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John C. Daly: A Life of Public Service in a Changing Santa Cruz, 1953-2013

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John C. Daly:

A Life of Public Service in a Changing Santa Cruz, 1953-2013

Interviewed and Edited by

Cameron Vanderscoff

Santa Cruz

2013

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Introduction

“It’s Pacific Avenue, in ’65. Same year the university came,” John Daly says to me, indicating a photograph. It’s December in downtown Santa Cruz, California, halfway thru a cool day that speaks of a cold night. We’re off the audio record in the back room of a stucco and lath optometric office building a block off the main drag. The sign by the front door lists John C. Daly, O.D., and Scott P. Daly, O.D. It’s a two-generation family business, now in its sixtieth year.

Inside the picture frame is a black-and-white, high-quality print of the main downtown drag. A rainy night, low-lit by the neon glow of the Del Mar Theater marquee and the Penney’s department store sign. The electricity catches on the quiet street, the vacant sidewalks, and turns quicksilver in the contours of the cars, the sleek, big numbers turned out by Chevrolet and Oldsmobile and Pontiac. In this frame there is motion in the falling rain, but the street is sleepy, moving towards quiescence and darkness and rest, held back only by the sentinel effect of electric lights. In this photograph, in this vesper for Pacific Avenue, in this Santa Cruz night scene, there is a sense of *still life*.

The photo is a window frame into a time and space that was on the verge of a shift, taken the same year Santa Cruz became not just a beach town in the summer, but a college town year round. It soon underwent significant political and social change. Today a photograph of a night scene on Pacific Avenue could be very different, full of traffic and street musicians and crowds outside bars and restaurants, with groups of students going for tacos or a couple of traveling kids roaming with knapsacks. The Del Mar is still there, but the department store and

its fellows are gone, replaced with small shops and eateries that sell sushi and art supplies, skateboards and youth boutique clothes, underwear and lattes. It is a photograph that tells, *sotto voce*, of a time before the university, of a rest before a morning, of a town on the doorstep of accelerated transformation.

John C. Daly is a sixty-one year citizen of Santa Cruz, and as a doctor, a family man and a former mayor he has had a central vantage point on the process of evolution and change Santa Cruz has gone through. This oral history hinges on his perspective on and involvement in the development of Santa Cruz from the small, tight-knit city he moved to in '53 to the college town it is today, where there is a city population of ca. sixty thousand and a student population that exceeds seventeen thousand. However, the scope of the sessions I conducted with him go beyond his public involvement in Santa Cruz to give a broader context of his life, including his childhood, his family, and his service in World War II.

Daly was born in San Francisco, California in 1926. The son of a window display man/salesman and a homemaker, he relates his childhood in Depression-era San Francisco in candid detail. He touches on a range of memories, from metal-bladed roller hockey in the streets of the Richmond District to dealing with his parent's divorce—unusual at that time—to the huge pots of chili beans his grandma cooked and the family ate for breakfast, lunch and dinner for days at a time. He discusses how his world shifted with the bombing of Pearl Harbor, recounting the blackout curtains his family put up as a precaution against Japanese bombing, and the “fatalistic attitude” that set in among his male friends during high school as they realized that their turn would come to fight overseas. If there is one thread that can be followed throughout all

of these sessions, however, it is the transformative role of education in Daly's life. This thread starts early in our interviews on an apathetic note, as Daly states that he didn't care about school as a teenager, instead directing his passion at athletics.

True to his prediction, after he finished high school he was called up to go to war. After an attempt to enlist as an aviator was ended by the discovery that he was color-deficient, he was drafted into the Army. His military service, which carried him from San Francisco to Oklahoma to the Philippines, proved to be a pivotal juncture in his life. His training in Oklahoma introduced him to new sorts of young Americans, including some who were illiterate. He quickly noticed how a lack of education limited his fellow soldiers' horizons. With this impression growing, he arrived in the Philippines, on the shores of a war-battered Luzon. It was 1945, and the Islands had been retaken but for isolated Japanese holdouts. He describes his service experience, including camping in paddies and bartering goods with Filipinos, and maintains that by the time he was discharged his outlook on life had changed. Driven by his new conclusions about education, he promptly used the G.I. Bill to enroll in San Francisco City College and then UC Berkeley. At Berkeley he focused on optometry, inspired in part by the color deficiency that had kept him from flying.

Early in his career he took an opportunity to buy an existing practice in Santa Cruz, a quiet town centered on summer beach tourism. It essentially shut down for the rest of the year, leaving rents low and the businesses small. Variety came with its popularity as a convention locale, and the Miss California Pageant at the start of the summer. Daly relates the slow progress his business had in this context, which gave him time to get involved with public service organizations

like the Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Salvation Army. A few years later, at the urging of local businessmen, he ran for the city council. A newspaper advertisement for his campaign advertised his priorities as establishing a “wider tax base,” supporting “residents with fixed incomes,” working on “governmental agency cooperation,” an “improved storm drain system,” and “municipal wharf modernization.” He was elected and served one term as a councilman from ’59 to ’63, including a stint as mayor from ’61-’62.

During those four years Daly helped support and initiate a series of key growth projects. In the late fifties and early sixties, Santa Cruz acquired the Sky Park Airport, constructed the yacht harbor, built the Loch Lomond Reservoir, oversaw downtown redevelopment, worked with a developer on a major international complex, and competed with San Jose for a University of California campus. The goal of all of this, Daly relates, was to make Santa Cruz into a “very desirable upper-middle class community with a great university,” characterized by a thriving business and convention culture. The international complex, for instance, was designed by the lead disciple of Frank Lloyd Wright and featured a glass pyramid hotel, a series of ‘courts’ showcasing the goods and products of foreign countries, and a concert hall that would show primarily non-domestic acts, speakers and films. The plans were put on display at New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art. The developer estimated it would grow to have two million visitors a year. Just up the hill, the proposed UC campus was to grow to twenty seven thousand, five hundred students by 1990. Daly thought it was perfect. The town was busy in the summer, when many students were away, and then during the off-seasons there would be a robust student presence to fill the town and fuel business.

While the Court never came into being due to funding issues, during John's tenure as mayor the UC Regents unexpectedly settled on Santa Cruz as the site for their new campus. It was the culmination of protracted outreach efforts by the city, spearheaded by public officials like Daly. He was thrilled, expecting a wave of well-funded young people in sun tan pants and plaid skirts and bobby socks, like he and his fellow students dressed during his time at Berkeley. However, in the long run the university proved to not conform to these expectations. In these interviews he relates how the students increasingly became politically radicalized in the late sixties and seventies, and began to dress more casually and messily. To compound this trend, the Twenty-Sixth Amendment lowered the voting age to eighteen in '71, and Governor Jerry Brown signed a law that made it easier for students to register to vote in their adopted college communities.

The political landscape of the town gradually shifted under these factors. The professional, business culture dominant in the city in the fifties and early sixties was challenged by what Daly terms "no-growthers:" people who were (and are) consistently opposed to development on personal, environmental and political grounds. During Daly's time on the council issues like building the Loch Lomond Reservoir were matter of course, and did not face significant opposition. During the seventies, however an attempt to build another dam, the Zayante Dam, was killed. A second effort to build a convention center at Lighthouse Point, where the Court of the Seven Seas was to have stood, was defeated by popular vote and a major public campaign. Since the sixties and seventies there have been almost no new hotels, and convention business has become marginal. In the eighties the Miss California Pageant relocated after years of protest, and

the city council has become the site of increased political conflict. Today Daly feels that the town has been held back in significant and damaging ways by this shift towards a “no-growth” attitude.

On personal and professional notes, Daly reflects at length about other challenges he and the city have faced, including the Flood of '55 and the Quake of '89. He discusses the damage, and how the town recovered from those two disasters. More intimately, he reflects on how Santa Cruz has been as a place to raise a family, and for his practice. He discusses the pros and cons of having the UC, including the prestige it has brought the town, and closes with a retrospective and prospective on his own life. He talks about what has been meaningful to him, and returns to dwell on the transformative power education has had for him and his family.

These sessions were conducted in two armchairs in the living room of Daly's Scott's Valley home during December 2012 and January 2013. In preparation for the sessions he gave me access to his personal archives, which ranged from San Francisco consular letters (in response to a Court launch dinner) to old Miss California brochures to newspaper clippings to photo scrapbooks. Beyond the significant purview of Daly's materials, I sifted through four years of city council minutes at City Hall, tracked down Court promotional materials, went through old *Sentinels*, and consulted books and articles that spoke to mid-century Santa Cruz and the coming of UCSC. I encourage anyone who wants to get a deeper feel for the times and places Daly discusses to do the same, particularly in terms of looking at the *Sentinels* of the fifties and sixties—it's very enriching to see the aesthetics of the advertisements and the photographs, the topics of the articles. For further study, the Regional History Project has other

oral histories that speak to the formative period of the university, such as *Dean McHenry* and *Louis F. Fackler: Founding Campus Engineer*.

Since Daly doesn't do email we've had many phone chats and in-person meetings, and he has been kind enough to open up his world to me. He invited me to a talk he gave about the Court at a meeting of the Scott's Valley Exchange Club, and took me out for a Chinese dinner after. When the recorder wasn't on, we swapped stories, and he took me through his house and showed me old pictures and the impressive array of documents he's held onto, everything from snapshots with Lenora Slaughter to a letter from Eleanor Roosevelt. After one of our sessions he offered me a lift to town and stopped off at the optometric office. He introduced me to his daughter-in-law and other staffers, commented on how much more equipment there is in his trade now than when he started, and showed me the back office and the photograph. And so a return to that Santa Cruz street scene in '65, a moment on the doorstep of change. Inside the frame: still life. And outside it, a city on the verge of hosting a major university, on the verge of unpredicted shifts. Without passing final judgment as to whether this change was ultimately 'positive' or 'negative,' I'd like to quote Dr. Daly, talking about what civic involvement taught him: "I quickly learned there were shades of gray in everything."

Between myself, Irene Reti (Director of UCSC's Regional History Project) and John Daly and his family, this transcript has been moderately edited relative to the audio record for readability. There are a few select places where it has been strongly edited for revisionary purposes. Brackets on the transcript indicate word substitutions from editing, or full sentences Daly wished to add. Parentheses refer to events that happened on the audio record, such as laughter,

or a break taken from recording. They also indicate contextualizing events and some explanatory statements. Some of Daly's small editorial additions within sentences, particularly those that don't notably alter the content or meaning have in places been left un-bracketed for purposes of greater readability.

I'd like to take time to acknowledge everyone who helped me getting this project from conception to completion. John Daly has been great to work with, engaged from start to finish, and he has put in a lot of work getting resources together to help me along. The project as a whole was funded by the generosity of Cowell College alum Pat Kelly—her enthusiasm in supporting Santa Cruz oral history laid the foundation for this project, and has enabled a pivotal perspective to be recorded. From Cowell College, I'd like to thank Provost Faye Crosby for her guidance and dialogue in this and so many other things, and Angie Christmann, who first lit upon the idea of an oral history with John Daly from talking with his son. She and Faye sparked this project and brought me into the fold to take the next step. In preparation I met with Bill Doyle, UCSC founding faculty, and he was generous enough to provide me with the current draft of his work-in-progress, *The Origin of UC Santa Cruz, 1957-1961*. This document was crucial in gaining a sense of the larger context and specific details of the effort to bring a UC to Santa Cruz. Gratitude goes out to Marco Martinez-Galarce for agreeing to help with a filmed interview with John, conducted separately from this project, which covers some of the same ground but in a multi-media context. He has been unstinting in donating his time and expertise. As always, thanks to Irene Reti, director of the Regional History Project. Simply put, without her editorial and professional eye this finished product would be quite unfinished. And last to the folks of Special Collections at the UCSC Library—their

friendliness and resources have opened doors for me here as always.

—Cameron Vanderscoff, *Interviewer & Editor*, April 11, 2013

Childhood in San Francisco
During the Depression & WWII

Vanderscoff: Today is Thursday, December 13th [2012]. This is Cameron Vanderscoff here with Dr. John C. Daly for the first interview of his oral history.¹ To start out with today, when and where were you born?

Daly: In San Francisco California, at St. Mary's Hospital [in 1926].

Vanderscoff: Now, what impressions did you have of your father growing up? What sense did you have of his expectations for you?

Daly: He was a salesman and a decorator. He decorated windows for a high-level women's shoe store on Union Square, the prestigious area of shopping in those days in San Francisco. And he was somewhat frustrated, because I think he wanted his own store. His father had had his own store in Chico, California. And that's where my father was born, I think in 1898. And so I think my Dad wanted his own store. My grandmother didn't support him very much, and it frustrated him. So I got that impression. Also, he tended to drink liquor a little bit more than he should have. That impression came to me as I moved into my teens.

Vanderscoff: And growing up, what did you think—did he want you to follow him in that business, or did he want a different path for you?

Daly: No. He used to say that he wanted me to go over to UC Berkeley. Which is interesting, because at the time he didn't have the money. Now, we were coming

¹ All interviews for this oral history place took place in the living room of John Daly's residence in Scott's Valley, California.

out of the Depression, and I was living with my father. By this point, my parents had divorced. So I was living with my father and his mother, and then his sister. And she had one son. Her husband was a merchant marine man. He was gone most of the time. We were living on 16th avenue in San Francisco. And he would talk in terms of, "Well, I want you to go to UC Berkeley." In those days you just called it 'UC.' The other campuses either weren't developed or you didn't think of them. And I thought, "Well, that's a nice ambition." But he didn't have the money to send me to UC.²

Vanderscoff: Now what about your mother? What did she do?

Daly: Well, she was a homemaker. Attractive woman, vivacious—and I say that objectively. And she ended up working with her sister, who had her own dental X-ray laboratory, downtown San Francisco in the Flood building, which is on the corner of Powell and Market. So she learned dental X-ray from her sister, which was a great opportunity for her. So she lived alone, and she never remarried. (phone rings; recorder is switched off; record resumes after phone call)

Vanderscoff: Now, what sense did you have of your mother's expectations for you?

Daly: Well, in those days it wasn't like today, where a child almost from any family is expected to go on to some university training. In those days you got out of high school and then you went to work. Only a small percentage of people

² A footnote courtesy of Dr. Daly: In retrospect, it wasn't nearly as expensive to go to a UC as it is today, and the fees were much more manageable. However, in the Depression his family had no extra money, and so UC Berkeley seemed out of reach at the time.

went to university. I'd say not much more than fifteen or twenty percent. And these were the people from families with some wealth, or with more higher education.

Vanderscoff: Now, was your family—either your parents or your extended family—a supporter of the idea of public service, of civic involvement?

Daly: Well again, that wasn't discussed really. My dad was interested in politics. He was a Democrat. But he never got involved. Again, it was such a contrast to what it's like today. Up until this recession we're in right now, [thru the sixties to 2007], everybody was living very well, and had time to devote to extracurricular [activities] beyond work. We're seeing kind of a revert back to what it was like in the thirties and forties in San Francisco. People were struggling to make a living and pay the bills. So they weren't looking around for public service. And they weren't expecting it from their kids.

Vanderscoff: Now, which neighborhood were you raised in, in San Francisco?

Daly: The Richmond District.³

Vanderscoff: Now, would you mind recalling some details about your childhood in that neighborhood, in the city as a whole? What was it like being a child of the city in the 30s?

Daly: It was very good. [But we were poor.] Once again, I was from a broken family, which in those days was significant. Not like today, where half the

³ The neighborhood between Golden Gate Park, the Presidio and the Pacific Ocean to the west.

marriages end in divorce. In those days it was probably ten percent ended in divorce, so I was always embarrassed and uncomfortable at school when they said, "Well, it's going to be PTA day, so be sure your parents come." And I knew my parents wouldn't come at the same time, even though they were cordial with each other. But my life was great, because we lived on these relatively narrow streets. Again, I was on 16th at—they called it Cabrillo [pronounced with hard 'l'] in San Francisco. Down here we call it Cabrillo [with Spanish pronunciation]. And that's just a block down from the Golden Gate Park. So it's a nice neighborhood. Foggy and cool, but a nice neighborhood.

We used to play out in the street. And we'd play hide and seek and kick the can—things that are all forgotten now. And it was great in the evenings. Then the other thing we did, we would play hockey on the asphalt streets. We had roller skates. They were metal. Not like they are today. These were metal. I was trying to think of the name of them now, it was, gee.... And we would skate back and forth, because we would have goals. And there would be maybe about eight or ten of us. And we would have a puck, and then our hockey sticks. We'd spend an hour, two, three hours skating, to the point where we would actually make that dark gray asphalt look almost white from our roller skates, our metal rollers. And so that was a fun thing to do. Then we'd go around the block to Argonne Grammar School, where I went to grammar school—17th and Cabrillo. And we'd play basketball and baseball. I was a good athlete. So I participated heavily in that. [We often walked to the de Young Museum in Golden Gate Park, climb on the statues and play 'Cowboys and Indians.']

Vanderscoff: Now moving forward, what do you remember of the day Pearl Harbor was attacked, and the days that followed?

Daly: I remember it distinctly, almost as if it was last week. It was a Sunday morning and we were home. I was with my grandmother and my aunt, and we were in their sewing room, they called it. And we were sitting there listening to the radio—and I was trying to think of what I was going to do. I don't know. I wasn't studying, I'm sure. But I was there, and all of a sudden here's this announcement that the Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor. I didn't even know where Pearl Harbor was. And so it got our attention. And then, of course, following that there came news blurbs, and then an almost continual stream of information. "My God, the Japanese have attacked us." We thought, "Oh my God, what's next? Are they going to come over? This is Pearl Harbor, which isn't that far away now that we know where it is. And God, they're going to attack the West Coast." So we were concerned about that. [At that time, people were far less international and had far less access to world news.]

Then they began announcing, "Well now we've got to be careful at night. We don't want to have too much light showing to lead them to us. So we're going to start to black out all the homes. You've got to get this black shading." Which we did. (laughs) And we put the black shading up so that we could turn the lights on inside, but no light would get out. So we lived with that for a couple years or more. [There were Japanese submarines sighted on the Pacific coast.]

Vanderscoff: Now more broadly, how did the arrival of the war change the culture of the city around you?

Daly: Well everybody was, first of all, just shocked. Of course, we were kind of waiting. We were expecting to get into the war sooner or later, because by this time the [Germans] had invaded France and occupied it. And they had made great progress, and we didn't think that the British could hold out against them. That's why we were sending the British all kinds of armament and [material] like that undercover, so to speak. So we kind of knew that we were eventually going to get in it. And President Roosevelt indicated that also. And as we now know, he more or less, in some ways, provoked the attack. I don't know the details of this, but I think some of the things he did caused the Japanese to be far less happy with us. And that's why they took that big step, which was a major step, in attacking the United States. We were so much bigger, so much more powerful, that they really were dreaming. I think they felt they could knock us out with a couple of good, heavy blows like Pearl Harbor, and win the war and we would declare defeat. But, as one of the famous quotations [from] one of the leaders—[Hideki] Tojo, maybe—said, "I'm afraid we've awakened a sleeping lion."⁴

Vanderscoff: Now as your nation went to war, you went into high school.

Daly: Right.

Vanderscoff: Now during this time of war, what were your priorities in high school? Did you value your education?

Daly: No. Here again, I had no plan to go to college. And with the war now, you knew you were going to be going into the war. And as I said earlier to you, we

⁴ In reference to a quote referring to America as an awakened "sleeping giant," attributed to the Japanese Admiral Yamamoto.

knew we were losing hundreds if not a thousand men every day in Europe or in Africa. It was a big war compared to these things we're fighting now. And the ones we're fighting now are bad enough. But this was a big war. And the whole nation was mustered to fight the war, including the women. Once again, interestingly, before World War Two women didn't do much. They were homemakers and secretaries and nurses, and that was about it. They didn't work in factories, unless it was a sewing job. So women were home raising children. So it was during World War II that women began to really become active in the working situations in the country. So I don't know if I answered the question. But that brought about a big change.

And everybody was devoted to it. We had rationing. You know you could only buy so much meat, so much butter. You had ration stamps for gasoline, so you could only drive maybe twenty miles a day. Oh no—twenty miles a week, or something. A month, maybe. But in San Francisco that wasn't bad because it's a very compact area. You had a sticker on your car: A, B, and C. And the sticker indicated what kind of a car you had. If it was just for your family it was an A sticker. If you were using [it for] business it would be a B sticker. Anyway, everybody was tightening their belt. And we'd already had a tightening of our belt. Prior to the war, I remember we ate very meagerly. We ate good, because my grandmother was a wonderful cook. But she would cook a pot of beans, chili beans, which were excellent. I still miss them. (laughs) And she would cook a big pot of beans that would last us three or four days. And we would even eat them for breakfast. We would have toast and butter, and then the beans for breakfast. She'd also cook a stew that would last us two or three days. So she would stretch

her food dollars a long ways. But we sure didn't sit down to steak dinners or pork chops or lamb chops very often. In fact, hardly at all.

Vanderscoff: And did you have a sense that the economic circumstances of the Depression were at all alleviated when the war began, for your family?

Daly: (pause) It's hard to answer that, because before the war, when I was a little kid, or a young high schooler, we would be able to buy a Coke for a nickel. Now a nickel was quite a bit of money, kind of like a quarter today. Maybe more. And so we'd get a Coke or a Pepsi for a nickel. And my aunt, my dear aunt, who was my father's sister, she would give us a nickel or dime now and then, which was a big deal. And we'd go down and we'd either buy five cents worth of candy—and you got a pretty good handful of candy for five cents. Now I forget the question. (laughs) But we didn't have a lot before, and then going into the war period we still didn't have a lot. So I didn't feel much change when the war began, and through the first three or four years.

However, I repeat, in high school we all wore Levi's. It's interesting. We were wearing Levi's then, and we boys would buy a pair of Levi's in the fall and we'd wear the same pair of Levi's the whole year through to June. We wouldn't wash them. (laughter) And you could do it if you were careful. But they got—ooh, they must have got awful smelly. And then they would—God, they got stiff. But that was what we tried to do: wear them the whole year without washing them.

Vanderscoff: (laughs) And why didn't you just throw them in a tub and give them a rinse?

Daly: Well for one thing, the washing machines weren't what they are today. They were machines that you put the clothes into. Then [the machine] would turn them back and forth, back and forth. Then you'd wring 'em, and put them into a rinse tub. So doing a laundry was a far bigger job than it is today. That was one reason. Secondly—well of course the boys did that. The women were washing their clothes regularly. But once again, you know, people didn't shower as they do today. They would maybe bathe twice a week. That was it. And again, people would wash to avoid smelling, but they only would shower once or twice a week. Or a tub bath was a popular thing then.

Vanderscoff: Now you mentioned a couple minutes ago that you did not particularly value your education at the time. What was your focus in high school then?

Daly: Well it was athletics, really. I think that—I knew I wasn't good enough to become a professional athlete. And remember, by that time we would have games in Kezar Stadium, which was only maybe a half a mile from my home, in Golden Gate Park. But Stanford and Cal didn't play there. They played in their own stadiums. But St. Mary's and Santa Clara would play their games at Kezar. And then we in high school played some of our games at Kezar, which was quite a thrill, because it was a stadium that sat sixty thousand people. So football was important. Basketball was not as important. I enjoyed swimming. I was a good swimmer. My father, by the way, was a champion swimmer. And he was solicited by the Olympic Club, which was one of the big athletic clubs in San Francisco prior to World War II, and since. It's still there. And he would swim for them in short distances. Fifty-yard, hundred-yard dashes. So he taught me to

swim well, and I was a good swimmer. I ran on the track team. I ran the hundred-yard dash, and the two-twenty. And then I swam, played basketball, but I was never real good at basketball. And then played football, and I played halfback. I was fast, so I was able to carry the ball and run well.

Vanderscoff: Now beyond athletics, what did you and your friends do recreationally, for fun in the city?

Daly: Well first of all we just took the basic courses. You know, the English, the history, the arithmetic. And then socially, we had a fraternity in high school, which was quite remarkable. We had fraternities and sororities. Again, this wasn't true of many of the high schools in San Francisco, I'm quite sure. And then these fraternities and sororities would get together for parties and/or to put on dances. I've got a scrapbook here that I should let you see, with a lot of these pictures. It'll really bring this to you. Because it's a wonderful—now looking back again, it just shows you how fifty years can make something that was just important to me important to more people.

Then we would put on high school dances. About every six weeks we would have an afternoon high school dance. And then we would play records, the old seventy-eight records, and we would jitterbug in the gymnasium. And that was good. The girls were anxious to have the boys dance with them, so they would teach us to dance. And I was a good learner, so I was a good jitterbugger. That was great fun. Then we'd have evening dances that we would put on, and we would sell bids to them for two or three or four dollars. And then people would go—it was called the California Club, toward downtown on California Street. That's where the cable car runs, you know, up to Nob Hill. But this was

further out toward the beach. And I have some of the invitations in this scrapbook. So later we'll dig that out.

Cold in Oklahoma, Hot in the Philippines:

WWII Service

Vanderscoff: Now did you join the service during the war?

Daly: Well, the war was running. See, I went into high school in '41, after being at Presidio Junior High School, which was down on Geary Street, and is still there. I went just across the street then to Washington High. And it was a relatively new school. I think it had opened in 1939—'37, maybe. And then I went in in '41. And so I was there '41, '42, '43 and graduated in June of '44. And no, we didn't go in the service as long as we were in high school and we weren't eighteen, you didn't have to go. But there was the draft then. So all the men that were eighteen had to sign up for the draft, and sooner or later you'd be called into the service. And you'd go into the Navy, or the Army. In those days the Air Force was just getting going. So I didn't have to worry. Then, as I told you before, everybody knew they were going into the service. And they were worried that they weren't going to come home, because a lot of their older friends had gone and were killed. And so there was something of a fatalistic attitude. That's another reason you didn't study much. Why the hell work and study hard when you were going to go and be carrying a gun in a war situation?

So I didn't even think about it, but I thought, "Well, what I'd like to do is become a pilot." And I was in great physical condition, and one of my closer friends was the same. He was a good ballplayer. So we were aiming for the Air Force. So we went down while we were seniors to sign up. Signed up, took the mental exam, passed it. Which was impressive, now that I think about it, for me. (laughs) Although it wasn't a very rigorous exam. And then took the physical, and jeez, I went through that like water through a sieve until the end. And then that was when they did the visual test. So they got to the very end and checked my color vision. He said, "Uh-oh. Uh-oh, do this again." He said, "You're colorblind." I said, "What?" Here I'll be eighteen next month, and I'm colorblind? I didn't know that. He said, "Well you are. Your vision is what they call color deficient." And so he said, "We can't take you in the Air Force." It broke my heart. My friend got through and he went on to cadet training, but never made it through because the war ended.

Anyway, so then I thought, "So what the hell am I gonna do?" And so my dad said, "Well you ought to go in the Navy. Don't go in the Army." Because he'd been in World War I, at the end of World War I, and got to go over to Europe. And luckily he missed the war. It was after the war was at an end, for him. So he said, "You don't want to go in the Army. You want to go in the Navy. It's cleaner and you're on a boat." So I tried to get in the Navy, but for some reason I couldn't do it. I don't know why. So I ended up going in the Army. And I was inducted in San Francisco, went to Fort Ord, and they shipped me back to Oklahoma. Fort Sill, Oklahoma, in Lawton.

Vanderscoff: Now when you were inducted, how did you feel about joining the Army, given what your father had told you?

Daly: Well, I was reluctant. But on other hand, everybody was so devoted to winning this war that you didn't give it a second thought. You just knew you were going to go in. And so you just accepted it.

Vanderscoff: Now you talk about being taken to Oklahoma for your training. How did meeting with different young Americans from other places in the country impact you? Were the people you knew at training different or unexpected in any way, relative to the folks from home?

Daly: Right, a very important point. And I'll make two of them regarding education. By '44 the war in Europe was beginning to wind down. There was still a lot of fighting going on. And then the Battle of the Bulge was still to come, which cost us many thousands of troops. And the Battle of the Bulge was, I think, in France or Belgium, and that was the last gasp of the Nazi regime to overwhelm the Americans and the British. So we were getting near the end of the barrel of inductees. And we had, I think, a lot of young men who maybe at first were not accepted because of their mental capacity, and/or physical. And then we had a lot of married men who had been married four, five, six, seven years, and had one or two children. Up until that point they weren't taking a married man if he had a child or two. But now we were getting near the end of the stream of inductees, and so they were taken. So in my group there were these young guys, and a lot of them were from the South. And then there were these older men—see, I was just twenty. Not even twenty—nineteen. And these men were

probably thirty, thirty-two, thirty-four. And so they were almost like older men, and with quite a bit of good sense.

But the important point was that this one kid came to me one day, and he was a white boy, nice-looking, and he said to me, "Hey, help me with this letter. It's from my girlfriend." I said, "Oh, okay. What do you need?" "Well, what does that part say?" So I read him a couple of lines. He said, "Well go ahead, read some more of it." So I read down. It was a short letter. So I read it, and he said, "Oh thanks, thanks so much." He says, "You know, I really have trouble reading." And here was a kid, eighteen, nineteen, twenty years old, who really couldn't read. And that shook me. I thought, my God, here's a guy from the South—he had a thick Southern accent—and he didn't know how to read. And so that really awakened my thought—my God, there are those people who are my age and they can't read a newspaper or a letter. So that was the first thing that clued me about getting some education. And that happened in a number of different occasions where I could see that these young people from the South just hadn't received good education. A lot of them probably hadn't graduated from high school.

Vanderscoff: So you go through your basic training. And ultimately in what capacity, and where, did you serve?

Daly: Well actually, basic training was just getting you in shape. And that was especially true for these older, thirty year-old men. But I was in excellent shape. So I was always the first one in the run, and the first one through the obstacle course. They were just whipping you into shape, and then also disciplining you so you'd say, "Yes sir! Yes sir! Yes sir! Yes sir!" (laughter) And you had these

young lieutenants who—and this was another education point—these young guys who were just probably twenty-four, twenty-five, if that. And they had been in college and/or they had just graduated. And they were taken in the service and put into OCS: Officer's Candidate School. And then they were given a gold bar. Suddenly they were an officer. And a lot of them weren't very smart, and I noticed that. So I thought, "O-ho, education again. These guys are only a lieutenant because they had some education." So that was the second major factor that turned me around when it came to education.

We did this basic training, and that went on for I think eight weeks. And then I was moved to—let me think—I was moved to Camp Gruber, Oklahoma, which was in Muskogee. (laughs) The famous city of Muskogee—"Okie from Muskogee."⁵

Vanderscoff: Yes, yes. (laughter)

Daly: They were nice cities. They were dry. You had to bring your own liquor with you when you went in. I wasn't much of a drinker. I drank some beer in high school and then I drank some beer in the army, but I wasn't a big drinker. But you go out to dinner on a weekend when you had a pass, and if you wanted to have a drink or something—I think our drink then was bourbon and ginger ale, as I remember. And we did it only because we were soldiers and we thought we should. (laughter) But we had to bring a bottle with us and put it on the floor under the table. That was how Oklahoma was.

Vanderscoff: (laughs)

⁵ In reference to the famous Merle Haggard song.

Daly: And you couldn't buy it anywhere. You had to go to a government liquor store. So that was quite a change from San Francisco, because my dad used to always have a bottle or two around. He liked to drink his bourbon straight. So anyway, here I was spending all my Army time in Oklahoma. And it was cold. Jeez, the winters were cold. There wasn't heavy snow, but a lot of sleet and ice.

I went into the artillery. So they put me in the artillery, and I ended up being on big guns, eight-inch Howitzers, which were a big, long gun, maybe twenty feet long. And it would project a two-hundred pound missile probably for a mile, two or three. And that's what I was in—an artillery regiment. And we went out on what they call bivouac, and that was where you go out in the field. It was the heart of winter, just before Christmas, and God it was cold. But I was still in great shape, and jeez, I could move and do. So my gun sergeant, who had become a close friend of mine—he really liked me, “Okay, do that John. Do that John.” (laughs) But I came back in and God, my feet were frostbitten. And they said, “Okay, well now you've finished your training in artillery, or most of it. So now you get to go home.” I had to ride across the country on a train with these very tender feet. And I had to keep them up. (laughs) So I had to sit on one side of the—if you remember, trains in those days were not like streetcars today. They had the seats, but then you could reverse them back and forth. So I'd sit on one, put my feet over on the one across from me, and keep my feet up. So when I arrived back in San Francisco, which was just before Christmas, God, I walked, but it hurt me to walk, from the frostbitten feet. So I was home, though, and I had a girlfriend, and it was just delightful to be back in San Francisco without that God-darn cold. (laughter)

Vanderscoff: So you return home to San Francisco. Ultimately were you deployed?

Daly: Well the thing is, then I had to go back to Oklahoma. So I think I had a two-week furlough, as I remember. Hard to believe it was two whole weeks, but maybe one week. So I went back to Oklahoma. By that time my feet were pretty well back to normal. And I was there for another few weeks. And then they said, "Okay, now you're going overseas." So we thought, "Oh thank God we're going to get out of Oklahoma." (laughter) Well, I went to the Philippine Islands. And so again, in my career in the service I went to two rather unsatisfactory places. I was yearning to go to Europe like my father had done, because he saw a lot of Europe after World War I. But I went to the Philippines.

Vanderscoff: Now what were the Philippines like upon your arrival?

Daly: Well, we took a boat, and it was sure not a luxury cruise. (laughter) We were down in the hole of this big freighter. And they had stacked the bunks six or eight high. Just a little flat canvas thing with a blanket. And it was warm down there. So that was good. But there was six, maybe even eight high, so we were really squeezed in like sardines. And luckily I was quick enough to get in and get up, and I had a light up by mine on the wall. And the light was on all night, by the way, so you could see your way around. Not very bright, but it at least gave me some light to read by, so I could lie in my bunk and read. Not that I was a big reader, but I was beginning now to start to learn things.

So we went over on that freighter, and in the daytime we'd be able to get up and walk around the deck. I'll never forget the Pacific was so blue. Jeez, it was

like Script ink, if you ever knew a bottle of Script ink.⁶ But it was just a rich, royal blue. I couldn't get over that. And it took probably ten to twelve days, maybe longer, to get to the Philippines.

We got off in the Philippines, and were in a file carrying these big duffel bags. It wasn't a very pleasant way of life. And we had our helmet, which we used as a basin to wash our face with, by the way. And then we were marched down on to the gun, and we marched over to a train. It was a small train. It wasn't like our big locomotive trains. It was a smaller train, like you see at some of the fairs and things. But they were open cars, and the cars would probably hold fifty soldiers. But you were just sitting on the floor of the car. So they said, "Okay, well, get on here." We all got on. "We're going up to San Jose." Luzon Island—this is Luzon, and at the bottom of Luzon is Manila, the capital. That's where we got off the ship. So we rode that all night. And so the next morning we woke up and we all sat up. We were all black from the soot. We looked like a bunch of black men. It was just shocking. "Okay we're here, get off." We went out and got into rice paddies, just out in the field with maybe half an inch, an inch of water in them. And they said, "Okay, well now set up your tents." So we spent the first week or two or three in these tents in this [miserable] muddy slush. (laughs) I don't know how we ever got that black off us, because we didn't have showers. But what we did have is it rained hard in the Philippines, and the rain was warm. So you could get out in the rain and soap up, out naked—you know, it was only guys around. So we get out there and soap up, and then just rinse off.

⁶ A blue ink for fountain pens.

And we got a pretty good shower out of that. I didn't have a hot water shower for a year. And that leads to another part of the story later.

Vanderscoff: Now, so what was your daily routine like as a soldier in the Philippines?

Daly: That's a good question, because of course we all had to take KP and clean, do the mess trays, clean the garbage cans.⁷ And then we'd have to do calisthenics. And we'd have to march. They had to keep the discipline up. But really what we were doing is kind of standing in place waiting to invade Japan, because that was coming. Not in the immediate future, but it was coming. So, as to what the routine was, then we would work on our [eight-inch Howitzer] guns, too. We would clean them, oil them, polish them. And that was a big job, because it was like the size of a large hook-and-ladder fire truck. That was the size of these guns, which was good, because we knew that we wouldn't be on the first or second or third wave of people invading. Nothing could have been worse in this world than to have been there on D-Day attacking Normandy, or in the Asian Pacific, when they attacked these different islands like Guadalcanal and others. And in the first or second wave, because you were walking onto a beach and the Japs were up there behind bunkers just picking you off like pigeons. That was a terrible thing to have to do. And many, many thousands of Americans did that. We knew we would be the eighth or tenth wave, because they had to get a good beachhead, and then bring on our guns. So that gave us some feeling of relief.

⁷ KP stands for 'kitchen patrol.'

Now again, that was the routine. We were just kind of waiting around. One of the nice things that happened to me is we got a three-day pass. Well, where should we go? You can go down to Manila. But there wasn't much in Manila, because Manila had been overrun by the Japanese when they took over the Philippines, and then it was overrun by the Americans when Douglas MacArthur returned. And you know the old saying, "I will return."

Vanderscoff: Yes.

Daly: Well, he did return. And blew the hell out of Manila again. They had some beautiful buildings in Manila, I think sponsored by the United States. Beautiful, big, granite buildings. But they were all blown apart. And they said, "Oh, the other thing you can do is go up to Baguio. Baguio was the summer capital of the Philippines. That's where the president goes when it gets hot in Manila. And so I said, "Well, let's go up there." So we rode a bus up there. We climbed up this mountain, and as we got toward the top you'd have thought you were back in Lake Tahoe. It was beautiful. We began to see pine trees. And it was cool. And I said, "By God, this is a mindblower," because I would think I was back at Lake Tahoe. So we spent two days up there, and it was wonderful. That's Baguio in the Philippine Islands, in northern Luzon Island. And I went back there once again later, because it was so wonderful. So that maybe answered that question.

Vanderscoff: Mm-hmm. Now, were there still Japanese forces or holdouts on the island in your time there?

Daly: Yes, there were—another interesting question. Not many, but there were still Japanese up in the mountains, and these guys were trained to fight to the

death. That was it! And so they were up there, and then they would sneak down at night, and they would either catch some of the Filipinos' chickens or maybe a pig if there was a pig around, and cart them off. So the Filipinos were very angry about it. So they would go up with their machetes. They would come back carrying a head only. And that was a shocker, because they'd walk in with a head and they got a bounty for it. I think they got fifty dollars if they killed a Japanese up there. And so I saw maybe half a dozen or more of those. And that sobered me up. I thought, "Uh-oh, I am in a war, aren't I?" Because up until then you didn't know you were in a war. And then the Filipinos treated you decently. They loved our cigarettes, so they would trade things to us: straw hats and belts and [rings made from our silver coins].

But again, we knew that eventually we were going to Japan. And of course wonderfully—and this was now, for perspective, we're talking about early 1945. Or mid-1945, I guess. Because a month or two later, all of a sudden we got the word they'd dropped a big bomb in Japan. A big bomb. "What do you mean, big bomb?" "Oh jeez, a great big bomb, and blew the hell out of a city. I think it's Hiroshima." "Oh, where is Hiroshima?" So that was the first bomb. And then the word passed that we had an atomic bomb. And the Japs didn't believe that we had more than one of them. So that's why we dropped the second one.

Vanderscoff: Now, how did you and your friends in the service receive this news?

Daly: We loved it. (laughs) Because they said, "We've blown away two of their cities." And while the Japanese generals wanted to continue fighting on, the

emperor, I think, got the word. "They killed a hundred thousand in Hiroshima, and another ninety thousand in Nagasaki. God, if they have another one of those bombs, it would be another hundred thousand. So we got to make up our mind about something here." So I think he overruled the generals. They wanted to wait further, which would have been to their advantage, only because I don't think we had another bomb ready to go. We weren't even sure the first one would work.

Oh by the way, later on, if you ever have any freedom, here's a marvelous book: *The Brotherhood of the Bomb*. My lady friend is reading this. She says it's a heavy read. But she bought this for me.

Vanderscoff: Hmm. That looks good.

Daly: And it's about Oppenheimer and Ernest Lawrence from UC Berkeley. And then Edward Teller, who wanted to develop the H-bomb. Okay, so I'll stop at that point.

Vanderscoff: So the bomb—

Daly: So we were happy, very happy.

Vanderscoff: So after—once the bomb was dropped, it was clear, of course, that you would not in fact participate in an invasion.

Daly: That's right. Because within three or four weeks the Japanese agreed (coughs) to an unconditional surrender. So we knew we weren't going to have to invade Japan. And we thought we might, because we were the new soldiers in the Philippines, we may still go there as guards of the Japanese people. Although

I wasn't trained for that. And so, they just said, "Well, you're probably just going to stay here. You can't go home yet. There's all these other guys ahead of you that we have to send home. But they almost immediately began sending those [men] who had been over there two, three, and four years.

And as an aside on that, you know today you hear these wives in particular complaining and fretting about the fact that their husbands are in Afghanistan for a year. And, "Oh, it's so difficult, and the kids are missing." Well in those days, these guys would go in the service and they'd be gone three, four, five years. Five, four years from a wife. Can you believe that? And they exchanged letters. Not like today—you're emailing. You'd send a letter and maybe in two weeks they'd get it. And so that was really being apart. So those [men] all began going home, almost immediately. They were still bringing lots of boats of armament and soldiers over for the invasion. So they had a lot of boats going back. So I'm sure they said, "Well hell, let's start getting rid of some of these guys."

Vanderscoff: And so did you remain in the service long after the Japanese surrendered?

Daly: Oh yeah. I stayed over there from the surrender in, I think, September. But no, I stayed there another six months anyway. And then I came home, and was soon released. Again, an aside: I had had acne on my skin and my back in high school, to a mild degree. And when I went to the Philippines—again, no shower. Hot, sweaty, sticky. I began getting these more like boils. And so no one paid any attention while the war was on. But after the war ended I was sent down to Manila to a radio school, so they were still trying to train me. And I think they

recognized that I was one of the brighter of these—see, I was only a PFC, so just one step up from a private.⁸ And so I went to the radio school.

And then I went in to the infirmary. The doctor looked at me. He said, “Ooh, how long has your back been like this?” I said, “Oh, well, about a year. Since I got over here.” Because in the Philippines there was a lot of fungal infections, and men had what was called jungle rot on their feet, and their toes—the skin deteriorated. And they had trouble walking. So that was not unusual. He says, “Oh, well gee, your back’s bad. I’m going to put you in the hospital.” I said, “What? The hospital?” “Yes, we’ve got to get your skin cleared up somewhat.” And I’d been living with it, so I was surprised. They put me in a hospital, which was marvelous, because for the first time in probably almost two years, I had a bed with clean sheets. (laughter) So that was great! American nurses, and they had Filipino assistant nurses.

So I was there. And then the next step was, they said, “Well okay. You guys are ready to go home. We’re going to send you home in a hospital ship.” I said, “Really? A hospital ship?” “Yes.” We got onto this hospital ship, and that was like a luxury cruise. (laughter) So that part was marvelous.

Vanderscoff: And just as a closing question on the Philippines, you mentioned relations with the Filipinos. Were those generally positive? Were you generally friendly and convivial with them?

Daly: Yes, I was. Of course, as you can see I’m outgoing. I was quite friendly with them. And one of the gals—again, we’re going into some details here. But it may awaken interest from other vets who were there. This one girl, who was

⁸ PFC stands for ‘private first class.’

quite attractive, but a very sweet, maybe even virginal girl—I don't know how old she was. I'd say twenty-one, twenty-two. She invited me to her home for dinner. She was one of the girls that helped me in the hospital, so I went. She lived in this little rickety house on stilts. And you had to walk up a ladder-like affair to get in. And then her mother and father and I think a sister and maybe even a brother were there. So we had a very meager dinner. But it was quite an experience. I got to see how the Filipinos were living. And they weren't living very well. And this was at, of course, the end of the war, where things were more plentiful. That was quite a nice experience. But there was an example of getting close.

I also had a silver watchband made for me. They were good at pounding American silver coins and making things, bracelets or necklaces, out of American silver. I think that's what they did. They loved our cigarettes. And I didn't smoke at that time. So we'd get a carton of cigarettes I guess every week. I traded cigarettes for this nice silver bracelet that I put my watch onto. So I dealt with the Filipinos. And as I say, they were very kindly. The Japanese treated them terribly. (coughs) So the Americans were good friends.

Vanderscoff: Now when you got home from the hospital ship, were you discharged shortly thereafter?

Daly: Well yes. Typical of the army, rather than going back to California and going down to Fort Ord to be discharged, they sent me Fort Lewis, Washington. And I think that was because that was probably an important debarkation and return site. Maybe San Francisco Bay was overrun with ships. So I was in Fort Lewis, in Washington. And then by this time I was really getting eager to get out

of the service. And they said, "Well no, you're not going to go yet. You've gotta do this, you gotta do that." So luckily I bumped into a classmate of mine from high school. And he was a champion swimmer. And he had become the lifeguard. At Fort Lewis they had a big lake, and there was a great recreation spot for the soldiers. That was a big camp. And so I said, "I'm going to be here I guess about two weeks. I don't know what the hell I'm going to do." He said, "Well I know what you can do. Come to work for me. I'll get you paid. You're not going to get much, but you can get some pay and you can serve as a lifeguard." I said, "Well fine. That will give me something to do." Because we were just standing around waiting for the days to pass. So I did, and I saved a [man] there. A guy was out on the lake and lost control. So I swam out, grabbed him, and brought him in. So that made me feel good. And I got some pay.

Vanderscoff: And—

Daly: And then they discharged me. And I took a train back to San Francisco. Now I was a hoarder, because I came back to San Francisco with probably about four of those khaki shirts, tan shirts, and about six pair of the pants. See, I had collected them and kept them good, and wore one pair and kept the others fresh. Because I knew when I got back I was going to go to school. By this time, I knew: "Ah-ha." And then we also knew we had the GI Bill, which is one of the greatest things the federal government ever did, was provide the GI Bill. And we California veterans also got [two] thousand dollars from the state of California for education.

Vanderscoff: Now, I'd like to ask some retrospective questions on your military service. Did your time in the military change or refine your attitudes about public service in any way?

Daly: I think it did. I think it made me much more conscious about what one could do with one's life. Up until then I thought, "Well, I'm just going to get married and have a couple of kids, and enjoy going to football games."

Getting an Education: City College & UC Berkeley

Vanderscoff: So you say when you came out of the military you were set to go into education. And so do you attribute that change of heart in you to your military service and those experiences that you've been mentioning?

Daly: Yes, I do. Very much so. And I knew I couldn't get into Berkeley because I didn't have the grades from high school, and even a couple of the courses. So I knew I had to go to San Francisco Junior College.

Vanderscoff: Now when you came home to a postwar San Francisco, did it feel as if the place was the same? Or had it—or you—changed in your absence?

Daly: Well, the city had not truly changed much, as I remember it. And of course, I had changed. You know, I went away a high school boy who had never been out of California, who'd hardly ever been out of the Bay Area—and yet somewhat sophisticated. So having traveled to Oklahoma, and then from

Oklahoma I'd gone to—well, I went to Oklahoma City. And I guess I went to others: St. Louis, Missouri, I believe. Anyway, so I came back, went to Philippines, and then saw the Philippines and what a mess it was after a war. Ooh. Terrible.

So I came home significantly more sophisticated and again, with this yearning to learn. And of course, I was thinking about maybe, what was I going to do? Maybe go into medicine? My mother, as I told you, worked for her sister, who was a dental X-ray technician. And she had a number of dental friends who I met. And I decided I didn't want to go into dentistry. Spending every day looking into a mouth wasn't my idea of a very good profession. And so I thought, "Well, I'll go to medicine." Well, with everybody getting the GI Bill, getting into college wasn't easy, and getting into medical school was *very* difficult, because you had all these guys, many of them who had had one or two years of college before they were drafted into the service. So the medical schools were just clogged, even more than they have been this last few years. And so I gave up on medical school. And I had said, "Well, I don't think I want dentistry." So someone says, "Why don't you try optometry, eye care?" And the fact that I was color deficient and had become near-sighted—I said, "Well that sounds like a pretty good idea." So I applied to the School of Optometry at Berkeley, and lo and behold, I got accepted. I'm trying to figure—of course I didn't apply 'til I had at least one year in at a city college, junior college. They now call it San Francisco City College.

Vanderscoff: And did you consider any alternatives to Berkeley, or was there a sense for you that that was *the* place.

Daly: Well the thing is that I would have gone anywhere if I was just going to, say, go into teaching or some other course. But see, optometry—there were only two optometry schools in California: one at Berkeley and one down in Los Angeles. So that's why Berkeley was the place. And I also was delighted because, as I told you, my father had planted that seed about, "Well, you should go to Berkeley. I want you to go Berkeley." So here I was going to go to Berkeley, much to my surprise.

Vanderscoff: And did your family support you in your decision to pursue medicine?

Daly: Oh yes, they were delighted. Because my father had not gone to college. Nor had my mother. So they thought, "Well, this is wonderful. You know, our little boy has become a soldier, and now he's going to go to college. We've achieved a lot."

Vanderscoff: Now what was your sense of the value of your UC Berkeley degree? Did you emerge from Berkeley with debt?

Daly: No, no debt. Because again, I was very frugal. You know, as I told you, our family was poor. We weren't dirt poor, but we were down close. So I knew how to save a penny and use a nickel wisely. And that's why I came home with all those clothes, because I knew I wasn't going to have much money in my pocket. And of course everybody wore those tans. At Berkeley, you know, it was just loaded with former soldiers. (laughs) So four out of five guys were wearing sun tans. Well, you're still wearing them, or men wear them still: sun tans. You didn't wear the shirts with them, though. Then you looked too much like a soldier. So

you'd wear a different kind of a shirt, a polo shirt of some sort, and then the tan pants. Let's see, what was the question—oh, about the money. At city college I went four semesters. I got two years at city college, and I very carefully used my [two] thousand dollars. That shows you how much it cost to go to school in those days. So I used [five hundred] dollars per semester at San Francisco City College. And of course I was living at home. My father was providing the food. I am sure I chipped in some. But I had to buy my gas to go over to city college, which is about eight miles away. So I got by. On [two] thousand dollars I got two years of education. Isn't that something? [Two] thousand bucks. (laughs) Ooh. It gets compared to what it is today.

And then when I went over to Berkeley I signed up for the GI Bill. And I had had two full years in the service. And from that two years—of course, that was twenty-four months. The school year was only nine months, so that was only eighteen. So you had six months left over. But I got all the way through my upper division and then into optometry school before I had to borrow any money. And then I was able to borrow money from this sister of my mother's, who was the dental X-ray laboratory owner. So she loaned me some money for the last semester or two at Berkeley. So that's all the debt I had. It wasn't very much.

Vanderscoff: Now, did you find Berkeley to be a significantly different or new social context, compared to the Army or your time in high school?

Daly: (laughs) Yes. I laugh because in high school all I thought about was parties and dancing and sports. Learning was fifth on the list.

Vanderscoff: (laughs)

Daly: And then by the time I got to San Francisco City College and then to Berkeley, suddenly learning was everything. And I wasn't that quick a learner. I was kind of slow. But when I learned it I knew it and kept it forever. But it took me a while longer. And I can elaborate on that, but we don't need to do that for this. So I studied hard. I studied very hard. And I used to study in my family's living room. I was back on Sixteenth Avenue again, and the family was back in that sun room, by this time watching television, a little black-and-white number. So I was in the front room all alone at a card table, and I was studying hard. So when I got to Berkeley I studied even harder. And I found that San Francisco city junior college was actually every bit as difficult, and maybe a little bit more so, than Berkeley. Oh, and then when it came to social—no time for social. (laughs) I didn't have any interest. I had girlfriends from high school in San Francisco, so I would date. But it was just to a low degree. And then we would have parties at the optometry school. [We'd have three to four parties per year.] But oh no, I was studying. I wasn't out during the week at all. I was home studying right up 'til bedtime. Studied hard.

I had a classmate who I'm still close to. He lives over in San Mateo.⁹ He was Jewish, and bright, and he used to get his homework done and then go in and read comic books. And here I was still studying. I couldn't figure out how he could do it so fast. But he did. And he was a better student than I was.

Vanderscoff: Now, in what year did you attain your degree?

⁹ Dr. Daly shared an apartment with said classmate in Berkeley for three years.

Daly: Well, I got my bachelor's degree in '51. And then I got my master's degree. And then in those days they were giving out a pseudo-doctorate degree in '52 into '53. So that was my doctor of optometry degree.

Impressions of Santa Cruz in the Fifties:

Optometric Practice & Public Service

Vanderscoff: So you graduate with your degree. How then did you come to open your practice in Santa Cruz? What was the path to here?

Daly: I went to work with a doctor on Mission Street in San Francisco. He and his wife were close friends of my father. He had a big practice. He was a very smooth and suave [man]. Good guy to learn under. And so I went over and worked with him for about a year. Then I was beginning to consider joining his practice. He didn't want to take in a partner. This was on Mission Street, San Francisco. I decided to look down the Peninsula, where I wanted to live. I knew the Peninsula well because, again, [my aunt, the x-ray lab owner] had married a man who had a lovely home in Burlingame. And so I had learned the Peninsula. My mother had moved down to Palo Alto and was working for a large dental group there. So I was thinking about opening an office in Palo Alto, and/or maybe Los Altos. I was looking back and forth.

And then a salesman came to me and said, "By the way, over in Santa Cruz there's a very good practice. And I think it will be for sale because the man, it turns out, has bladder cancer. He's right now up at UC San Francisco. And

they don't think he's going to make it." So he said, "You ought to go down and look at that, because it's just kind of what you want." And of course we were naïve and pretty ivory-towerish when we came out of Berkeley. So here it was. This was upstairs, and a very professional office. So I liked it. So long story short, I actually bought that practice from him. And now, looking back, it wasn't a very big practice. But it was for those days. And remember, in those days, people didn't go in to have their eyes examined every year or two. They would go in if somebody poked them in the eye, or if their vision began to go downhill fast, or if they had pain in the eye. But it was just like a doctor. You didn't go to a doctor unless you broke an arm or had a deep cut that wasn't going to heal. (recorder turned off for a water refill; record resumes several minutes later)

Vanderscoff: Now at the time of opening your practice here in Santa Cruz, were you married or were you still a bachelor?

Daly: I was still a bachelor. I had been dating some women in San Francisco. Well, most of them were from my high school days. I came down here and I met my future wife, who was working in the same building as a dental assistant/receptionist. Then we fell in love, and we got married.

Vanderscoff: How did Santa Cruz's size impact its sense of community for you? Did Santa Cruz seem small after San Francisco?

Daly: Well actually I knew Santa Cruz pretty well, because my father had a cabin up in Boulder Creek. A small little one-bedroom cabin. He had come down every weekend. It just shows you, again, the difference between today's world and the world after World War II, in the late forties, into the fifties. He'd work six days a

week. And on Saturday he would get off work. He'd go home. [It took forty minutes.] He'd have a drink and maybe a bite to eat. Then they'd get in the car and they'd drive to Boulder Creek, which was in those days a full two-hour drive. And then they would spend the day in Boulder Creek—Sunday—and then get packed and go home that night. That was their weekend. Now compare that to what people do today. They're unhappy if they can't stretch it into a three-day holiday. So it just again gives you a contrast of what life was like back in the fifties. And this was, of course, well after World War II. So I used to come down regularly. And I'd swim at—there was a Forest Swimming Pool up there just outside of Boulder Creek. Which was a wonderful place, by the way. It's closed now. But then we'd come down to the beach, to the Boardwalk, two or three times a year. So I knew Santa Cruz, but kind of from a peripheral point of view. And I wasn't that interested. I was really more interested in Palo Alto or Los Gatos. But here was a practice that was going, and the [fellow] was going to pass away, we thought. He didn't, by the way.

So I decided to come to Santa Cruz. It was a good move. I think I would have made more money had I gone to Los Altos and/or Palo Alto, because it was slow. It was very slow down here those first five years I was practicing. That's one of the reasons I had plenty of time to do social and civic activity. By that point, I knew that I had to get out and get known in the city to develop my practice. Because once again, people didn't go to eye doctors or family doctors except when they had a serious problem.

Santa Cruz was delightful, really, because I think we only had one or two stops signs through the whole downtown area. And in the fall/winter, after Labor Day, you knew about every other person on the street, which was good. So

once again, leading into the idea of the university coming, we were enthusiastic. Because the town was really dead all winter long. And we thought, "Gee, if we had students here using the housing and spending their parents' money, that would be great." So we'll get to that.

Vanderscoff: Yes. So at that time in the fifties, the city got substantially more bustling during the summertime with the tourist season.

Daly: Oh yes. And in those days it was a different type of tourism. Today we have such an overload from these homeless people. It seems to occupy all of our time. I'm sick of them, and sick of it. Because we've been trying to do something with the homeless just as San Francisco has been trying to do something. And we seem to make no progress with it. It's a shame. Of course this recession has aggravated that problem, too.

But in those days people would come to Santa Cruz for two-week vacations. So they'd come down. They'd rent a unit for two weeks. And then the man would either stay—but normally the man would bring his family down, wife and two or three kids. Then he would leave them and go back on Monday and maybe work from Monday 'til Thursday, and then come back down on Friday and spend the long weekend with his family. That was typical. We also had conventions, which brought a lot of people into town. And then they'd stay over another day or two, or come early just to go to the beach. They were upper middle-class people that belonged to organizations like Rotary, Lions and the Shrine. So it was a different type of tourism. Today we have more of these one-day people that come over with an ice chest full of food and beer. They don't spend much money. While the Seaside Company seems to be doing very well

financially, I don't think they per capita get nearly as much money from each person that goes onto the Boardwalk than they used to.¹⁰

Vanderscoff: Now in this smaller city, did your practice thrive in those initial years?

Daly: Well it didn't. No, it was slow. So that was one reason I had plenty of time to get out in the junior chamber. My wife and I spent literally thousands of hours working for the junior chamber of commerce. And one of our biggest projects was the Miss California Pageant, which extended our early summer season by two weeks. But we also put on a community fair, which was like a county fair but on a smaller scale, over in Harvey West Park—where we also raised money from two statewide Jaycee conventions to build the Harvey West swimming pool. And I underline that because most people think that it's a city-built pool, and it is not. The junior chamber of commerce arranged for that and paid for it. And Harvey West was a lumber man from up in the mountains, and he, I think, was born and raised here in Santa Cruz. So he bought that land early on. And he was happy to donate to the pool. It makes our beautiful Harvey West Park that we have today.

Vanderscoff: So from early on in your time in Santa Cruz, civic involvement was an important part of your life here.

Daly: Very much so. Not that I—well, I feel I owed it. I got through the war alive, and so I was anxious to give back. And then I was very active in the Kiwanis Club. Very, very active in Salvation Army on their advisory board. And then I

¹⁰ The Seaside Company runs the Boardwalk and its attractions

was active in the Red Cross on their advisory board. But I was, again, out meeting, greeting and shaking hands to become known. And that's one thing that led me toward the city council. Because I think after only six or seven years Skip Littlefield from the Seaside Company, who was a friend of my father's, and then Fred McPherson, the publisher of the [*Santa Cruz Sentinel*] newspaper—Fred McPherson, Jr., we called him. The current Fred McPherson that's alive here now is Fred McPherson III. They recognized that I was a leader. And so they approached me about being on the city council. [And I should say, a big part of my building interest in civic involvement around that time, too, was John Kennedy's campaign for the presidency. He was so young and charismatic, and when he won everybody became more interested in the presidency and the country and working for a common good. I was on the council already when he beat Nixon, and he was a big inspiration for me. I became even more interested in doing something for my city. My wife switched to vote Democrat because of him. Later, when he was killed I shut up the office and went home, because that shook me to the core. It was a big deal. He made everyone more patriotic, and had really got me thinking I should be more involved.]

Juxtaposition:

The Flood of '55 & the '89 Earthquake

Vanderscoff: Now parenthetically, for a moment here, what are your recollections of the Flood of 1955?

Daly: Ah. I have deep recollection. My wife and I had only been married about a year, and we were living in a little cabin almost up to Scotts Valley on Highway 17. It was owned by friends of ours. He was an attorney, and they rented it to us very reasonably. Because again, we didn't have much money. We had a new baby. And I remember that year, starting the first of December, it began raining. And it was raining every day. I had to walk about, oh, maybe twenty yards, twenty-five yards from my little cabin to a little garage where I parked my car. And then I had to drive down to work downtown. Because my office was down on Lincoln and Pacific Avenue, right across the street from where the New Leaf Market is now.

Vanderscoff: Mm-hmm.

Daly: Every day I'd get down there and my feet would be wet, because it was raggedy asphalt where I had to walk across to my car. So I took a pair of shoes down to the office, I got down there and changed both my socks and my shoes to the shoes in the office. And that rain went on day after day after day. I remember it clearly because I had to walk across to the car. Well, by December 21st, I think, it had rained so much that everything was beginning to overflow. That's when we had the flood. And someone reminded me one of the reasons we had the flood is the bridges over the San Lorenzo [River] in those days didn't have as big a gap as they have now. So the logs would come down from the Boulder Creek area, Ben Lomond, come down and then they would clog and they would back the water up. So we ended up with about two-and-a-half, three feet of water on Pacific Avenue. And it made a hell of a mess. Luckily I was upstairs in the

Medical-Dental Building—it was at that time called the Medical-Dental Building—and that again is just across from the New Leaf Market.

Vanderscoff: Yes.

Daly: So I was safe and sound, thank God. But there were two other optometrists down on what is now the Mall, or Pacific Avenue. And they both got flooded badly. It affected the whole of their carpeting, and the bottoms of their equipment. And then when it receded it left this muck, mud. And it began to smell bad. That '55 flood was almost as bad as the '89 earthquake. There wasn't the infrastructure damage that was caused by the earthquake, but the town was a mess. And it stunk. And we got no federal help whatsoever. We got some state help. But that flood occurred I think about the 21st of December '55, and by the following May we had the town cleaned up. So in a matter of six months we had the town done. Well, now contrast that with how long it took to clean up the town after the earthquake. I think that went on—it not only went on for four or five years, but hell, we've still got a vacant spot downtown from the '89 earthquake. So even with FEMA, which didn't do a good job for us here in Santa Cruz, it took far longer to recover from the earthquake with the help of the federal government.¹¹

Vanderscoff: So I imagine that the flood negatively impacted many businesses downtown. Did it impact your practice in any way?

Daly: Well not mine, because again, I was upstairs. These other guys—as I say, they had to clean their whole offices out, repair and clean their equipment. And

¹¹ FEMA stands for Federal Emergency Management Agency.

some of the other stores further down the avenue, down toward the beach—there was a big furniture store called Haber's. And it was a very popular store. They were very generous with their credit. They were just a good store. Their whole basement got flooded bad and it ruined a lot of their furniture. And they had high-quality furniture. So they had a sale, and my wife and I proceeded to buy two or three tables and a couple of chairs very reasonably. So oh yes, the stores—the '55 flood really affected them. And many of them didn't get going again for at least two or three weeks to get rid of the mud and the mess.

Vanderscoff: Now, the '89 earthquake led to a pretty significant transformation, I think, in Santa Cruz—

Daly: (coughs)

Vanderscoff: Bless you.

Daly: Pardon me.

Vanderscoff: —as regards infrastructure and the appearance of downtown, and the businesses downtown. Do you think that the Flood of '55 had a similar effect in any way?

Daly: Well it had a very similar effect. I don't think it was quite as drastic (clears throat) because, as I say, they had to do a lot of change underground along Pacific Avenue with the wiring and that type of stuff that I don't think they did after the flood. Or that I know of that they did. So it was more dramatic, drastic. And of course I was in my new office on the day of the earthquake. And it was

just before five o'clock. My son had joined me in my practice. So we were busy. This was a far cry from how it was at the beginning.

And so I was with a patient in my examining room, and he was with a patient in his examining room. And boom—here comes this real shaker. And I thought, “Uh-oh. Uh-oh, that’s affected somebody pretty drastically.” It lasted quite a few seconds and then stopped. So I went out. And I was Mr. “Oh don’t worry, everything’s okay.” A lot of stuff had fallen off the walls, eyewear frames fallen off their thing. We still had two or three people in the reception room waiting for some type of service. And I said, “Gee, you know, I think we better begin to think about closing, because that was a pretty damn good shake. And until we find out where it was centered we better begin to close. You better re-appoint those people in the examining room.” And of course all the people were wide-eyed and scared. But I said, “It’s fine. Look at it, the building’s fine. We’re okay. Oh yeah, fine, and call your mate or go home. And you’ll be going home pretty soon.” My son came out and said, “Jeez Dad, that was really a shake.” (laughs) He had his patient by the arm, and he was anxious to get him out of there. So anyway, we got the people out and they went home. Then somebody said, “Gee, you know it’s really a mess down on Pacific Avenue.” I said, “Really?” He said, “Come and take a look.”

So I went out to the corner of my building and looked down. It was all smoky, all dusty, smoky. This was now looking down just past Theater Nine building. Theater Nine was a department store. And it reminded me of Yosemite in the summer. When you go to Yosemite in the summer everybody had a bonfire going. The whole valley got smoky. You could hardly see more than maybe fifty yards away. And I thought, “Jesus, that *is* bad.” And someone

walked by and said, "Oh boy, a couple of buildings have fallen down." I said, "Really?" So then that really got my attention. (laughs) And then my staff all began to get damn nervous, and I had one kid who—he went to Bethany Bible School [in Scott's Valley]. He was a good employee. He was scared to death. He didn't know which way to turn. He was from, I think, the middle of the country, and no earthquakes. So anyway, we said, "Oh, don't worry. I'll help you get home."

Well, we finally got the office closed. I don't think we had phones. And no cell phones, of course. And I went to my car. We had a parking lot area. And then this fellow—I think his name was Phil—I said, "Well, you follow me, Phil, now." "Oh, I don't know if I can—I don't know." "Phil, slow down now. You're going to drive home." And so, "Okay. Okay." "So you get your car and come around and follow me." So I took him over to Ocean Street, because he was going to go back up to Bethany, I think. But gee, no stoplights. I guess I did walk down quickly to see Pacific Avenue, and sure enough, a lot of the facades and the buildings had fallen into Pacific Avenue. But there hadn't been many buildings collapsed, but the trims and stuff had fallen.

So we drove down. I lived over on the East Side. We had built a lovely home over there overlooking the bay. You had to stop at every street and treat it like a four-way stop because there were no lights and everybody was waiting for somebody else to go. And so instead of taking twelve to fifteen minutes to get home it took me probably forty-five minutes. So I got home. Our house was a two-story home, and our living area was upstairs. We had a beautiful view of the bay. And unfortunately the shake was—let me get it straight now—was east and west. The shake rolled the house east and west. And we had all this valuable

china and glass from Ireland. A lot of Waterford glass in an east—I may be wrong on the directions now. I've got to think about that. But anyway it all blew out of the cabinet. The cabinet had doors that clicked, but the earthquake just blew it right out. And it was heavy glass, you know, all over the floor. Jeez, the glass was up to my wife's ankles—broken glass. And then on the other walls, the one wall on the kitchen which didn't have valuable stuff in it, everything was fine there. (laughter)

Vanderscoff: Now I'd like to talk about the community's response to these natural disasters, and starting with the flood. Did you have a strong sense that the community banded together in the aftermath of these natural disasters?

Daly: Well, yes. Especially I remember it in the flood, because as I say, in '55 you couldn't turn to the government as we do now—the federal government. Now as soon as we have a disaster they call the federal government and say, "Get FEMA here, or get the National Guard out." So we felt kind of isolated down here in '55. So the people banded together and we worked together. '55 now...yeah, I wasn't on the council yet, no. So everybody worked together, and as I say, in a matter of six months we had the downtown cleaned up. Now in the earthquake all we could think about—well not all, but it was getting federal help. Of course, there had been four or five or six people killed. So that got everybody's attention, too.

And we then learned that FEMA was coming to town and they were going to take care of us all. Well, that was wrong. They came to town with all the federal government paperwork. I gave up on it. I was going to get some assistance, financial assistance, from them. Not that I really needed it, but I felt I might as well take advantage of a low interest rate. And in those days I always

needed some money. But everything just bogged down. I'm sure there are those who will say, "Well, the damage was far greater from the earthquake than the flood." But still, we accomplished a hell of a lot in six months that it took the downtown five years to do after the quake.

Vanderscoff: And why do you think it was different in '55 as opposed to '89?

Daly: Well, there was more damage in '89. And what they did do—I almost forgot—they built tents. They built tents over on Center and Cedar Street. The people couldn't go back into their stores, now that I think about it. So it *was* more drastic. And so they built these tents. And people opened up the tent to sell their products. And I guess only because, once again, after a month they still couldn't get back into their stores. We were out of our office for at least a week, and probably ten days. And we had no real severe damage to the office. It was a one story building, stucco and lath, and built like a brick. And so we just had to go in and clean up. But we couldn't get back in there for at least ten days. I don't know if that answered the question or not.

Vanderscoff: I think it does. And I think that this would also probably also be a good time to bring this session to an end, and then next time we can pick up the thread talking about, in the years after the flood, your involvement with the town and then get to the city council.

Daly: Right, good point. I think it is a good time.

Bringing a UC to Santa Cruz:
Reflections on City Council Service

Vanderscoff: Today is Tuesday, December 18th, 2012. This is Cameron Vanderscoff here with Dr. John Daly for the second interview for his oral history project. Today we're going to start with your tenure on the city council. Now, when and why did you run for city council?

Daly: Again, you have to get the different perspective. Today you have ten to fifteen candidates running for the city council. We live in an age of people more involved in politics. And I'm not sure why. But anyway, in those days you didn't have many people wanting to run for the city council. For one thing, the council didn't seem to make that many momentous decisions. And yet they did direct and lead the city. We had a city manager. That's changed. Today now the manager is kind of de-emphasized with these political people. In those days the city manager ran the town, and he got the okay of the city council, just for direction. So you didn't have a lot of people running.

So Fred McPherson, the publisher of the [*Santa Cruz Sentinel*] newspaper and Skip Littlefield, the PR man for the Seaside Company, came to me and said, "Gee John, we'd like you to run." They had seen me run two or three different organizations. They were I think quite impressed that I had leadership skills.

Vanderscoff: You mean in regard to like the junior chamber and the Salvation Army?

Daly: Yes, the Salvation Army was one. And they were both on the board of the Salvation Army. And I did a wonderful job in that first Crusade for Funds, we called it. And then on the Junior Chamber of Commerce we were active in Miss California. We did a community fair. We raised the money for the Harvey West swimming pool. So I think they said, "Here's a guy that is young and vigorous, and we ought to get him to run." So I discussed it with my wife. I was kind of surprised, and said, "Well hell, I might as well. I'm not that busy in my office." I remind you that in those days doctors and optometrists weren't very busy. People just didn't go to them regularly as they do today. So I thought, "Well, it's an opportunity, and I can do some good for my community. I want this place to grow." (phone rings) I think we'll let that—well, why don't we stop this. (Recorder switched off; Dr. Daly answers the phone; record resumes after a brief phone conversation)

And at that time the people who ran for the council were primarily businesspeople and/or professionals. And the council wasn't nearly as demanding as it is today. We used to start our meetings at 7:30 or 7:00, and then they would end usually at 10:30 or 11. On occasion we would run later when there was some controversial issue. But it wasn't like it is today. Today now [council members] devote fifty to seventy percent of their time to the council activities. Then you had professional people. We had an attorney who was a close friend of mine. And he was running with me. We had a stationary story owner, who had served a term on the council before. Then we had a building contractor. We had a foreman for the phone company. And I forget who else. But these were people who had deep roots in the community, and had other jobs that they were going to go back to. Now interestingly, in those days we used to get

five dollars a meeting. That's what we got paid, because it was really just an honorary thing to be on the city council. And the mayor got ten dollars. Today I think they get a thousand dollars a month, if you can believe it. It's hard for me to believe. Plus, they get some medical benefits. So in addition to having these more politically active people running, they also have a part-time job with medical benefits if they serve a full term. So I won in the election. I think I came in second in the group of four that we were running with. So that was delightful, and I got on the council.

Vanderscoff: What was your impression of the efficiency and level of cooperation on the council upon the time of your entrance?

Daly: You mean with the council members?

Vanderscoff: Yes, that's right.

Daly: It was good, because we were all, if not friends, we knew each other. And so people cooperated. In those days, we didn't have the bickering that we have today in politics. And again we turned to the city manager, who literally ran the city. And it was a good, efficient arrangement. Today these council people almost get in each other's way. And it isn't very efficient. It was better then, I feel.

Vanderscoff: Now, in your time on the council, upon your entry to the council, what was your sense of priorities going forward?

Daly: Well I think the main priority, as I mentioned before, was growing the community. We had a small community that literally dried up after Labor Day. And again, I can't stress that enough. So through the winter, until Memorial Day,

it was a lovely place to live because there was little traffic, and the weather, as you know, is great in October, November, into December. And so it was just a marvelous place to live. And here you are only two hours from San Francisco, but you're living in a small, beautiful community with the beach and with redwoods.

Vanderscoff: And why did you sense a need for growth here?

Daly: Well, because there wasn't enough work for people. Again, we didn't have any significant industry. When Wrigley's came to Santa Cruz with their gum factory that was a big, big event. And they hired I would guess in the neighborhood of a hundred people. It just was a great place to work, and Wrigley's treated their employees wonderfully. I had many of them as my patients. And so that was a big boom to Santa Cruz. Levi's I think had—they either made Levi's and/or they made shirts here. They had a small factory to make things. But that dried up some years after I arrived. I think they moved that to San Francisco, where their main headquarters is. But we didn't have any other industry to speak of. We didn't have Lipton's Tea. They came long after Wrigley's came. I'm trying to think of what else we had. We had Salz Tannery, where they tanned and prepared beautiful leather. You'll hear about that from Norm Lezin, who happened to be the president, partly because he married the daughter of the originator of Salz Tannery. But that was a fairly large industry. They turned out this saddle leather, which was gorgeous. That was about it.

Now remember too, in those days there was nothing at 41st Avenue.¹² That was just country, and there were chicken ranches out there. Chicken and milk cows. So the 41st Avenue thing came about the time I was on the council in 1960ish.¹³ And I think Sears built their store out there. It was the first major store. Then came a couple of other department stores and all the others. I wanted to—here's another aside—I wanted to annex that area. See, that wasn't part of the city. That was mid-county. I think the city stopped at about, let's see, Soquel Avenue where Capitola Road comes up and bumps into Soquel Avenue. That's where the Santa Cruz [medical] clinic is located today.¹⁴ That was about where the city limits ended. Maybe 7th Avenue, for example. That's near what I just described. Beyond that, it was just farms. And the majority on the council were against it. For one thing, they wanted the city, if it was going to be in the city, to have curbs and gutters. Somebody was very high on that: curbs and gutters. And I said, "Well, that will come later. But jeez, let's annex out to 41st Avenue, because potentially 41st Avenue will become a shopping center." But no, no. They were against that.

And so we never annexed it, which was a mistake, because here Capitola gets all that wonderful tax revenue. Remember too, one of the reasons we wanted growth is we wanted more tax money to improve our community, improve the streets, improve the water system and the sewer system, et cetera. Because that's the other benefit that comes with growth: the tax that accumulates to the city.

¹² Now the site of the Capitola Mall and extensive commercial development.

¹³ Dr. Daly was on the city council from 1959-1963.

¹⁴ In reference to the Palo Alto Medical Foundation's Main Clinic.

Vanderscoff: So did you have a sense that that tax money would benefit the infrastructure, then, that there was a need for infrastructure improvement in that way?

Daly: Oh yes. There was. Because we were growing slowly. So you could see where the streets were going to have to be widened. We'd have to install some more stop signs to monitor or affect the traffic. So we saw it coming. Now again in '60 we hired David Koester, who turned out to be a superb city manager.¹⁵ Low-keyed, but very effective. And he brought with him a good public works director named Bill Fieberling, who's still alive. Dave Koester is long dead. And Fieberling is still living here in Santa Cruz, and would have answers to the Zayante Dam, which we're going to get to pretty soon.

Vanderscoff: Yes.

Daly: So, Koester and those younger on the council knew that Santa Cruz was going to grow. Once again, there was no resistance to growth as there is today. It's very difficult today for you young people to even imagine the fact that everybody wanted growth. There was nobody saying, "No, no! Hold back growth! God, we don't want growth!" No. We all wanted growth, just to make our businesses run [healthier] and more efficiently, and also to get the tax revenue for the city.

¹⁵ David Koester started serving as city manager in 1962, following departure of his predecessor, Pete Tedesco.

Vanderscoff: Now I'd like to talk more specifically about individual development projects that the city pursued. When did you first get involved with pitching a Santa Cruz location for the proposed UC campus?

Daly: Well I got in a little bit later, and I'm not sure why. Because from the very beginning the city manager, Pete Tedesco, and I were both very high [on the idea], and I think our first reaction was, "Well hell, that's a dream. They're not going to come to our little town. Especially where we're over here on the coast, bumped up against the ocean. It doesn't make *sense* to come here." The population pool was over the mountain in San Jose. So I think that was our first reaction. And there were others who I think felt differently, that they could maybe woo them to come. So I wasn't in on it that early. And some of the things I've read in Dr. Doyle's book intrigued me, because I was not in there.¹⁶ But once the feeling began to grow that maybe we could get it here, then of course Tedesco and I jumped in with both feet.¹⁷ Now some on the council were against it. There was George Wilson, who was a general contractor, old-time Santa Cruzan, and John McBain, who was the PG&E foreman, I think also a long-time Santa Cruz resident. They both didn't want it. And there were a few others that didn't want it, because they felt it was too much and too big for our small town.

Vanderscoff: And so why did you personally think that that was not the case?

Daly: Well, because I was a Cal grad, for one thing. And I was just thrilled that maybe my alma mater would open a campus here. And as I mentioned last visit,

¹⁶ In reference to a work-in-progress (as of February 2013) by Dr. Bill Doyle, founding UC Santa Cruz member, on the history of the late 50s/early 60s campaign to bring a UC to Santa Cruz.

¹⁷ Pete Tedesco was also a UC Berkeley graduate.

it was such a good fit. As soon as Labor Day came everybody left. Well, Labor Day is when the students all come to the town where they're going to go to school. And they come in with pockets full of money because their parents, especially in those days, where there was mostly the upper-middle class and upper-upper class were going to college—they all came to town with money. So we thought, "Wow, that's great. And they'll spend it on clothing, and on food." This brings up a lot of interesting points. We didn't know they were going to start dressing like bums, which is what happened. We thought they were going to come and wear their tans and their white blouses, plaid skirts and bobby socks and that kind of stuff.

We envisioned our campus being like Berkeley was in the fifties. It was a far cry from when I was there. The sixties turned the world around in a couple of ways. First of all—and we haven't touched on this, but we should do it right now—first of all, the federal government allowed young people to vote at eighteen rather than twenty-one. That was the first big change which affected our UCSC. Number two change was a state law that Governor Brown—our current Governor Brown was governor back then also. [He] pushed to allow students to vote where they went to school. A mistake, because why should they vote where they go to school when their parents are financing them, and they're from Madera or from Los Angeles? They should really vote in the town where they grew up and have a direct interest. They're only going to be in Santa Cruz for four years, so they really should vote where they grew up and their families live, not where they go to school. But Jerry Brown allowed them to vote where they went to school. That made a big difference too.

Vanderscoff: And we'll touch on a lot of those issues, the demographic changes in Santa Cruz, a little bit later on, possibly in this interview. So was it your sense at the time that within the community, within your constituency, there was, generally speaking, support for the idea of bringing a UC campus?

Daly: Yes. There was. There was very little resistance to it, especially initially.

Vanderscoff: Now, what did you think that Santa Cruz could offer a University of California campus, as opposed to the other proposed site in San Jose?¹⁸

Daly: Well, the main thing was that we had a beautiful campus site. And they were going to be able to get it very reasonably because of the Cowell trustees and the S.H. Cowell Foundation.¹⁹ This is Cowell, now, the cement makers. So that was number one. It was a gorgeous campus, even though, once again, in the back of my mind I thought, "Well, from a purely practical point of view, they're better to build the campus over in San Jose where all the students are." So that was it. And then Santa Cruz had great weather, which everybody loves. And so that was the second thing. As far as cultural—there wasn't that much cultural advantages in Santa Cruz. We really didn't have a lot. We didn't have a symphony. We had libraries. But we didn't have much culture in Santa Cruz. It was still a small California town.

¹⁸ By '59, the debate for the new UC campus was between two sites: the Cowell Ranch, in Santa Cruz, and in the Almaden Valley in San Jose.

¹⁹ The S.H. Cowell Foundation, formed in 1956 after the death of S.H. Cowell, held the title to the ranch.

Vanderscoff: Now, given these disadvantages, what steps and resolutions did the council pursue to pave the way for the selection of the Cowell site?²⁰

Daly: Well again, except for the two, McBain and Wilson—and then the other man that was on the council, it's come to me now, it was Harold Carriger, who was the mayor preceding me. He was the manager of the Benjamin Franklin Store. Here again it gives you an idea of the kind of businesses we had. He was on the east side of Santa Cruz on Soquel Avenue, and it was the Ben Franklin Store, which was a kind of a small department store. And I don't think he was enthusiastic about the university. I think these three men were not highly educated men. And by that I mean they didn't go to college. I think they were kind of intimidated by the fact that, "God, UC Berkeley is going to come *here*?" And I think that was true of some others who eventually got on the bandwagon but at first said, "Oh, I don't think we can tolerate that."

Vanderscoff: Now how were you personally involved in the effort to bring UC Santa Cruz here? What steps did you take personally?

Daly: Well, as I say, I got on the bandwagon a little bit later, I think, because of other projects. But then of course I was very enthusiastic and spoke favorably, and by that time I was the vice mayor of the city. So wherever I went I would talk up the coming of the university. Now once again, it wasn't just automatic. We had two or three or four things that fell into place that allowed the Regents to decide to come to Santa Cruz. And that's important, because there are those now

²⁰ For more details on the UCSC site and contemporaneous development efforts discussed in these sessions, the Santa Cruz city council minutes are an excellent resource.

who say, “Gee, the campus imposed themselves on us. They came here and they pushed themselves in here.” That isn’t true at all. They were being very objective. The first vote of the Regents, as I read I think in Doyle’s book, was that they had decided to go to the Evergreen property in San Jose.²¹ And it was only after that this surge of our people here began to shift that. And as I say, we had some key players that allowed that to happen, or caused that to happen.

Vanderscoff: And who are those key players, in your opinion?

Daly: Probably the number one key player was our assemblyman, who was another longtime resident of the Felton area. Glenn Coolidge was his name. He was a very good politician. [He was in real estate.] But he was the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. And the Ways and Means Committee is the one that dictates to how the money from the government and taxes is spent. So he was a key player. Because of that he brought a lot of pressure to bear, not only on the Regents, but on the executive staff of the university. And so he was key.

Secondly, as I mention—I’ll go through this quickly—you know the Regents’ site committee, they had already kind of decided on the Evergreen property in San Jose. But they came down again and then looked more deeply at each of the sites. And then the Cowell property began to look better to them. And then I think they learned the Cowells were going to sell them the property at a very reasonable price. It was really only one owner with a couple of peripheral property owners, whereas the Evergreen property was I think about twenty or thirty owners.

²¹ Evergreen Property is in reference to the Almaden site.

Vanderscoff: I think upwards of that, actually.

Daly: Yes. And that would have been a much more complex thing to acquire that property. That also turned the heads of some of this site committee. As I remember, the site committee was maybe ten members of the Regents. And then, as they looked more carefully at the beauty of the Santa Cruz site—I think that [they said], “Gee, this is a great opportunity.” And then they were told, “Well, if you choose this site, then we [S.H. Cowell Foundation] will help finance the first college. We understand you’re going to build a campus where you’re going to have individual colleges. So we’ll pay for the first college.” Which became known as Cowell College. So that again turned their head.

So later then most of the Regents came down, and that was a great coincidence that they came down on a very hot day. Hot as hell over in San Jose, in the Evergreen property, and they wandered around there in their shirtsleeves and hot, hot. Then they came over the hill, came down into Santa Cruz with that nice ocean breeze. They went up to the campus, they stood there and looked out at Monterey Bay. And they were now putting on their sweaters. It was cool. And they said, “This is really something.” That almost, I think, changed the mind of most of the Regents to, “Gee, we better look more seriously at this.” So soon after that visit is when they changed their mind.²² They retracted from favoring the Evergreen property and decided toward the Cowell property.

²² The visit was on July 20th, 1960. The Regents started with a cool and sunny day in Santa Cruz, and finished with a very hot visit in San Jose, switching to a bus that wasn’t air-conditioned. The Regents ultimately switched their site preference to Santa Cruz on December 16th.

Vanderscoff: Now, during this process of selection, which of course took several years, you became mayor. And parenthetically, I'd like to ask, how did you come to be mayor, and why did you accept the position?

Daly: Well actually on the council every year—not like some cities that have more press—in Santa Cruz we have a city manager-council form of government. And the mayor is not elected. He is chosen from the members of the council. So that changes every year. You have a new mayor. So you had to be respected by your fellow council people. And then they would choose a vice mayor, which was key. Once you're the vice mayor then you almost automatically become the mayor the next year. So they chose me after Carriger moved up to be mayor.²³ Now, the other contender was Bert Snyder, Jr., who was an attorney and the son of a former assemblyman, Bert Snyder, Sr. When I became mayor, Bert Snyder became the vice mayor. So you just kind of, in some ways, moved up. Not every councilman became mayor, and that's become much more fought over in today's councils than it was in those days. And one last thought: the mayor ran the council meetings, and he greeted and met dignitaries and people who came to Santa Cruz. But he didn't have any other major responsibility.

**The Cowell Site Confirmed:
Ongoing Preparations and Perspectives on UCSC**

²³ Dr. Daly served as vice mayor from April '60 to April '61, and mayor from April '61 to April '62.

Vanderscoff: Now the Regents ultimately did settle on the Cowell Ranch site. How did the Santa Cruz community react to the news?

Daly: I think very favorably. I think by that time the public relations that we had grown had convinced all the Santa Cruz people that yes, this would be a good fit with the students coming here in the fall, filling up all of our motels and hotels that were mostly sitting vacant through the winter. So I think the people were pleased. And it was like winning a Super Bowl game. I mean, we had really struggled. It didn't go on for years, though. You mentioned earlier that the site selection went on for years. It really only went on for maybe two years, maybe three. Again, the majority of Santa Cruzans were in favor of it coming here, but didn't give it a lot of thought, really. But once they said, "Ah-ha, we're coming here," then everybody got excited.

Vanderscoff: Now did you have children at the time the Regents settled on the Cowell ranch site? Did you hope this could be a university where you could send your children?

Daly: Yes, I, of course, thought of that. But they were very young. And yet that went through my mind. Yes, it would be nice to have a campus right here, within a mile or two of where I lived.

Vanderscoff: Did the campaign to help the university with its new site continue after Cowell was selected? I've looked through the old city council minutes and I've seen things like the council would pay for aerial photographs and that sort of thing.

Daly: Well yes, it continued. Remember, too, there was a lot of negotiations going on as to sewer and water. And a lot of this stuff I wasn't necessarily involved in. That was going on because suddenly we were going to have another small city, which was going to grow to a big city, right on our border. There was a lot of concern about making sure it was going to be right and very beneficial to the university. We thought that the campus was going to be built right on High Street. That was every indication. And so we were all somewhat shocked when the first college, Cowell, or the first buildings, were built way up the hill. That was a surprise.

Vanderscoff: And was it your sense that there was much controversy surrounding issues like water and sewage to the university at that time?

Daly: No controversy. We had no reason to be concerned, because we had at that time plenty of water. We had good PG&E services, good phone services. And of course we had this good city manager who just could take care of every issue that might come up. So we never even heard or felt any controversy. The people were still very enthusiastic. They weren't against the growth, as they are today, at all. They said, "Fine, bring them on. We want more students, more students." Even though McHenry was saying, "Well you're going to have a campus the size of Berkeley here." And he said we were going to have it by I think—it's hard to believe—1990 I think is what he said in that tape that I have.²⁴

²⁴ "Tape": in reference to a promotional film that both Dr. Daly and Dean McHenry participated in for the Court of the Seven Seas (see our discussion of the Court later in this transcript), in which growth in Santa Cruz is discussed.

Vanderscoff: Yes, the twenty-seven thousand, five hundred [student growth projection] figure.

Daly: Yes, yes. (laughs) And when you stop and think about it, I was sitting there at that table with the city manager. I think we were all saying, "Fine, that's good, Dean. Good. Good." (laughs) Because if we had stopped to think a moment, I think the city only had twenty five thousand people at that time. Yeah, twenty-five to thirty thousand.

Vanderscoff: Now, what were your personal impressions of people like Dean McHenry and Clark Kerr, these people who were these crucial players in the founding of the university?

Daly: Well McHenry was just a superb politician in addition to being, I guess, quite a brilliant educator. He was just a very personable, likable guy, and sharp. One of the things that stood out in my mind—and I learned things from him, because I dealt with him regularly during this period—was that he wouldn't go to any function without knowing the names of all the people that were there. So he could greet them by name, which I'm sure they were very impressed, because here's the chancellor. And he was an imposing figure, with this large, bald head, and a big, hearty smile and laugh. See, he was an imposing guy. But he always wanted to know. He would say to me, "John now who is—this is Joe Smith? Now who is he again?" And I would clue him before we got to the function, or the day before we had a meeting. And so that impressed me. And then the people he was surrounded by were very sharp. And of course Clark Kerr, who I admired greatly, had been the chancellor at Berkeley and then became the

president of the university, was also another brilliant educator. And they went to school together at Stanford. That's why they were close friends. Married their wives [there], I think—close friends at Stanford.

Vanderscoff: Now, so you mention these meetings and functions where you'd interact with Dean McHenry. Were these in your capacity as councilman and mayor?

Daly: Yes, yes. That's what they were. He became an honorary member of the Kiwanis Club. I was a member of the Kiwanis Club. And two or three of the council people were members of the Kiwanis Club at that time. So he would come to a meeting maybe once a month. And here again we were all very pleased. As I say, he was such a warm, outgoing [fellow] that everybody loved him. And so he was just very popular.

Vanderscoff: And in these meetings, in these discussions, what is your sense of how the UC at Santa Cruz was presented to you, to the community, by Dean McHenry and his associates? How did they present this university in terms of what its mission statement was going to be, in terms of what its impact on the community would be—in those direct conversations?

Daly: Well that was interesting, because unlike the other campuses—you know Irvine was in the process of being developed, along with Orange County.

Vanderscoff: San Diego. Irvine and San Diego.

Daly: San Diego, Irvine, and then Orange County. Was that the other one?

Vanderscoff: Irvine, yes, was the Orange County campus.

Daly: But in any event, those were just going to grow into universities like UCLA and USC. Santa Cruz was very unique. And again, this is an important point that I can't believe was missed along the way in these histories, but McHenry and Clark Kerr were working hand-in-hand.²⁵ And I think they realized that they had an outstanding campus site in Santa Cruz, number one. Number two, they wanted to develop, really, a social science campus. And then it was going to have colleges rather than just being a big open campus like Berkeley. And it was going to resemble Oxford, and I think Cambridge, in England. They were going to build one college at a time, and then the students and some of the faculty would be living in that college. Again, unlike other universities, where the kids just came in from their living quarters, apartments, or dormitories and went all over the campus. You'd almost have to have gone to Berkeley to fully appreciate this concept, because it was quite unique and different. And of course it was also very appealing [on the Cowell site]. So they worked hard toward that. And this is how they presented it.

McHenry was very proud of this plan. Now, did say, "Well, now eventually there's a probability that you'll have a law school here, and also an engineering school"—or reversed: an engineering school, then a law school—"even though it's going to be primarily a social science school." So he was for the social science end of it. He just didn't realize what he was going to get. (laughs) Because he got a large group of very liberal people coming. And that's partly

²⁵ Both Dean McHenry and Clark Kerr have oral histories in the Regional History Project. See *Dean McHenry: Founding Chancellor of the University of California, Santa Cruz & Clark Kerr and the Founding of UC Santa Cruz*.

what he solicited when he was out going all over the country urging people to come. I think he solicited free-thinking, liberal people, as compared to hard-thinking engineers and physicists and people like that. But he got a bunch of these people. And again, with the coming of the sixties, even their attitudes became more lax and more open-minded. That's why the campus developed into what it did. I'm sure it turned out to be a big disappointment for McHenry before he died.²⁶

Vanderscoff: Now, you were present, I understand, at the meeting in December of '61 where the check for the Cowell Ranch was physically handed over by the Regents. Where did this meeting take place? What are your recollections of it?

Daly: It was—and I'm sure it's the one I'm thinking of—it took place at the president's home on the Berkeley campus. Now, in those days it was called the president's home. Today I think it's referred to as the chancellor's home. It was a very lovely—I don't know what kind of architecture it was. On the north end of the Berkeley campus. Beautiful building. Beautiful interior foyer. And so we all went up, all the council people. And unfortunately, you know, I don't recall it very clearly. And I'm not sure why, because it was a momentous occasion. My wife was there, Tedesco was there with his wife, and I guess most of the council. I would doubt that if two or three of them came up— Again, going to Berkeley from here was quite a long distance in those days. So anyway, we were there and the president, Clark Kerr, was there, along with McHenry and a lot of the Regents. We got to know the Regents pretty well, too, at least the key players

²⁶ Dean McHenry died in 1998, having retired from the chancellorship in 1974.

when it came to the Santa Cruz campus. And [the streets of UCSC] are named now after the Regents: Hagar.

Vanderscoff: Yeah, there's Hagar Drive, and—

Daly: And then—well there's two or three others. I can't remember their names now.²⁷ But they were key players. So they were all there. And yes, they did pass a check to the Cowell trustees. And it wasn't, as I remember, a long affair, as I think I told you—oh no, I told [Bill] Doyle that unfortunately in those days everybody wasn't carrying a camera. I'm sure there were some newspaper pictures taken of that, and whether they're in the *Sentinel* archives or not, I don't know. But I can't believe that it wasn't a *Sentinel* photographer, that McHenry didn't have UC photographers there taking pictures. Once again, it wasn't that big a deal. This was all, "Okay, well, we're going to build a campus at Santa Cruz, and luckily we're getting it through the Cowell Foundation." And that was about it. It wasn't front page or second-page news in any newspapers, really.

Vanderscoff: Was it a striking experience at all for you, as a former Berkeley student, going to the president's house to strike a big deal like that?

Daly: (laughs) Oh, it was. It was wonderful. That's why I really regret that I don't remember more detail. Because yes, it was a major—and even more important than that was when I went up as mayor to negotiate the final decisions regarding some of the leftover details. And I went to the Regents' meeting room, and here was this long room with this *long* table. I guess you could have sat sixty

²⁷ Other streets at UCSC named for regents include Koshland, McLaughlin, Heller and Meyer.

people at that table. That's where the Regents met. I thought, "Oh my God, I have really reached the top here." (laughs) And so we sat there, and then Clark Kerr led the discussion. And a few controversial issues came up, and I regret that I don't remember even what they were. They weren't big issues, but they were debated for a short time. But Kerr was a master at saying, "Wait, now you want A and they want B. And there's this group who wants C. Now why don't we do this: why don't we work it out so that the A's give here, the B's give here, and the C's just kind of accept it?" And everybody said, "Well, I don't know. Well, what the heck. Yes." He was a master. And that's what made him a great college president and chancellor. He could always solve these controversies, and do it quickly, precisely.

Vanderscoff: Now, in conclusion for this initial section on the university, before we go into too much depth about its impact upon arriving, as of signing this deal were you still optimistic about the UC coming to Santa Cruz?

Daly: Oh yes. By this time, as I said just a few minutes ago, the whole town was delighted. I think it gave the town a prestige that it never dreamed it would ever really have. And we're going to have a real university here? I think Cabrillo [Community College] had only opened a few years before that, so we didn't even have a junior college in north Santa Cruz County. When I started practicing the college students had to go over to Hartnell [College], which was over towards Salinas. So that's where—if you wanted to go to college you went over there, or you went over to San Jose State. Or, if you were bright enough, you went up to Berkeley. But we didn't have even a junior college here. So it gave us that prestige of having a real, full-fledged university campus.

Vanderscoff: So good—and that does address the question.

Daly: Okay.

Growth vs. No-Growth:

Debates over Development in Santa Cruz in the Sixties

Vanderscoff: So I'd like to a step back at this point from UCSC for a time, and discuss the other growth projects that you and the council and the community were involved in during the time of the pitch for the UC. And I'm talking about efforts like the acquisition of Sky Park Airport, the building of DeLaveaga Park, downtown redevelopment, and what became the Loch Lomond Reservoir. Why was there such a push for growth in many different arenas in such a short span of time?

Daly: Well remember, that was the period after World War II. So the whole country was growing rapidly. We were almost in a prosperity, and everybody wanted to grow and enhance their communities. Now, the Sky Park Airport was in place when I went on the council. It was a very small airport up in Scotts Valley. In fact, just not even a half a mile away [from Dr. Daly's current residence and interview site]. And I understand it—I'm not a pilot—it was not an easy airport to fly into, because you had to fly down between the mountains and land. And it was a rather short approach. And it was only for private planes, by the way. It was never designed to be a large airport. Watsonville had an airport that

was much bigger, and so that was the one that was going to become our, quote, “national airport.”

So this was just for private planes. And we said, “That’s great. We need an airport because we want people to fly up here.” That came from the Miss California pageant. A lot of the people from the south—we had people from Hollywood who were judges on the Miss California pageant. And they said, “Now, where do we fly into?” “Ooh. Well you fly to San Jose.” “San Jose? Well then what?” “Well then you take a ride over the mountain. It takes about thirty-five, forty-five minutes, and then you come to Santa Cruz.” “Ooh. Well, can’t we fly to Santa Cruz?” “No, you can’t fly, unless you have a small, private plane. And you have a good pilot.” So that was Sky Park. And then I forget when we sold, or gave away Sky Park.

You know, now that I think about it, it may be in part some of those early no-growth people—huh, now that I think about it—that didn’t want to have an airport available that would bring more people. See, all of a sudden—once again, I’m repeating—once the university opened and began to grow, we had more and more of these no-growth people. And I repeat what I said earlier: you had a lot of these people from Harvard and from Yale and Florida State, Florida, and the University of Michigan who came to Santa Cruz because McHenry painted a wonderful picture and told them, “Here you’re going to be going to a UC Berkeley [type of institution].” And at that point, remember too—and we’re reading it in this book about the atomic bomb [*Brotherhood of the Bomb*—UC became a very, very prestigious university, because that’s where the atomic bomb was born and developed. And you had Nobel Prize winners, a bunch of them, at Berkeley.

So suddenly he was selling a hot product, McHenry, to these people. And then he would say, "Man, look here. Here's the campus: redwoods, the ocean, the bay of Monterey. You're right around the corner from Monterey and Carmel, California, one of the most desirable tourist attractions in the West Coast." So these guys all said, "Well wait, no, no. We're happy here at Harvard or MIT. But gee, I don't know, that looks pretty good." And they'd show it to their wives and they'd say, "We can get out of this damn cold weather in the winter? What's the temperature there in the winter? Wow. Well, I think you better think about that." So we got a lot of prestigious, good professors. And then they brought part of their staff and both graduate students and secretaries with them.

Vanderscoff: Now, is it your sense that during your time on the council there was a particular push across the board in all of these different endeavors, for growth in the city, that hadn't been going on?

Daly: Yeah, there was growth. You mentioned two or three. We wanted to build the [Santa Cruz] Yacht Harbor. There was a group of people who were primarily yachtsmen. They were yachtsmen who wanted to build a better harbor. And so they had been working for years. And I can tell you those names later, if they're important. But they'd go back to Washington, D.C. every year and meet with the people who doled out the money for harbors and sailing stuff, to try and get money for the Santa Cruz Yacht Harbor. So that was going on at the same time that we were trying to get the university to come.²⁸

Then you mentioned Loch Lomond Dam. Yes, we knew we needed more water. Everybody was going to need more water. So once again, this Koester, the

²⁸ The harbor opened in 1964.

great city manager, had not only the public works director, but he had an excellent water director. Wes Webber, his name was. And they put together the Loch Lomond Dam. And then at the same time they were beginning to put together the Zayante Dam. And so these things, mainly due to Koester and to those of us who knew the town was going to grow rather rapidly with the university, wanted to enhance all the infrastructure.

Vanderscoff: Now, touching on the Loch Lomond Dam in particular, given that water has become more recently such a recurring issue in local politics, was this project controversial in any way at the time?

Daly: No, not at all. Not at all. Once again, people weren't as involved. Again—and I maybe am overstressing this, but I think it's very germane—and that is, you know in those days people went to work, they raised their families. As long as you didn't decide to do something out on their front yard, or on their curb line, they didn't pay too much attention to government. Government wasn't as intrusive in those days. This is before 1970. And now I'll come back to my point about water. So people weren't saying, "Gee, a dam and more water?" No. Nobody cared. As long as they were going to get their water at a good price, they didn't care if we got it from the moon. So that no, there was no controversy about that at all. All this talk and fight about water today is mainly because the areas have grown and the water's become less. So that's really aggravated that. But at that time we had plenty of water. And we just took groundwater. No one gave water much of a thought, except we did know that we were going to need more water. We were going to need more water in the future, and therefore it was obvious—and again, nobody up in the San Lorenzo Valley ever said, "Hey, wait

a minute! Wait a minute! Wait a minute! You're going to wreck some of the ecostructure." I guess that is what they call it. "Oh, You're going to wreck this. You're going to disturb some of the animals, or some of the bugs." Nobody worried about that in those days.²⁹

It's very amusing, by the way, as an aside here, that San Francisco is going through a big controversy. Although again, [they are making] more of a mountain and it's really a molehill. And that is, there is this group of people which includes the Sierra Club. They want to tear down the dam that is holding the water back next to Yosemite Valley.³⁰

Vanderscoff: Oh, Hetch-Hetchy Dam.

Daly: Yeah, they want to bring that back. And they're putting up a hell of a fight. It's amazing, because I think the vast majority—I mean eighty-five to ninety percent—of the San Francisco people say, "Are you kidding? With our water shortage, you want to take a dam out and then redo it somehow down in the San Joaquin Valley? It doesn't even make sense. And we don't even need that Hetch-Hetchy Valley. We have Yosemite Valley." "Oh yes, but we could have two Yosemite Valleys." But that's going on now. In fact, they just had a big vote, and it lost. They had a vote to at least start steps towards taking out the Hetch-

²⁹ A footnote courtesy of Dr. Daly: Santa Cruz city and county has now been warned for ten-plus years by federal agencies that it needs to reduce the water it continues to draw from the San Lorenzo, among other local rivers and streams, due to the damage caused to fish populations.

³⁰ In reference to San Francisco's 2012 Proposition F, which would have taken the first steps to the eventual removal of the Hetch Hetchy Dam and the restoration of the Hetch Hetchy Valley.

Hetchy Dam and it lost, fortunately. Because it's nonsense. It's just total nonsense. And so it shows you, again, how that's changed.

Vanderscoff: Mm-hmm. And you think that that type of consciousness about those issues did not exist at that time?

Daly: No. No, I'm sure when they built the Hetch-Hetchy Dam [there were some against it]. It would be interesting to investigate it. The water engineers and the water directors of San Francisco said, "Gee, that's a great idea. Let's go up and build the dam and we'll have these millions of gallons of water in reserve." And San Francisco is very proud of its wonderful water from the Hetch Hetchy.

Vanderscoff: And we'll speak in greater detail about water in Santa Cruz in the seventies and eighties as we move forward in these interviews.

The Court of the Seven Seas:

A Plan for an Intersection of Santa Cruz & the International

Vanderscoff: For the moment, I'd like to focus on another one of the projects that went on in the early sixties, during your time on the council: the Court of the Seven Seas. Would you explain how you heard of this project and what attracted you to it?

Daly: It was, again, while I was vice mayor, I believe, that this fellow from San Jose, Peter Pasetta and his wife, came to town with bags of money. And they purchased the site which is called Lighthouse Point. And they said, "Well, what

we want to do is—” He had made a lot of money. His parents apparently owned hundreds of acres over in Santa Clara Valley, which in those days were prune and apricot trees. I think if nothing else from this report of mine I’m going to emphasize how much different—and I assume other interviewees are saying the same thing—but how much different the world was before 1970 here in Central California. That was all orchards over there. And then he had begun subdividing and building homes—and building by the hundreds of homes. Something that never happened here in Santa Cruz, by the way.

So he had a lot of money, and he wanted to build the Court of the Seven Seas, which was more than a convention [center] and a hotel. Again, you talk to the people who were against it, and they said, “Oh well hell, it was just a great big hotel. And it was going to be a convention center. It was going to make a mess out of the beach area.” Well, that isn’t true at all. He went to the Frank Lloyd Wright architects down in Arizona and they designed what turned out to be a jewel of a set of buildings—jewels. Nice hotel. Not real big. And then these other courts. They were going to bring people from all around the world to come there and practice their arts, whether they were from Japan or Indochina, France or Germany, South Africa. So the ambition was great.³¹

And we had this dinner down at what was called the Riverside Inn then. It’s long gone now. Down near the San Lorenzo River, close to the beach. And we invited consuls from all over the state. And they all went out over my signature,

³¹ The plans for this development were on display at New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art, and consisted of a glass-pyramid hotel, multiple courts featuring products from all over the world, a motor hotel, an ocean-side restaurant and a theater dedicated to non-American artists, performers, and films, among other features.

because by that point I'd become the mayor. I'd been involved in junior chamber functions and conventions here in Santa Cruz. That was one of our big industries, having conventions, and of course tourism in Santa Cruz. But the conventions were the money generator, because all of these people like Shriners and/or Rotary or Kiwanis would come to town at different times. And they'd bring in maybe three to five hundred people—maybe more. So I thought this was wonderful. And it was down by the beach. It would have enhanced the Boardwalk area. And so I said, "Boy, this is good. I'll carry the ball on this." So I did, with Pasetta. [But the Court never happened. The funding fell through.]

I think after that, [in the late 60s] the Teachers Management Investment (TMI) bought that property [for a convention center]. And I don't know much detail about that. By that time I was long off the council. Gary Patton gained his fame from carrying the banner against [that convention center].³² I knew Gary quite well because his father and mother were close social friends of my wife and I. And they were my patients. His name was Philips Patton. He made his money in the early, early electronics, back when Hewlett & Packard were just getting started. Philips Patton was with Lenkurt Electric, by the way. Anyway, so Gary Patton—he was an attorney. Stanford grad, and a no-growther. And the [man] just has never changed. And it's intriguing to me, because he's really kept a clamp—he and his disciples—on Santa Cruz. So he was against this. And as I repeat, I'm surprised because we needed more business. Of course, these people began to—maybe they had gone to the LA area and seen the unlimited growth

³² Gary Patton ultimately served the county Board of Supervisors from 1975-1995.

there, and how unsatisfactory it was for those living there. I don't know what turned Gary Patton on to this. But he was against it.

Well, we had this discussion [about the Teachers Management Investment's attempt to build a convention center at Lighthouse Point]. And it was brought to a vote of the people. And I'll be darned if the people didn't vote down the development. I just can't imagine why it didn't win. We needed a convention center. We needed a new hotel in Santa Cruz. We've had only one new hotel built here, and that's the one on Ocean Street, which is now called the Paradox, and it's not very large.

Vanderscoff: Yes, Hotel Paradox.

Daly: That's the only new major hotel we've had built. In the meantime, Monterey had built I think three large, eight-to-ten story hotels.

Vanderscoff: Now [returning to] the Court, in its publicity releases [it] stated that it would be, quote, "An ideal site for the interchange of ideas and information, thus promoting cultural understandings between nations." Did you envision that the Court and Santa Cruz could become a place that would have an international profile in that way?

Daly: Yes, because—and I'm having trouble explaining it—his idea was to have these seven courts for each continent. And he would invite, then, people from whether it was China, or Europe, and they would come and set up kind of like a small Disneyland. Well, no, no, not a Disneyland—an Epcott Center, in Florida. Epcott Center, where they have big duplicates of a French street and an English street and all that. But they would have the small—and it shows it on the film. It

shows the Asians making baskets, and then other people making beads. And so you would have these people coming and doing their little artworks, and then having literature available for people walking through. And to me that was a marvelous, marvelous thing for Santa Cruz, and for the university too, because here's a whole other cultural outlet for people to come and look. So this Pasetta had great ambition.

And secondly—and it's in the [Court's promotional] video—the money exchange between the U.S. and the rest of the [world] at that time was very lopsided in our favor.³³ We were selling stuff all over the world, and bringing in an enormous amount of money from all over the world. Today it's the reverse. We're sending all our money overseas to China, in particular, for stuff that we buy overseas. Even big steel structures—another mindblower. These big steel structures in San Francisco Bay, they're so big that they have to come in at a low tide to get under the Golden Gate Bridge. And they brought them all the way across the Pacific Ocean, which is the largest ocean on the planet. It boggles the mind. We used to be a steel-building center in the United States: U.S. Steel. Anyway, the balance of payments has completely reversed. And at that time it was in our favor. Now it's in the favor of all the foreign countries.

Vanderscoff: And do you think the Court could have been an opportunity to capitalize on that balance of currencies?

³³ In reference to The Court of the Seven Seas promotional video commissioned by Peter Pasetta, featuring himself and a panel including Dr. Daly, Dean McHenry and Pete Tedesco. The video includes excerpts from a John Kennedy speech about international cooperation, and focuses on the architectural beauty and economic and cultural potential of the Court.

Daly: Right. It could have, because it would have, again, exposed people to the products that were available in all of those countries. Remember again, the world wasn't like it is today, where you have the Internet and you can just bring up Indochina and see everything they manufacture, et cetera. Most Americans in 1960 weren't very internationally knowledgeable. They didn't really know what was going on in the rest of the world. They were just busy making a good living. By that time we were well out of the Depression. But all through the forties, the latter forties and through the fifties we were still climbing out of that terrible recession of the thirties.

Vanderscoff: And so was that educational aspect of the Court—that international educational aspect—was that a part of its appeal for you personally?

Daly: Yes, very much so. Because once again you can have a convention. I think the hotel was going to house three hundred, maybe. It wasn't a real big hotel. It wasn't just a square building, either. It was built like a jewel. And the people would come for a convention. See, they'd come to a Rotary or Kiwanis or Elks convention. And then they would wander through the courts and see all the stuff that was available from South Africa or Indochina or China and Philippines. And they would have, I'm sure, sold a lot of product there. So it would have helped a little bit on the imbalance in payments. But mainly it would have been educational.

Vanderscoff: Now on a more philosophical note, what is the value of having that sort of access to the products of different cultures for such a small town like

Santa Cruz? Is there some sort of value in terms of edification or something like that? Why does that matter?

Daly: Well, it matters because look at today's world. Everybody travels now, whether they're going to Europe or Asia or Africa. And they come home with a box full of stuff. You know, you go overseas and you buy the mask in Indochina, or a mask in Uganda. And you bring it back and put it on your wall. So I don't know if I'm answering your question, but see, if they had that stuff right here people who would come to a convention would say, "By the way, did you go down and look at the Japanese center? They have these wonderful bead items, or these paper items. We never see those where we live, and look at them. And they're kind of expensive, but God, I'm going to buy two of those." So there would have been a lot of sales made. Which to me is almost secondary, because it was the cultural thing that was more important at the time to me. (pause) Now, did that answer your philosophical question?

Vanderscoff: (laughs)

Daly: Did I answer that adequately?

Vanderscoff: I guess, turning to reflect briefly back on your service, what did going to the Philippines mean to you? For you personally what has it meant in your life to interact with other cultures in that way, either in terms of the products of those cultures or the people of those cultures? What has that meant for you?

Daly: Well, now we've jumped back to my service in 1944, at the end of World War II. It meant a lot. Travel, as you know, and as everybody says, travel is a great educator. And so I learned a lot. It was terrible being over there. Christ, there was nothing. The city of Manila, which at one time was a gorgeous city with these beautiful concrete buildings—better than concrete—but they were buildings not unlike the ones in Washington, D.C. They were all bombed down.

Vanderscoff: Yes, I remember you mentioning that last time.

Daly: But I also was up in those rice paddies in the center of Luzon Island. So to me it was a great educational—I didn't fully appreciate it then. And I was fretting because I wished I had been in Europe. I could have gone to Europe and seen all the [art and culture] there. But here I am in this sad place: too hot, sticky, lots of bugs. And yet at the same time I was learning a lot about the culture and the people—and seeing poor people. You know, I had been poor in grammar school, high school, but I didn't know real poorness 'til you saw the people, the way they lived in the Philippines. So it was a wonderful education benefit to have gone overseas there.

Vanderscoff: Do you think that the Court of the Seven Seas could have brought some element of that right over here to Lighthouse Field, more locally?

Daly: Well it could have. Although it wouldn't have shown them the poorness of the countries. But it would have shown them the type of things that are made and the way that people eat, for example, in Asia or in Africa. And even in Europe. Well, the best example of all is just go back to Epcott Center. A wonderful place. Just spend two whole days. You can spend two whole days

there and not see it all. And it's all about the world. You know, they even have a Morocco center, which is wonderful. No, for anybody who's not been to Epcott Center, they've missed an important place to visit.

Vanderscoff: Well, thank you for that reflection. I'd like to ask a closing question on all of these different areas of development that we've been talking about. So taking all of these development efforts together—UCSC, the yacht harbor, the Court, the reservoir, all these projects—in the early sixties what did you hope Santa Cruz would become a few decades down the line? What did you hope would change and what did you hope would stay constant in your home city?

Daly: Well again, it's hard to reflect back on that, because for one thing I was awfully busy. And so I wasn't sitting around mulling over, "What's going to happen to Santa Cruz?" I just thought it would grow. We have a wonderful beach. The Boardwalk to me is just a small potatoes item. And yet even today it's still one of the key things in Santa Cruz. People come to the Boardwalk from all over the Central California area. And they come with ice chests full of beer, coke and food. And so it doesn't generate a lot of money for the community. It generates money for the Boardwalk owners. But again, it's kind of one of the main things—it and the university. Of course, the university now has outgrown it as far as popularity, and I'm sure as far as bringing revenue to town.

But I was hoping that Santa Cruz would just grow into a very desirable upper-middle class community with a great university, and have the recreation of the Boardwalk, and then maybe a couple of hotels down in the beach area, where we would have conventions. Conventions are very lucrative. It's like, again, bringing students to town. They come to town clean, free of any pre-

developed ideas about the community. And they have money to spend. Now that's exactly true of convention people. They come to your town. They're going to go to meetings and learn about their particular organization. But then as soon as the meetings close for the day, they're out. Their wives have them by the shoulder and taking them out to buy clothing. Because not often at home do they have their husband available to go shopping, you know, unless they beat him over the head on a weekend to do it. So you sell a lot of product to conventioners. That was another plus. And having the university would soon kind of override the beach. Although the beach area continues to grow and develop these rides. But I just assumed it would be a very desirable place to go.

And a good example, for comparison, is when you look at maps now of California, Monterey invariably has a large spot on the map, whereas Santa Cruz has a small spot. And I think it's because of the convention business. Monterey gets a tremendous amount of convention business. In my field, they have a November optometric meeting in Monterey. November—good weather, and people come from all over the west to that meeting. It's a three-day long weekend meeting. I would say probably three to five [hundred] people come in for that meeting. That's just optometry. I'm sure specialties in medicine and in business have the same types of meetings.

We don't get any of that. We get almost none. We had more conventions of business and clubs in [the] 1950s than we get today, fifty years later. And that's very lucrative business—very. And see, that no-growth holding back the development and the hotels and the restaurants. A good example, in addition, is that these no-growth people don't want to have any of these national stores in. We don't have a department store [in] downtown Santa Cruz. Our department

store in Santa Cruz is Costco. And this Costco I bet is in the top five nationwide in revenue, because if you want to buy sheets, towels, underwear, you go to Costco. Now, other towns have a Penney's, or a Macy's. Ours are out on 41st Avenue now. But in downtown Santa Cruz we have little shops selling beads, and lots of eating places. It really hasn't developed into any kind of a real central, affluent community.

Well, another example: just go over the hill ten miles, fifteen miles. Los Gatos has a gorgeous downtown. Gorgeous, with beautiful stores—outstandingly beautiful stores. We don't have any of those here. But what we don't have, in addition, is we don't have national stores and things. For example, one of the most popular franchises now is In-N-Out Burger. Everybody loves In-N-Out Burger, especially older people. And we don't have In-N-Out Burger in Santa Cruz County. It boggles the mind that we have a university campus—because they usually build them close to university campuses—but we don't have one in Santa Cruz. Ooh. Amazing. And so the no-growth people have really overall kept this town squashed down.

Vanderscoff: And so that's something that clearly runs contrary to this vision you were just discussing, that you had for this place?

Daly: Yes. We could have controlled growth. We wouldn't have let it run away with us. Like one of their chief arguments is, "Well, you don't want it to be another L.A., do you? Look at San Jose. It could become a San Jose." But no—it doesn't have the room to become an L.A. and/or a San Jose. And remember too, a third of our area is the ocean. So we can only grow so much. So it can become more crowded—and it has, in spite of no-growth. No, we could have controlled

that with proper administration. And I think back to the days of Dave Koester and his staff. We really haven't had the leadership. And the leadership we've had are again the no-growthers. I can name a few. But you know who they are. And two or three of them are key players up in the university.

Vanderscoff: And next time we'll talk in greater detail, I think, in that mode of discussing changes that have happened here.

Daly: Yes. It's interesting to me, because we're bringing up a number of things now that I think Dr. Doyle will be very happy to hear, about the no-growth people. But it also points out to whomever in the future reads this stuff, if anybody does, that Santa Cruz could have been a much different place, and the campus could have been much different and maybe even better. The campus is going to continue to grow. There's no question in my mind. Unfortunately, it's going to be held back, as it has been the last fifteen years—held back from growing. But in some ways, maybe that's good. Because we are filling up, so to speak.

And we are getting prestige. You know, the campus, beyond teaching students, also brings prestige to itself and the community. And I must say, UCSC has done quite a good job in that, especially in astronomy and in some of the sciences. And now in engineering. It could have done a lot more. And remember, as McHenry said, we were going to have an engineering school, which we finally got just six to eight years ago. And that we were probably going to have a law school, which I don't think is in the cards.

Vanderscoff: Well good. I think this is a good place to rest. And next time we can speak more about the changes the university brought and your sense of how living here changed or remained the same in terms of your practice and your family.

Reflections on Cultural and Political Change in Santa Cruz

Vanderscoff: Today is Thursday, January 24th, 2013. This is Cameron Vanderscoff here with Dr. John C. Daly for part three of his oral history project. I'd like to start out by talking about UCSC arriving in Santa Cruz in 1965, which was the year it opened its doors to students. In those early years, how was the university received by the town?

Daly: It was received very warmly and eagerly. At first there was some resistance among a certain percentage of the citizens of Santa Cruz about bringing a big university to our town, which was a small community in the range of twenty-six to thirty-thousand people at the time. But once it arrived, with all the press, et cetera, everybody was eager and happy to have it here.

Vanderscoff: Now you mentioned in one of our earlier sessions that you were surprised by the way students dressed as the years passed. What impact do you think students have had on the town over the years?

Daly: Well remember, I went to Berkeley in the late forties, into the fifties. And at that time the majority of men—and the majority were veterans—were wearing

clothes they had brought home from the service, especially sun-tan pants. That was the pant of the day. Levi's at that time were worn, but they were sparse. Everybody wore sun-tans, a blue or white long-sleeved shirt. Women wore white or blue blouses with plaid skirts and bobby socks. That was the uniform at UC Berkeley through probably 1960. But then at that time things began to change, and especially here in Santa Cruz where it was more of a social science school. People came to town. People in Santa Cruz tended to dress more casually than, say, San Francisco. And it was surprising to me that these students would go to the Goodwill and get these old, worn-out clothes and wear them to class and on the street. So that changed the attitude. Of course, this was changing all over the country at the same time. One of the things that was striking, too, is in the fifties all professional men and businessmen wore shirt, tie and jackets. After '60, or into '65, they began wearing, many of them—especially doctors, which surprised me—would be wearing Levi's in their office, and other kinds of casual pants.

Vanderscoff: Did you personally change the way you dressed at all as a professional?

Daly: Yes, because I wore a tie, again probably through 'til '65, to the office everyday. And I wasn't happy with the tie. But I wore it. So with this casual appearance becoming very, very popular, I then discarded the tie and just wore an open shirt. And then I wore my tans, whereas prior I had worn usually woolen slacks.

Vanderscoff: Now, did you have many interactions with students personally?

Daly: Not a lot, although some came to me as patients. I went up to the campus occasionally to a meeting. I was on a committee at the chamber of commerce, a town-gown committee, trying to keep the relationship between the university and the downtown friendly. In fact, we went to luncheons. And that was back during the period of [Robert] Sinsheimer—who was chancellor at the time.³⁴ And maybe just before he became chancellor. So I did have some contact in that regard. Again, being a UC Berkeley grad, and being close to Berkeley, I still devoted quite a bit of my interest to UC Berkeley and the Optometry School.

Vanderscoff: Now, as of the time of your participation with this town-gown committee you discussed, did you feel that town-gown relationships were good or copacetic?

Daly: They were good, but not long after the university opened—now, again we've got to get those dates straight. They decided to come when I was mayor [in 1961-'62]. But they didn't open their doors, I don't think, until '65. And so by '65 they were coming into town. They were using up all the rental spaces, which we were happy about, especially after Labor Day. But there was already more traffic. There was already a little tension developing. And that might have been, too, because the students were partying a little bit more than the average Santa Cruz resident. I don't know what it was. But you could feel a little tension in the air. And so the town-gown [meetings and discussions] became pretty important. And it seemed to help.

³⁴ Following McHenry's retirement, Mark Christensen was chancellor from '74-'76, Angus Taylor from '76-'77, and Robert Sinsheimer from 1977-1987.

But that did continue, that little bit of animosity between the downtown citizens and the university. Even though the downtown businesspeople welcomed the students, because they came to town with pockets full of money and bought clothing, et cetera. Although they didn't buy the new clothing that the people were selling. They went, again, to the Goodwill or the Salvation Army and bought old, very trappy clothing.

Vanderscoff: (laughs) And why did you personally decide to join the town-gown committee? What did you hope to accomplish?

Daly: Well, I was invited to be a member of it, probably by Sinsheimer or his predecessor, because I had been on the council and very involved. I served on that committee for probably about four to five years. And it would meet every month or two and just talk about issues. You know, everything from the traffic on the west side to parking. The parking became a problem because the students were all parking down on the west side of Santa Cruz—and that's where my home was—and taking up all the parking spaces. And then they would somehow join into one unit and go into the campus. But I got on that committee because I had been involved in the coming of the university.

Vanderscoff: And did you find that the university was receptive to the requests and issues that the committee brought up?

Daly: Oh yes. And now that I think about it, [I believe Angus Taylor asked me to serve, and then later we would meet with Sinsheimer]. You know, McHenry was a wonderful public relater. Not only was he, I think, a very brilliant professor, but he was a great politician. So he was always trying to make the university

appealing to the community. And as I say, the community embraced him. The university worked hard; because of McHenry they worked hard to be accepted and welcomed. There's no doubt about it.

Vanderscoff: I'd like to talk about another particular development project from the seventies, this time we're discussing, which was the Zayante Dam. It was never completed, unlike the Loch Lomond Reservoir a decade earlier. What do you think are the consequences of stopping the dam and other development projects?

Daly: Well, they were very serious. As I've said before, the people we had working with the City of Santa Cruz led by David Koester, the city manager, was a great team. And we did prepare for the Zayante Dam by buying the land and the watershed, and then getting all the permits. We were ready to go with that. And it would have been marvelous, because there was no doubt about it, even with the growth—we haven't had as much growth as we anticipated back in 1965—we would have had plenty of water of 'til 2020 with the Zayante Dam. And for some reason—again, and it's one I can't explain—there was this growing no-growth attitude come out of the university, and among citizens too. I think in part it was due to the fact that many of our new citizens of Santa Cruz had come from metropolitan areas like New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and/or they came up from Los Angeles and had seen what happened to growth after World War II in cities. And so they're very anti-growth. I still see it regularly today, that people who have come here from metropolitan areas say, "Oh no no. Jeez, we don't want this place to grow. We witnessed that." So the Zayante Dam, by stopping it—again some higher beings had convinced people that would reduce growth,

because if you have plenty of water then you have growth. Without much water then the growth is slowed down. And that was the main reason it was stopped. Not for any other reason. And once again, we had the money and it was a done deal.

Vanderscoff: And do you have any sympathy for the arguments against developments like the Zayante Dam and convention centers at Lighthouse Point?

Daly: No. Again, Santa Cruz, before the university came, was a small little beach town.³⁵

Vanderscoff: Yeah.

Daly: And we needed some industry—clean industry, we hoped—and more people, and more tax revenue. With the coming of the university, everybody kind of leaned back and said, “Aha, now we’ve got our industry. It’s a great one. Nice clean students coming to town with lots of money, and they’re using all of our apartments and rentals when they’re not being used by tourists. So it’s an ideal solution for what we have needed all through the forties and fifties.”

Vanderscoff: Yes. But then, of course, the political situation changed when the students got here—is that correct?

Daly: It did, because not so much by the old-time citizens of Santa Cruz, the merchants of downtown. They were happy with the growth and the additional income. It would be very interesting—I was going to mention this to you

³⁵ A footnote courtesy of Dr. Daly: in a common situation and sentiment both now as well as then, most people made only a fair living but said it was a great place to live. In the fifties and sixties home prices were about half those in San Jose.

earlier—that if somehow you can check, and you probably can, to see what the sales tax revenues were, say in 1960, '65, '70, '75. My bet would be even with inflation—but that could be figured out—that today the downtown sales tax revenues are probably less than they were back in 1965, with an increased population, et cetera. We just don't sell as much downtown. As you know, one of the main places to buy everything from food to clothing to meats, vegetables, et cetera, is Costco. It really is amazing. We used to have two department stores on Pacific Avenue: Leask's, which became Gottschalk's, and then two blocks down was Penney's. And they were full-blown, Macy's-like department stores. Now we have nothing. We have little stores that probably sell some underwear. But that's about it.³⁶

Learning to See the “Shades of Gray”:

Reflections on the Value Of Civic Involvement

Vanderscoff: Now you told me once, off the audio record, that you advised your son against running for city government. Given your own years of involvement, why did you make this recommendation?

Daly: Well it's because, again, the world had changed after 1960 and with the coming of the university. The world had changed because society has become more divisive. You know, it used to be that people all worked together. And if

³⁶ A footnote courtesy of Dr. Daly: Santa Cruz had all the car dealerships in the city, leading to substantial tax revenue. All but two of the dealerships have since moved to Capitola.

you got a good leader to beat the drum for a project [to] widen the street, or change the street to one way for some reason, that if he could convince the people it was the right thing to do, everybody joined in. Today you're always going to have some who are going to say, "Well, we ought to do it in only half of the street." And then there'll be another group saying, "No, no. Let's leave it a two-way street." And another group will be in there saying, "Well, no. Let's add bicycle lanes." So we have a very divisive society. And I think it's primarily due to increased education. You got more people—again you've got [more] higher education, and they are able to form their own strong opinions. And also, education brings more talk. People become more articulate when they get an education. So they like to hear themselves talk.

Vanderscoff: (laughs)

Daly: And that's very true at the city council meeting. It used to be we would have oral communications at the beginning of the meeting. And you'd maybe have one, two, possibly three people would get up and complain about something on their street. Or they wanted to get a variance on their property so they could widen the driveway but the planning commission won't give it to them, so they're appealing to the city council. So you'd have one, two or three of those. Today, you have probably, I would guess, ten or twenty. And some of them are long-winded people that are worrying about the fact that they can't sit down on the sidewalk outside of Dell Williams Jewelry Store on Pacific Avenue. So you have those people coming back meeting after meeting. And this is one of the reasons I wouldn't want to serve on the council today.

Vanderscoff: And do you think these grievances that you hear aired now, do you think that they're legitimate? Or do you think they represent some sort of overstepping impulse on the part of these people who make these complaints?

Daly: I'm not sure what you mean by that. But I think in the past these people would not make the effort to come and be heard. Now that they have an open forum where they can stand up and be heard and hear themselves talking, they do it. This goes back to this matter of education and people being more verbal than they were even forty years ago. So I think that, to me, is the answer. It just is very time consuming, because unfortunately—and we've had a classic example of that in this fellow who brought a lawsuit against the city. He did a 'Heil Hitler' at a council meeting and the mayor at the time ordered him out.³⁷ That's gone on now for, I guess, six or eight years. It's gone through the courts. It's cost the city probably a couple hundred thousand dollars to defend against it. And finally I think it's been thrown out—finally. But my God, it's taken six to eight years to do it.

Vanderscoff: Do you think it's become more difficult for the city government to be efficient about its business?

Daly: Oh, I think it is. I think there's more bureaucracy all the way from local, state, federal. I think that's one of the things wrong with our country, because we've got too many people on the federal-state-local payroll. Too many people.

Vanderscoff: What has the value of civic involvement been in your life, personally?

³⁷ The plaintiff of the suit was activist Robert Morse.

Daly: Well I've enjoyed it. Again, going back, out of high school I was a jock. I didn't study much. After the Army I realized how vitally important education was. I stated this early on. So I really came back a student. I worked hard to get an education. And I'm so happy I did. Because of that education, it allowed me to become a leader in whatever endeavor I was involved in. Again, partly because of my articulateness. It started back with the Junior Chamber of Commerce. I led many committees in the junior chamber, including the Miss California Pageant, that were for the good of the community. So getting the education, leading people, made our community a better place in which to live. And so that gave me great satisfaction.

Vanderscoff: Do you think there still is a value in civic involvement today, potentially?

Daly: Oh I think there is. I think that you have to have it. Otherwise, certain groups are going to take it over. And I see it happening right now. One of the reasons—well, I won't mention names, but there are those who argue that the university imposed themselves on Santa Cruz. And that's almost laughable, because once again we were on our knees begging the university to come. And yet there's a significant group of highly intelligent people who feel that the growth should be stopped. It's interested along that line. They want to stop growth. But they also want to stop the growth of the university, which is kind of interesting, because here their husbands or wives are making their living from the university, and yet they don't want it to grow at all. I guess they want to keep it a small college, is what their basic feeling is.

Vanderscoff: I think there're a lot of conflicting strains of thought on that within the university—certainly—itself. Now, if you had the chance to address the city politicians today, given your own experience in city government and your long time as a citizen here, what would be the big lesson you would try to impart? (recorder turned off; record resumes several minutes later)

Daly: I was quite naïve. You know, I had a scientific education at Berkeley. It was in the physics department, primarily. Then I went into the optometry school. So I was really trained as a scientist. And everything was kind of black and white. So when I arrived in Santa Cruz, that was my background. And I got involved in a number of activities, which to me was good. I enjoyed them very much. Then I got on the council, and one of the things I noted soon was—we would have people make presentations for this project or that project, or not doing it or doing it. And the one man representing—usually they were attorneys—but representing the construction company, would make a great case about why we really needed this Project A. And again, you sat there and you nodded, “Oh boy, that makes real sense.” And then the other attorney from the people who didn't want the project would get up, and he would literally tear apart the comments that were made by the first attorney. (laughs)

Vanderscoff: Right. (laughs)

Daly: And I thought to myself, “Jeez, this is amazing. I was convinced the first fellow was accurate and right. And now this [fellow] makes me really doubt whether the first fellow was accurate and right. I'm going to have to reconsider this.” So I learned quickly that there were shades of gray of everything. It wasn't

all black and white, like I had learned in the physics department at Berkeley. So what I would say to the council people today: number one, don't come in with strong opinions. Because you want to be open, almost sponge-like, to listen to everybody and then make a good decision. And then you want to make a good decision that is best for the general public, the people. That's who you're representing. You're not representing this committee of people who helped get you elected and now want to stop the widening of street B. So you've got to be open-minded. And you've got to listen to all of the points of view of everybody, which takes a lot of time.

Vanderscoff: Well, thank you.

**The University in Santa Cruz:
The Good, the Bad & the Weird**

Vanderscoff: On balance, in spite of all the changes, are you glad there is a UC at Santa Cruz? Are you still proud of the effort to get the university here?

Daly: Yes, I'm very proud of it. You know, I've told you a couple of times that before the university, [Santa Cruz] really was a small little [beach] town. And so the university has brought great cultural benefit to the community. It's increased the level of education and knowledge among the citizens. Without the university, and with no new industry—with more than ten employees—the town would be very poor. And it would be a bedroom community for San Jose, something that people used to abhor, the thought of that. Well, we still are kind of the bedroom

for Silicon Valley. But without the university this town would be pretty hard up for income, because we have our recreation activities, but they don't pay the whole bill by any means.

Vanderscoff: Now have you personally been involved with the university in any way?

Daly: Well not really. About the time I got off the council, I went back to try and make a better living. Because unlike the fellow who's a banker and on the council, and the bank gives him the time off even though he keeps getting paid, I had to be in my office to make any money. So I went back and devoted more of my time to my office. And at the same time, I was called upon from UC Berkeley and the School of Optometry to lend a hand up there, because the optometry school is a small school, and it doesn't get much attention at the chancellor's level. So they needed more support. I spent more of my time there. I went on the board of directors of the alumni of the School of Optometry, and that required a trip to Berkeley about once every four or five weeks. And then I would go up for other things: a commencement when the graduations came and things like that. So I got a little more involved in Berkeley and kind of got away from being involved in Santa Cruz, even though I was in the Affiliates and I would go up to certain functions at UC Santa Cruz.

Vanderscoff: And what sort of functions would you go to up at the university?

Daly: Well, I was a great support—this is funny. (laughs) I was a great Shakespeare fan.

Vanderscoff: Ah.

Daly: Again, being in the sciences, I had very little touch with literature or theater or music. I took a Shakespeare class as one of my few electives, and I really enjoyed it. I think we read three or four plays. And it was delightful. So I was a Shakespeare fan. They brought Santa Cruz Shakespeare to town—I'm going to step on a toe or two, but I'm not going to mention names—I thought, "Oh boy. This is wonderful." So my wife and I were very supportive. We bought the season tickets and we had some of the players to the house for cocktails [to] meet our friends a few times. So we were really supportive. But then we began going to plays. And for some reason the director and then his followers got off into this modern approach to Shakespeare. I'll never forget. I went to see *Henry V*. I think it was the second or third year. And here these guys come out in this black leather, and they ride onto the stage in the glen on motorcycles. I thought, "What in the hell is this?" (laughter) And they recited the Shakespeare lines, but compared to the Shakespeare I had seen in the past it was just weird, to say the least. And then we went to see another play the following year with our daughter, and again—this you can include or leave out. I can't think of the name of it. But they had this [jester] in it who played an important role. It was a comedy. [Maybe *Twelfth Night*.] Well, the bottom line was this ghoul came out, and he came out holding his penis and waving it around. (laughter) I mean, it was a long penis. And I thought, "My God!" (laughter) And then even in the curtain call I'll be damned if he didn't come out and here he is with his penis, waving it. (laughs) And that was the Shakespeare that we were getting exposed

to. And I lost interest. I said, “Uh-oh. That’s too much.” And here I had my fifteen-year old daughter there. I don’t know how we got on to that subject.

Vanderscoff: We were just discussing events you’ve gone to at the university, or cultural things you’ve attended.

Daly: Yeah, well that was one of the ones we were very enthusiastic. Then I’ve gone to some of the affiliate affairs. And then I went to some of the open houses at the chancellor’s home with McHenry, and then Taylor and with Sinsheimer. And then with the woman that came after that.

Vanderscoff: M.R.C. Greenwood?³⁸

Daly: Right. So I was still going up and being part of the group for that. (recorder turned off; record resumes several minutes later)

Retrospective on Ongoing Public Service and Public Issues

Vanderscoff: Now beyond your optometry practice, how did you remain involved more broadly in the city and public service organizations like the Salvation Army, for example, after the early sixties?

Daly: Well after the sixties—of course, that was after I got out of the junior chamber. In the late fifties I was very active in the junior chamber. And not only did we put on the Miss California pageant, we also put on a city-wide fair at

³⁸ After Sinsheimer, Robert Stevens was chancellor (1987-1991), and then Karl Pister (1991-1996). M.R.C. Greenwood held the post from 1996-2004.

Harvey West Park. We built the Harvey West swimming pool. And then we brought three statewide conventions to Santa Cruz, which was a big deal because you had to arrange for the housing, the food. We served the food at the Civic Auditorium, I believe. The Palomar Hotel was a real hotel at that time on Pacific Avenue, and that's where most of the delegates stayed. And so that was a big chore, to do three of those in six or seven years. Then I worked on the Downtown Association. I also worked, advocated for more water through the Zayante Dam. Then of course I was very interested, because my office was downtown Santa Cruz, about cleaning up the town and taking care of the homeless. I looked to San Francisco and New York and saw what could happen with the homeless. And sure enough, it happened to Santa Cruz. We're just overloaded with them.

And that's another thing that was bothersome. Some of the social scientists, I would say—now I may be doing the social science department an injustice—but they were so enthusiastic about helping the homeless. And of course, one of the largest buildings built in the city of Santa Cruz in the last [fifteen] years is that homeless [services] building down right off of Highway One. You know, partway toward Costco there's a four-story building named after the man who put the money up.³⁹ But here again, we haven't built any big hotels. We built only a couple of moderate motels. Yet we built a big four-story, five-story building for homeless. I wonder about that.

Vanderscoff: So you think the priorities have changed in that way?

³⁹ In reference to the Rebele Family Shelter at the Homeless Services Center, named for philanthropists Rowland and Pat Rebele.

Daly: Well, you mean that they're more directed towards the homeless people? Is that what you mean?

Vanderscoff: Yes, in that sense.

Daly: Well, there are those that are. Now some of those people have passed away. They were some of the early comers to the university. You know, one of the first hires by Dr. McHenry [was Page Smith, founding provost of Cowell College]. But he was, I think, very much of a social scientist.⁴⁰ And then he brought some of his friends from different universities here, and I think that formed the nucleus of what we got. Because remember, McHenry thought we were going to have a law school here, an engineering school—which we finally got, an engineering school—and even, if we were lucky, a medical school.⁴¹ That's was his vision of it. He thought it was going to be an Oxford or a Cambridge, where you'd have all the disciplines, and then the colleges would be lived in by those people of each discipline. Great thinking. He and Clark Kerr, you know, really agreed on that. And they were highly enthusiastic about this being a different type of campus than just the open type at UCLA and Berkeley. [With the beauty of the site it made even more sense.]

Vanderscoff: Now we've talked a lot about how the area has changed politically, in terms of its attitudes towards growth. You now live in Scotts Valley, of course, where we're conducting these interviews—not ten minutes drive away from Santa Cruz. When you drive into town, how has the place itself changed physically? Do you see much of the town that you moved to in '53?

⁴⁰ Page Smith was a historian by training.

⁴¹ The Jack Baskin School of Engineering started in 1997.

Daly: A very interesting point. You know, when you drive into Santa Cruz now and you drive down Ocean Street—Ocean Street, except for maybe a couple of new small motels and maybe a couple of new eating establishments or ice cream parlors, has changed very little. And I'm talking now fifty or sixty years. It's changed little. And that's true of Soquel Avenue [and Water Street], which are perpendicular to Ocean [Street]. Those streets have all remained almost the same. Which intrigues me. Here is a city that's gained a large, wonderful university and the grid of the city is pretty much the same as it was. And it isn't a lot busier than it was back in 1960. Pacific Avenue, which was a pretty busy avenue of stores, with only two, maybe three eating establishments on it in 1960, '65, now is a street full of little arts and crafts stores and eating establishments. Almost every third front on the Pacific Avenue is an eating establishment. It's amazing. Of course, there are those who will argue, "Well you've got a university town, and all these kids are eating out." So I agree with that. And you see [all the eateries] in Berkeley too.

Vanderscoff: Certainly.

Daly: But it strikes me that the main street of Santa Cruz is really in many ways not as a successful and progressive as it was back in 1965.

Vanderscoff: Huh.

Daly: Another thing—we have so much more traffic going up the west side to the university, coming around from River Street, around the bend and up High Street to the university. Which turns out to be a tragedy, because that's where my home was on the west side. My son still lives there, just off of High Street. Now,

when we first began meeting, when McHenry brought his team down for the first and second meeting, we all sat down and we began talking. We brought up, “Now how are we going get the students up to the campus?” “Well, we’ll have to have an eastern access road.” “And where will that be?” “Well that’ll come off of River Street and come up through the Pogonip City Park area somewhere, and come right up to the campus. A straight shot. That way people coming from San Jose, or Watsonville, Soquel, Aptos, will come right in, peel right off onto this road, probably four-lane—two lane each way—and right up to the campus. And they’ll be there.” And everybody [agreed] and said, “Good idea. That’s going to work.” And that was the end of it. Except that, as I mentioned before, the county agreed to pay for that road. And Russ McCallie was the chairman of the board of supervisors. I think he was the chairman of the board at the time. And he said, “By all means. We will pay for that road.”

Well, for some reason, here again, that unknown entity that wanted no growth killed that. And I still don’t understand it, why they would have killed it and forced all that traffic now to go up and around on the west side. It still amazes me. And there was even talk of having a road come off of Highway One coming from the west, down from Half Moon Bay, peeling up and going over and going to the university from out about Western Drive—and before Western even, maybe, coming over. And I think there was quite a bit of resistance to that by homeowners and property owners up there. They didn’t want to have their land subdivided by a big highway. I could see where *that* made some sense. But it would sure be nice if you could leave the campus and just drive right down to Highway One and go off to Half Moon Bay or San Francisco, without having to go down to Mission, which has been a problem now for fifty years. For forty

years we tried to widen Mission and make it more accessible to the merchants on it and to the traffic. And finally, they did a little bit of widening I think five years ago that they should have done twenty-five years ago.

Retrospective on a Life in Santa Cruz:

Running a Practice, Raising a Family & Looking Forward

Vanderscoff: Now you've mentioned that initially business was slow for your practice here in town. In the long run, how did Santa Cruz work out for you as a place to run your practice?

Daly: Well here again, we've got to look at history a bit, because remember before 1960 medicine, dentistry, optometry, and other medical professionals—things were slower. It was a different world. People didn't run to a doctor every time they had a mild headache. They'd go to a doctor when they broke a bone or had a deep cut and it wasn't going to heal on its own. So people weren't rushing to doctors as they do today. They didn't go to dentists as much. And they sure didn't go to eye doctors as much, because they only went when they got something in their eye and/or when they couldn't read at age forty-four, which is normal. So since then, of course, we've had, quote, "socialized medicine" come in and now the people go to a doctor at literally the drop of a hat. And so I preface what I'm going to say. So in those days it was slow. Developing an optometric practice was quite slow, because you only got the people who were referred to you by someone who was pleased by you. And so that was a slow climb. Since, say, '75, and more vision care programs/health programs, it's been

more easy to build a practice, and the practice has been more successful. Which I think my son is enjoying.

Vanderscoff: Yes, because your son currently runs the practice, right?

Daly: That's right. He is the owner. He's in the building that my wife and I bought in 1974, and then refurbished in '76.

Vanderscoff: Now I'd like make a turn towards the personal and the familial. How was Santa Cruz as a place to raise a family for you?

Daly: It was very good. It was a nice community. This is before the university. Let's see—yeah, well just before the university. And very clean. You knew your neighbors. Schools were good—no complaints about schools. My children went to Westlake School, which was one of the better grammar schools in town, and had a wonderful principal named Rita Mattei. Excellent educator. So they got good basic education. My daughter-in-law went there too. So the education system was good. The traffic was very mild. People were friendly. And there was no problems. When you look at the world today, with the way people are being shot every week, and the animosity between neighborhoods—and again, this divisiveness, that, “God, those people just got a new stoplight over there. We need one here.” And then they're at the city council beating on the door for a new stoplight. The world has changed, and not really for the better.

Vanderscoff: When you think on your role in this town as a citizen, a family man, optometrist, councilmember, so on, what strikes you as meaningful? What are you proud of, or grateful for, in your own life?

Daly: Well, I'm grateful for the chance to get a good education, which I got through the GI Bill of Rights, which is one of the great pieces of [legislation] that our government has passed in the last hundred years. It boosted the whole educational level of all those men and some women coming out of World War II. Secondly, we lived during prosperity. You know, things grew and everything worked well. Each year you made a little more money. Your house value went up. It was really a golden period. And then finally, I had the chance to be a leader here in a small town, which I enjoyed. And I enjoyed improving the city—and that's what's one must enjoy if they're going to go into public service, for improving it for the common good, to make the place a better place in which to live. So I've been very fortunate in getting the education, having the money to be able to indulge myself in my numerous activities to improve the community.

Vanderscoff: You've now been retired for some time. What has preoccupied you in retirement, compared to working your practice full time and public involvement?

Daly: Well you know, in working the practice, that included all the peripheral activities. When I was on the council, I was out probably four or five nights a week 'til 9:30, 10:30, 11:00, at meetings. That was just part of me. I don't think all councilmen did that, but I did. And I enjoyed it. I think it took away from my time with my family. And so I let a lot of things go. I didn't get to read much beyond my journals, my optometric journals, and then maybe *Time Magazine*. I read very little literature, very few books or novels. And then I wasn't able to enjoy the theater or music as much, because I was always planning on the next meeting.

So since I retired I thought, “Oh boy. Now I’m going to do all those things that I’ve been putting up on the shelves in the library.” And I’m doing that. However, when you retire you’re older. (laughs) And you don’t get as much done each day. And you get up with great ambition, but by one o’clock in the afternoon you’re starting to slow down. And so I’ve only done part of those things. My hobby, main hobby, was—well, first of all I enjoyed swimming. But I also enjoyed photography, and I was a very good amateur photographer. And so I have all these pictures that for a reason I’ve been trying to go through lately to pick out certain ones for a project. And so I was thinking, “Oh gee, I’ll go through those pictures and I’ll have them put on DVD, you know, in a matter of three or four years.” Well hell, I’ve been retired since ’90. Has it been that long? Yes, after the earthquake. I haven’t done it yet. I haven’t got ‘em done yet. And so it just shows you how you slow down. And all retired people say the same thing.

But then there’s music and theater. And in addition, when I was at San Francisco City College, where I went when I first came back from the service in preparation to going to Berkeley, I met a lovely young woman in ‘Analytical Geometry,’ in fact. I don’t know what I was doing in there. (laughter) I had to take it for optometry school. And she was going into nursing, and for some reason she was in there. I don’t think she knew why she was really in there. Very difficult course. Vivian was her name. And we held each other’s hands through that class. Just got through it. And so then we had a nice romance. And that continued after I went to Berkeley. She went to Orange County, to the school of nursing down there. We continued to see each other. Then she decided she wanted to travel. So she joined the Army. I think she was also disappointed I

didn't ask her to marry me at the time. And of course I wasn't ready, and as I told her I was in debt up to my eyebrows. So she joined the Army, and after a few months or more she met a wonderful lieutenant and married him. That hurt me, although I was still young and I thought quite attractive. So I didn't worry too much about it.

But then later I met my wife-to-be, who was a dental assistant and secretary. And so we got married, and she was a very fine wife. Now that marriage lasted I think forty-five years. And then she came down with ovarian cancer, unfortunately. So much of the time since I retired has been spent—we waged a real battle against it, but were unsuccessful. She went through three major surgeries. But we had a good time. And she didn't suffer that much, but the damn thing was always there. So she passed away.

And I then began wondering about, "Where was Vivian?" And I had her last name, but unfortunately I had it wrong. And so I never did locate her. I knew she was a nurse. I went to the nurses' registry, but I couldn't find her. And I was just mainly interested in saying, whatever happened to that lovely girl that I realized now would have been a great wife? And so four years ago I get a phone call, and it's (audibly moved) Vivian, calling me. She had learned, visiting relatives in Capitola, that my wife had died. She said, "I never wanted to meet again with you while you were married. That would have been a mistake. So I never called you." Because I said to her, "Where have you been? Why didn't you call me so we could at least catch up?" So she called me. We got together. And she lives in San Francisco. And so we've renewed our romance. And it's wonderful. After fifty-five years.

Vanderscoff: That's really—that's quite exceptional. As I mentioned a few questions back, you've pursued a lot of different interests throughout your life: professionally, politically, and in terms of public service. Looking forward, what interests do you intend to pursue at this point? What projects do you have? Are you involved in your community here in Scott's Valley, or Spring Lakes?"⁴²

Daly: Well, only moderately in Spring Lakes. I really had enough—as I mentioned earlier, I devoted a good part of every day to my extracurricular activities, and sat through meeting after meeting after meeting. So I had enough of that. And even today now, while they wanted me to be on the board at Spring Lakes, I said, "No, no. Maybe later, but not now." I've gotten to know the city councilpeople on the Scotts Valley City Council, and just have some interest in it. Primarily our new city—not downtown, but the civic center. They're trying to build a civic center right over here on Mount Hermon Road, but they don't seem to make much progress. I'm still reading my professional journals. I enjoy reading those rather quickly. And I enjoy reading other things. I enjoy politics, and that's been a lot on the plate this last ten years. So I don't have any other projects except going through my film.

I've got other things, though. I have a collection of wonderful old (pause) posters. Posters from the (pause) San Francisco during the Grateful Dead period. I'm having trouble with the words. But these are posters done by David Singer, by the way. And I bought a whole set of them. I don't know why I bought them, but they were on sale and I think the salesperson convinced me. I bought them

⁴² Spring Lakes Park is the name of the Scotts Valley mobile home community where Dr. Daly resides.

probably almost thirty years ago. They were the ones that were used at Fillmore West.

Vanderscoff: Oh yes, that's kind of late 60s or so.

Daly: Not downtown, but out in the Fillmore District in San Francisco. Bill Graham was the impresario. And they're very modern. Very, very modern. Very good. Now, I have that. And then I also have a couple of other collections. So I got plenty to do, and yet I still seem to—each week something else comes up. And it worries me because I'm now eighty-six, and I realize—and I've had good health, thank God. (raps on end table) I knock on wood. I've really had good health. And I've had good strength. I look back now ten, twenty years, and many of my friends would say, "Gee John"—we'd be at a party, cocktail party, standing talking, and they'd say, "Gee John, I've got to sit down. I'm getting awfully tired." And I was struck by that, because I never got tired. And we'd walk over and let them sit down, or I would sit down with them and continue our conversation. But I always had plenty of strength. I needed a good night's sleep, but I never got tired. I was fortunate. And that was true of Vivian. But we both agree now that, ah-ha, now that we're in our eighties we get tired. And I really have felt it significantly more in the last year. So I come back to the point that I don't think I'm going to get my stuff caught up. You've seen my home.

Vanderscoff: It looks quite nice to me.

Daly: It would take a week to pick up all the stuff that's laying around. (laughs) Okay. So that's what my future holds. And I'm enjoying it. There's no great

pressure. I don't have to do so much every day. I get up with a list of five things, and I usually only get one or two of them done.

Vanderscoff: And I notice you still go down to your optometry practice from time to time.

Daly: Oh yes, I go down because I look in. Of course, I've reached the point now—I used to give advice and things like that, but now I'm just too old for that. And they don't even listen to me anyway. But I look into it. And of course, I still own the building. And of course, it will pass to my son when I pass away. We thought my grandson was going to become part of that practice, and he could have become. But he decided to go to medicine. So he now is an MD, and he's in his residency in psychiatry down at USC.

Vanderscoff: So you've become the first in several generations of people who have gone on to do medical work—optometry, and now your grandson's in medical [residency].

Daly: That's right. See, my father was a salesman and a display man, a window decorator.

Vanderscoff: Yes.

Daly: And his father owned a shoe store in Chico, California. I was the first one to go to college and get a degree, and get an optometric degree. [I got an education thru the GI Bill.] Then my son got one. And he was like I was: he was a jock. Good football player. Good basketball player. And we kept coaxing him, and he wanted to come back to live in Santa Cruz. He had that much sense that

he wanted to live in Santa Cruz. And so he went off to Davis, got his degree, then he went to optometry school at Berkeley. [He became a doctor of optometry.] Then my grandson, same thing. He wasn't as much of an athlete as I was or my son was. But anyway, he ended up going to Creighton Medical, marrying a classmate. So he and his wife are both physicians. [He specializes in psychiatry, and she's an MD specializing in OB/GYN. And his sister Kate, an artist, is married to an MD specializing in orthopedics.] I feel so good about that. Because I have elevated my (audibly moved) family from being window display people, salesmen, up to being physicians with high specialties.

Vanderscoff: I think that's a wonderful note. And is there anything we've missed, or anything else you'd like to say?

Daly: No, I think I've said plenty. (laughter) I know there's a few things more I would add, but I think we've covered it. And the fact that we'll have one more chance [in reviewing the transcript] to say, "Ah-ha. Gee, we should have added that part or this part." Because there's a few little pieces that always make the thing more sensible. I think we covered all of 'em. I'd just like to say again, it was a privilege for me (audibly moved) to go through Berkeley, and then be able to go back as the mayor of the city of Santa Cruz and meet with the Regents. Shake their hands, meet with Clark Kerr, who was a brilliant individual. That was probably one of the high points of my life. So that is a good note to end on.

Vanderscoff: Good. And I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the time and effort that you've put into this project on your end. And it's been my pleasure to conduct these interviews.

Daly: Thank you.

Vanderscoff: Thank you.

About the Interviewer

Cameron Vanderscoff is a contract oral historian based out of Santa Cruz, California. His published works include *John Dizikes: A Life of Learning and Teaching at UC Santa Cruz*, and beyond these interviews with Hayden White, he currently is at work on seven separate oral histories under the auspices of the Regional History Project and Cowell College. For him, oral history work is a means of accessing the past that is based on individual narrative—it values the personal, and centers on story. In its scholarly dimensions oral history can be very theoretically concerned and complex, but at the same time it is wonderfully straightforward, a celebration of curiosity, interchange and experience. Cameron finds it a privilege to engage with narrators and listen to their explanations of their lives; their openness in sharing their insights and intentions has provided an ongoing education for him, one that has profoundly impacted his own perspectives and practices.

Cameron graduated magna cum laude from UCSC in June of 2011, with honors in both history and intensive literature (creative writing focus). In his time as a student he was affiliated with Cowell College, where he delivered the commencement address and worked concurrently as college library lead and resident assistant. He is a recipient of the Dizikes Writing Prize for academic essays. Beyond oral history work, he uses his time to write fiction, practice blues/slide and jazz guitar and travel with a notebook when the opportunity reveals itself.