Tina Brown, the Narrative Trust and other projects. He is a UCSC alum (2011) in literature and history, earned an M.A. in oral history from Columbia in 2015, and has consulted widely. He has worked with the Regional History Project as an interviewer since 2011, and is the coeditor (along with Irene Reti and Sarah Rabkin) of the new (2020) Regional History Project anthology *Seeds of Something Different: An Oral History of the University of California, Santa Cruz*.

About the Editor

Irene Reti is the director of the Regional History Project, where she has worked since 1989 conducting and publishing oral histories. Reti has a B.A. (Environmental Studies and Women's Studies) from UCSC and an MA in History from UCSC. She is also the publisher of HerBooks, a nationally known feminist press and is a landscape photographer, writer, and small press publisher. She is the coeditor (along with Cameron Vanderscoff and Sarah Rabkin) of the new (2020) Regional History Project anthology *Seeds of Something Different: An Oral History of the University of California, Santa Cruz*.