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Redwood City Archives Committee

Interviews about Redwood City, California

Interviews with:

Leonard Dalve

Conducted by
Alice Terremere and Philip Demma
in 1982

and

Barbara Bent
George Drivon
Hilda McGovern
John Ryan 1906-
Winthrop H. Thorpe
A. C. Argo

Conducted by
James DeBenedetti and Jeanette Strong
in 1976-1977
as part of Redwood City's
1976 Bicentennial Celebration

June 17, 1987



Director
Regional Oral History Office
Bancroft Libraries
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PUBLIC LIBRARY

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Dear Sir/Madam:

Enclosed are two oral histories which we have recently transcribed and added to our Local History Collection. One is of Leonard Dalve, an old-time Redwood City tannery worker, and the other is a series of six short histories that were done during the Bicentennial in 1976.

The Library has been given additional staff time for its Local History Collection and part of that time will be devoted to reviving our Oral History Program. I hope to be sending more transcripts to you very soon.

Jane E. Light
Library Director

Sincerely,

Jean Thivierge
Local History Specialist

/jt
enclosures

REDWOOD CITY ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

An interview with

LEONARD DALVE

Conducted by Alice Terremere and Philip Demma

Transcribed by Virginia Beaumont

Typed by Mary Darrough

Redwood City, California

May 1982

Dalve: Mother came to Redwood City when she was, I guess, eight or nine years of age. Her family brought their cow with them and lived next to the Methodist Church on Maple Street.

Demma: Who were some of your friends?

Dalve: There was Wesley Locker (he stuttered quite a bit, but was bright as a whip and a humorous, comical fellow), Louis Behrens, Paul Stevens (the minister's oldest son), Kenneth Rice, Seymour Eikenkotter, Charles Rockwell, Percy Long and my cousin, Bill Brewster. Also, Bill Curtis and Nick Valencia. These were my friends, and all I can recall right now.

Then the war came along, and one went one way and one went another. Kenneth Rice was Clark Rice's son (there were different Rices, you know). He was a good, clever talker and nice appearing fellow. When he came back from the service he was a captain. I don't think he ever got any farther than Texas.

He later became an aviator and a very good one. After his flying days were over he was an officer in one of the aviation companies of that day and time. He came back to Redwood City several times, was married, and I think he had one child, a girl. He had cancer of the throat and the doctors gave him six months to live. He was about 63 or 64 years of age then. He came back again and visited a few people, then went back to Los Angeles where he died a week or so later.

Do you remember the Georges, Ruby and Pearl? Ruby married Paul Stevens, but I don't know where he is now. Ray Milland is dead. Rockwell is still alive. He works for Ed Smithy, a civil engineer. Rocky is about 75 years old now, I would say. His wife died here some years ago. She was Loretta Williams and was a school teacher in our local schools.

Frank Rosa was another of that group, but he has been dead for some time. Some of these folks weren't too close, but they were in the group. That about takes them all in.

We had a boathouse out on Steinberger Slough, or Creek, where we used to go swimming¹. That's where the tannery unloaded the bark. I don't even know where it got that name, but the slough ran up past our boathouse. I asked Fonzy Ligouri what the name of that slough was, and he said, "I don't know." I think we used to call it the "tannery slough."² It ran up to the salt ponds, but when they leveed in the salt ponds in 1900, it was blocked off and stopped at the levee. That's

1. Mr. Steinberger was the business manager at Frank's Tannery.
2. Steinberger Slough was also called "the bend" by the local boys who swam there during the 1920's.

Dalve: where you go out to the Redwood City Port now, right where the P G & E has its substation. The creek came up to the railroad track after they put in the road and tracks. Before that it continued on a little farther and the levees blocked it off.

There was a swimming place at the end of that slough; Lord knows what happened to that. Well, it was built after 1900 (about 1916-18) and there were eight or ten oubbyholes where you could go in and change your clothes. Toward the east was the slough that was blocked off inside the pond and continued toward what they called "First Creek." There was a kind of floating wooden rack, for beginners, I guess, where you could swim in the salt pond. As I said, these little bathhouses were there, but were finally torn down bit by bit.

Demma: I remember that ship that was built out there during the war; that big cement ship, the "Faith."

Dalve: Yes, the "Faith." I was telling Bob the other day, when Rex had that salt property, the people that built that ship offered to buy the property from old man Greco, who was heavily mortgaged to the Bank of America (Bank of Italy at that time), but he refused to sell. They were afraid that when the ship was launched sideways it would throw up a big wave and his house was right across from it and could be damaged. But he still refused to sell. I was there the day the ship was launched.

Demma: So was I. I have a sore on my foot to prove it. And I remember the bathing place and the little oyster shells. Oh, we used to get a kick out of them.

Dalve: Yes. I was across the creek and down away toward the Redwood Creek, but as you remember there was a wooden wall over on the Greco property. The ship did throw up a wave, but it barely reached that wall. The old man had cancer and could have sold the property for a pretty good price, but he wouldn't sell. He finally had a stroke and died. The Bank of Italy then took over the property. Now it belongs to Leslie Salt Company.

Demma: Is that very far from the Cod Fishery?

Dalve: No, it's right in the neighborhood.

Demma: Was that the Alaskan Cod Fishery?

Dalve: Yes. A man by the name of Greenbaughm was the head owner of that. It was built about 1903, I think. I am just going by the records as to when that property was sold. Frank Grainger was the tax collector in Redwood City then. I asked him, and he could only guess at it. I just surmised that any tax delinquent land could be picked up for a song. Marsh land, in those days, could be picked up for a couple of dollars an acre. He sold to those people. Later the map showed 71 or 72 acres,

Dalve:

more or less. It was probably quite crudely surveyed. I don't know how many acres Greco had, but I do know this, that a number of years later we had occasion to make a resurvey. Using their points, one piece of the ground that Greco had been using for his receiving ponds to bring in water from the bay, which would then fluctuate into the evaporation pond, a good portion of that big pond wasn't his at all, he didn't own it. Nobody cared in those days. They assumed he owned it, but he really didn't. We made a careful survey a number of years later, but that didn't make any difference. Greco was dead and Leslie Salt had bought the whole works.

You will notice on that map that some of the owners of that old Greco Island, way out by West Point Creek, were Flood and others. I think that map was made in 1877 or 1878 - somewhere in there. As the years went by later maps organized the companies. It was Hearst, the great-grandfather of this girl (Patricia) who is in trouble now, I think, who bought it. He was her father's grandfather, George Hearst. He was a "bigwig" in San Francisco at that time. The Hearsts, Fair, Mackey, the Floods, Stanford, Sharon and Sutro were all involved.

In the days of Virginia City silver mining operations they were important men. They swung quite a bit of weight with senators, etc. They were the power and the glory in those early days. William Randolph Hearst, the one of Hearst Castle fame, owned land out there, too.

In 1930, I had a boat and took a surveying party back and forth across the creek with their stakes and instruments. They were surveying for Randolph Hearst to prove his claim. He was having a row with this man on the Cordilleras Creek on the Old County Road where that practice golf course is now. That man's name was down on the Cordilleras Creek where it ended in the marsh at that time, and he claimed it was his land, he paid taxes on it, but the survey showed that it wasn't, it was Hearst's. It was the fringe of his land, but he said it was his because he paid taxes on it. I understand Hearst told him they would reimburse him for all the taxes he had paid, but he wasn't satisfied with that. He took Hearst to court and it was proved that the land wasn't his.

The Cordilleras Creek was a boundary between Redwood City and San Carlos. It used to be called Finger's Creek, after the old Finger family.

Right where the Bayshore is now was an old government monument. It was tipped over because that creek had a kind of mud and gravel bottom (a great place for digging clams).

Off in the marsh aways was another 4 x 4 government stake and another line ran back where Pete Uccelli's Harbor is now,

Dalve:

out on the Tacoma Mill Levee. Then there was another line running across the marsh over beyond Pete Ucelli's; a piece of land in the Redwood Creek, and they all came together there, and believe it or not, there were points in there. We hunted around and found points and set some more. They are probably all covered over by now.

Eikenkotter has been surveying for years, and he said, "You know what surprised me is the number of government points that were out there." He did quite a bit of work for the Stanford Dredging Co. and for Leslie Salt Co. and he was very surprised at the number of 4 x 4 stakes that had survived. Those old government points had been put in many years ago. You would never suspect they were there unless you came right on them.

As I say, on that map you will see where the original elder Hearst bought land, and you will see various other owners, like Blair. I don't know who owned it before Blair did, but it is on that map, known as Blair Island now. I think a group of men bought that land sometime in the early 1900's, I would say. I believe they were squabbling over the hearing as to when it was leveed in and wanted to know if I knew. I said, "No." It was in the early days of the Sierra Light and Power Company, about 1903, and I believe that is fairly authentic. Henry Werder told me about that, and he was old enough to remember. They were electrifying the first street cars in San Francisco, and the Sierra Light & Power Company, and later on the P G & E, ran that power line. It was the first power line to run through the marshes here, where the substation was. Power for electrifying those street cars in San Francisco was in 1903. Whether it had been leveed in at that time I'm not sure.

I said, "I can't tell you, I wasn't out there in 1903." As I told them at the hearing, "Why don't you look in the Redwood papers in 1903 or thereabouts; any event of that kind I think would be published in the papers. A lot of those old events in Redwood City are there in the papers and can tell you better than I can and better than any of the people that lived here." As I told them, the court recorded it at the County Tax Collector's Office. If you want to dig back as to who paid taxes and where and when, it will help you a lot to define the date that particular property became of any importance at all. It is all there. It will take work, I can tell you that, because I worked for the P G & E and spent many a rainy day in the Santa Rosa Courthouse looking up old deeds. They give you those great big books to look through.

I was smart, I guess. I went over and got in the good graces of one of the old employees in the office, and she shortcut me and I could dig up those deeds. The P G & E needed a description of the land when they went through with a power

Dalve:

line, so they could make up their boundaries for their right-of-way. They were very interesting, told about going through in a horse and buggy, past cows, horses, and farm equipment, but you couldn't stop at one, you had to keep tracing further back.

As I say, the only way to find out and to get it authentic is to go to the Tax Collector's Office or the County Recorder's Office. It will take work, believe me, but the books are there and are quite accurate.

As the years go by one's memory gets faulty and you don't remember everything, but you can guess within maybe three or four years or so. Some of the things are hearsay. They could be true or false. I don't like that, unless I can say it is a guess, or is something I heard from so and so. Bert Werder was a great one for that, and he got worse the older he got. He could really stretch things. I noticed there were lots of errors in some of the articles he wrote.

Well, there was a squabble between Leslie Salt Company and the Cement Company and their interests. Rockefeller was in there, too, but I think he sold out to Bay something Land Company. Then the Sierra Club had their noses in it, and they all had their lawyers and would ask me things. I would say, "No, look, you have to swear an oath - 'Do you solemnly swear to tell the truth and nothing but the truth,'" and I added, "Yes, to the best of my ability and memory." They looked at me and said, "Shall we let that go?" and they said, "Yes, that's all right. Let it go." I wasn't going to tell them I was going to tell the truth when I didn't know whether it was the truth or not.

Getting back to Bert Werder, I was out there in 1916, after the Ohio Building was bought from the 1915 Exposition in San Francisco. It was only a small thing, but Bert wrote about it in the paper and he said, "They came all the way down to the Dumbarton Bridge before coming back to the right channel." That was wrong. The fact is, one of the pile driver men who helped with the planning and sliding of the building on top of the piling after it was brought down, stayed at my mother's place for awhile as that work was being done. The building was loaded on to a large barge and a tug boat brought it down. There is no channel from the bay to the mouth of Steinberger Creek, and it is hard to see the mouth of that creek. Of course they had to come in with the high tide. The barge did drift past it about halfway to the Redwood Creek. Rockwell and I were standing on the porch of the cabin and Corker was looking out watching it as they swung around and came in toward shore where they could see the mouth of the creek and then came on up. Leave it to Bert. "----- (they) drifted all the way almost down to the Dumbarton Bridge."

Demma:

Could you give us a story about the cod fishery? You were talking about the tug boats bringing in the sailing ships.

Dalve: You'd better go to Jimmy.

Demma: I'd rather hear it from you. It sounded interesting.

Dalve: Jimmy De Benedetti - his is hearsay, too, but good hearsay. His brother-in-law and his brother-in-law's father were well acquainted with the creek. Jimmy is quoting from them, because I never saw Jimmy out in that marsh in my life, and I've spent plenty of time there, both hunting and working. It's just hearsay. I'm not sure about the first two ships out there that were sunk. Well, one was when it ran on the rocks. Right in back of my mother's place (my brother has it now), was a German family named Helberg. They had a little daughter. He was the captain of the Black Diamond. There was another ship, also. He was coming down from Alaska with a load of codfish when a Canadian vessel ran into him. Sailing ships had no power in those days. Possibly ran into him in a fog. I'm guessing at that. Two men were lost. I always had an idea the ship had sunk, but it didn't. I had a book around here someplace showing a picture of it. It had a wooden hull and was towed into San Francisco Harbor with just the stern showing, the rest was straight up and down.

The next year he took the Black Diamond up to Alaska and he ran her on the rocks up there. That evidently wound up his days as a captain, with the loss of two ships in two years.

After that they got the "City of Popiaka," the "Mawema," and the schooner "New Castle." Those were the names of the three ships that would sail to Alaska for cod, and up to the time the Cod Fishery burned, they were the only three ships out there.

Oh, they had another old ship that was anchored out there, an old sailing vessel called the "Bangor." I don't know what they ever did with her. Maybe they used her somewhere else, but she never went after cod as far as I know.

After the fishery burned they got rid of those ships; made bulkheads out of them, or something, but they never sailed into Redwood City. They would go into San Francisco, dock, and remove their canvas sails. Then the Red-Stack tugs tied alongside and they came in by the tug's power. You don't think for a minute that I can say it was a beautiful sight to see them come sailing in. The skippers or captains of those sailing vessels were not acquainted with that narrow channel of the bay and they certainly weren't going to sail those ships, loaded with codfish, in the bay channel. That was a figment of his imagination.

I saw them once. It was a sight on a beautiful winter day - probably October. The Red-Stack tugs were alongside and they turned from the creek channel into the Redwood channel, which was as calm as a mill pond, and then headed for the wharf.

Dalve:

The old boat would go "OHHHHHHH OHHHHHHH," the landing salute, and then run up the American flag. That was a pretty thing to see. I wasn't very far away from it at the time. The ship would be locked up against the wharf and the fish unloaded. The cod was opened up flat and was salted. (You've seen pictures in NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC showing the Portuguese ships coming down the Atlantic Coast, the same deal.)

When Joe Hahir was superintendent at the Cod Fishery he built a washing machine on an extension of the dock and the cod was put in and washed to remove most of the salt. Water right from the creek was used. That wouldn't be allowed today. Then it was wheeled down to the sheds to process and then put in vats, or whatever was done. It was the best Blue Ribbon Cod. It was tops.

Now some of the cod had worms in it. The poorest cod was boned and trimmed. A lot of that poor cod went to Central and South America. The people there were great for cod, but the good cod went into the Blue Ribbon brand. That was special.

Harry Hanson's dad would go out once in awhile in the summertime on a Sunday, and I always headed right to where he was and talked business. I knew him as a kid around here. He was a very nice person. I'd have a few cigars for him, and he'd say to me, "Where is your boat tied?" I'd tell him and he would disappear for awhile but would come back. I would then go back to the boathouse and there, all wrapped up nicely, would be a side of cod. You weren't supposed to take it, but nobody knew the difference. Great place!

Everyone was always saying how it stunk. Of course it had a strong codfish smell, but it didn't stink any worse than the cement plant. I always knew when my mother was cooking codfish, could smell it half a block away.

At Christmas time Mrs. Anderson would bring down something to my mother, it was called Lutefisk. It was the same thing only it was caught off the coast of Norway. My mother would be cooking it and my father would come in the door and he'd say, "What's that stuff?" As a rule he never said anything. My mother said, "Don't blame me, I didn't buy it. Mrs. Anderson brought it over." I said to him one time, "What's the matter, Pa, don't you like that stuff?" and he said, "If you'd seen it in Norway, stacked in the bins there, and smelled it, you'd be sick of the sight and smell of it." It was the same. It was codfish.

Terremere:

Did your father ever buy any of those little wooden barrels of herring? My father used to bring home little barrels of anchovies.

Dalve:

Yes. They are fine, but you get sick of them after awhile.

Dalve: They are salty as the dickens. The little barrels were about so big and so big around I've never seen them anyplace else. Nearest thing to them now is the little tins of Portuguese sardines, about so big, and darned expensive. I don't like the ones in the oil, I like those that are pickled with bay leaves, etc. My mother used to take those out of the brine and wipe the salt off, then cut them in pieces about so long, then put them down in a crock with spices and we'd have them once in awhile with boiled whole potatoes and maybe rye bread for an evening meal. They were all right, but you get tired of them.

Demma: What year did your parents come here from Norway?

Dalve: I have to guess at it. I think my father came here in 1886. My mother was the chronicler. He never told me. He'd tell me if I asked, but I never asked him. But just putting two and two together, dates of marriage, etc., and I think it's fairly accurate, he was 22 years of age when he came, and mother must have been here 10 years before that.

I told you about these cousins of mine. The last one died the other day. They might just as well have been strangers. I didn't know them outside of saying "hello" and "how are you" and talking a few words.

I remember the Sidney Dalves and their place in Woodside. His father built that hotel and saloon. Then Neuman bought it and moved it back a bit. It was eventually torn down, but I don't remember anything about them. My father never went into any details. The fact is, when he left Norway, as I told you before, he left it all behind him, and I don't mean maybe, he left it behind.

Alice, your father, Richard Svihus, told me a few things my father never told me. He would have told me if I had asked, but he would never go into any details. Your father told me there were two brothers, big strapping men. My father was about my size. He was the last of the family and he was the runt of the family. I think he only had one sister, and as far as I know she never married. She was a school teacher. Instead of calling her Dalve (of course we don't pronounce it that way), they called her Daniel. Daniel was my grandfather's name, and she was called "Daniel's daughter." That is the old Norwegian way.

As far as I know, after he came to this country my father only wrote two letters home. One when he married my mother and one when his mother died. His mother died before his father. I think those were the only two letters he wrote home. He had really left Norway!

Dalve: I tried, when I went back there, to figure out why, but didn't solve anything. The only thing he ever told me when I asked what he liked about this country when he came here was, "Everything. I liked the people. I liked the way they dressed, I liked everything." And he learned to speak English, and speak it very well, like your father did, Alice, and he became a citizen just as soon as he could, and I think your dad did the same thing. It sticks in my mind that mother told me that your dad was 19 years old when he came to Redwood City.

Terremere: I thought it was around 16 or 17.

Dalve: I'm just taking her word, but as I look back over the years, she would slip in a year or two.

Terremere: When did my father come and board with your family?

Dalve: He was 19 years old at that time.

Terremere: Do you remember his cousin, Chris Bergsager?

Dalve: No, I don't remember him. Your father asked me one day when he was out at Redwood Harbor, "Did your father ever speak about his brothers?" I said, "Very little." Father did say one of his brothers, his oldest brother, was head of a fishing fleet. My father had gone up with him one year as far as Hammerfest, that's in northern-most Norway, but other than that, nothing. Your father said, "Well, I'll tell you a story about one of his brothers, who was a ship candler. One day a couple of drunken fellows came and started creating a rumpus and he grabbed one by the coat collar and the other by the shirt collar and took them out to the edge of the curb. He rapped their heads together, knocked them both unconscious and just left them in the gutter, then walked back to the store."

Terremere: Did your father ever tell you about that?

Dalve: No. He would think about his father occasionally, and how his father loved to hunt fox. He said, "They would be busy with sheep down at the stream, washing them and getting them ready for shearing, when somebody would discover a little den of small foxes." My father said he would find every excuse in the world to get his gun and take off. By golly, one time he recalled he got the kits and the female and said now the male would be coming home with food for the young ones. I don't know how he figured what route that fox might take, but he took off up into the mountains. He was about ready to give up, because the weather was getting very nasty. Just before he gave up, here came the fox, and he had a lamb by the neck, kind of flung over his back. My father spotted him coming with the lamb, and he finished off Mr. Fox.

Terremere: Leona and I went to Norway and visited some of our relatives there, then last year two of my cousins came here from Norway and stayed with us.

Dalve: Did you ever figure out what the name Svihus means?

Terremere: Well, yes. It means something about fire, or house of fire.

Dalve: You know the word "Svi" means something stings you, or you burn yourself. In Swedish it means burning or stinging you. I asked my guide, Fredericka, when I was in Norway 14 years ago, to break down the word "Svi" for me. She wouldn't call me Dalve, but Dalva. She said, "Now, Mr. Dalva, you've got me stumped," and she was a well educated woman. After awhile she said she thought it would mean "blacksmith," probably from handling the hot iron and getting burned.

Terremere: There is a whole area in Norway that my relatives took us to that is named Svihus.

Dalve: Our name, Dalva, is the same as Dale. My grandfather was named Evans, or Evanson, because when his father came to this country and landed at Ellis Island, he said Dalva and they looked at him kind of funny. He got nervous and frightened, thought quickly of his grandfather's name of Evans, so he gave them the name of Cornelius Evans. When he came to Redwood City he was known as Cornelius Evans.

When my father came he called himself Dalve. No use saying Dalva, the Americans are not going to pronounce it that way. The kids called him Dalvey.

Then Cornelius went to court and had his name changed to Dalve. But I do have relatives who kept the old country name of Dalva. It means dale, or a small valley. The people who migrated were called Dalvas, from the dale.

I said to my father one day, "What did you drop the name Evans for? That was a perfectly good name, Evans or Evanson." He looked at me (he could put you down if he wanted to), and said, "If you were extremely hungry, practically starving, and they called you to have something to eat, would you care what name they called you?" That's all he said.

Terremere: Do you remember my father building that house on Pine Street?

Dalve: Yes, I can remember the beautiful paneling work he did there. Oh, he was a wonderful carpenter, really good. Those big, long arms. He would hang a couple of doors while I'd be hanging one.

Did he ever tell you that my father asked him, "What do you want to be, either a school teacher or have a carpenter's bench?" He said, "Like a darn fool I took the carpenter's bench."

Dalve:

He also told me one day whe he was a youngster starting out, his father gave him a piece of wood with a nail driven into it. One of his first jobs. They were making antique furniture. The Danish folk would come up - they were great for buying antique furniture. There was an old chest of some kind with worm holes in it, and that was what he was doing - making worm holes.

Do you remember John Barg and Freda and Bill Barg? Freda became a school teacher in San Francisco. They were related to the Carringtons. Jimmy Neuman's wife was a Barg, too. A young fellow I worked with on the survey was also related, but I can't think of his last name.

THE FOLLOWING ORAL HISTORIES WERE
CONDUCTED AS PART OF REDWOOD CITY'S
INVOLVEMENT IN THE 1976 BICENTENNIAL
CELEBRATION.

REDWOOD CITY ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

An interview with

BARBARA BENT
Children's Librarian
Redwood city Public Library

Conducted by: Jeanette Strong

Transcribed by: Virginia Beaumont

Tpyed by: Mary Darrough

Redwood City, California
Date: May 17, 1977

Strong: Do you want to start with the Children's Room?

Bent: Well, there really wasn't a Children's Room until later on. I came in 1933, and it was just general work. We all three - Mrs. Lauer, Miss Garcelon, and I - were the staff. We all did everything, except when the W.P.A. came along, and we had a lady who came in and mended books. Everything happened right there in that little square building, in that one room, because the basement flooded. I think we had some magazines stored down there, but we couldn't do any real work down there. The lady came in and mended on the back table and the people read around her.

Strong: Miss Lauer was saying how there was a table behind the Librarian's desk, and that was a work table.

Bent: I think that is where the W.P.A. lady worked, right in the corner with the magazines. She always had to keep them straight every morning. Then behind it we had Andrew Carnegie. Somebody gave a picture, I think it must have been the A.L.A., or maybe it was the Carnegie Foundation, but they sent it out to all libraries early in the thirties.

This was the front door, here, and this was the adult reading room, and this corner was called the Children's Room. Here is the stove and here is the desk.

Strong: Oh, yes, that big stove. I'd forgotten that.

Bent: Then over here they built a little sort of a cage, all glassed in. It was an office, and that was Miss Harper's office. Then you went upstairs and the catwalk that ran to this office had shelves and it was up high and was a mezzanine. That was my "hangout" in the afternoons. I used to do the accessioning and check in the books - the new books - that came in. We all had special jobs. I've forgotten now what the special jobs were besides just working at the desk and taking care of the registrations and things that other people do now, but it was lots of fun.

Strong: You didn't have any pages?

Bent: Yes. Actually one of the pages that I remember very well is now the principal of Woodside High School, Francis Hutchinson. I know he was in the English Department at one time, and then I think he made Vice-Principal. He may be Principal by now. He was always very cordial when he came in.

We had a page who came in every morning. He was usually a high school boy who came in early in the morning, I think

Bent: at nine o'clock, and the library opened at ten, or something like that. We had an hour to do the work putting things away.

Strong: Did you have any enclosed office space except for this mezzanine space?

Bent: As far as I remember, no, that was Miss Harper's office, and the only place there was to work was this little balcony, a very narrow one, where the books were stacked up when they came in new.

Strong: The public didn't go up there?

Bent: No, the public didn't go up there. I accessioned them, which, of course, they don't do in the library now. They no longer have the accession books. That was the preliminary step. Then Miss Peters, who was the cataloguer at Palo Alto and Miss Harper's friend, came over and catalogued them in the evening. She sat there on this little balcony and did the cataloguing in the evening.

Strong: Was she paid?

Bent: Yes, she came part time and was on the staff.

Strong: Is that the Miss Peters we talked about yesterday?

Bent: Yes. She was Cataloguing Librarian for years at Palo Alto before she retired. In fact, she was there all the time Miss Harper was Redwood City Librarian. They came up from Bakersfield together.

You mentioned Story Hour. The first Story Hour I remember hearing Miss Harper tell was when the class came in and visited. There was very little space to put them in. Those that could sat down and the others stood. As I remember, we tried to have classes. The few that came in we used to try to have them come in early before the library really got started.

I remember Carmen Clarkson. She used to come in. I don't know whether she was in high school or college. Her mother came almost daily.

Strong: To tell stories?

Bent: No, no, as a patron. I was thinking of the people now on the staff that used to use the library.

Strong: Mrs. Lauer said something about you worked at the library and then you went away and were rehired as the Children's Librarian when you came back.

Bent: What really happened, when I got out of Library School I wanted very much to be a children's librarian, and I wanted to work for the County, because those two courses in Library School appealed to me more than anything, County work and children's work. Miss Dills was awfully nice. She was at the County Library of San Mateo County. She was in Redwood City in the courthouse, and she said she hoped to have a children's librarian soon, but in the depression it simply did not materialize. Miss Harper said, "I have a girl that's leaving soon, and if you will come, we haven't got a children's job, but as soon as we can get a children's room, you can be the children's librarian." So this was the basis I came on.

Strong: Was this the second time?

Bent: No, it was the first time. This is why I went to Redwood City, because this was what I wanted to do. I had waited a year after Library School just working around Palo Alto as a substitute, as most of us did. The year I got out of Library School only one job came in, and that was the one in Richmond that I went to later.

Most of us did just that, went home and lived at home and maybe worked in the library, were substitutes, or did whatever we could find to do until something permanent came up. So I was very, very joyful when Miss Harper said, "Come to Redwood City. There is an opening." That was when Helen (I've forgotten her last name), was leaving. Miss Lauer would remember.

So I came, and as I said, we all just did everything. And then, I think it was 1936, they made the Children's Room in the basement, and I worked down there. I don't know if I ever had the official title of Children's Librarian, but I worked down there and it was the Children's Library. I still did things upstairs. I've forgotten the hours of the Children's Room. I think most children's rooms were open in those days just in the afternoon and on Saturday. I think something like 2:00 to 6:00 p.m., and then on Saturday.

Strong: Before you went down to the Children's Room, did you have story hours upstairs?

Bent: No, I didn't, and I don't remember if we ever had a regular story hour. Occasionally classes came in, but we didn't have classes on a regular basis. We did most of our work going out to the schools, because we didn't have room. The Central School next door, which would be in the position about where Benjamin Franklin is now, and the library was where Penney's is, those were in and out a great deal, and sometimes there were Cub Scouts and that kind of thing, but very, very seldom compared to what you do now.

Strong: As far as you remember, story hours didn't get started.

Bent: Until we were downstairs. I think on Saturday morning. I imagine that Janet helped me with the story hours, too, and probably shared the Children's Room. I really don't remember who took the Children's Room on my day off, or what. Janet did everything, and as I said, was Miss Harper's right-hand man in most cases, and it was just wanting very much to work with children that I had the Children's Room given to me at the time.

Strong: Did you visit the schools?

Bent: Yes, we visited the schools. Miss Harper made the list. She was a Children's Librarian before she was the Librarian, so she really supervised the children's work very closely. She made the list each year, the graded list which we took to the schools.

REDWOOD CITY ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

An interview with

GEORGE DRIVON

Conducted by: James DeBenedetti

Transcribed by: Virginia Beaumont

Typed by: Mary Darrough

REDWOOD CITY, CALIFORNIA
Date: March 26, 1976

I am George Drivon, born in Redwood City on October 28, 1904, on Washington Street near Bradford, which is now Jefferson Avenue. There were nine children, and my father worked for Frank's Tannery for 52 years before retiring.

I was a volunteer fireman from 1932 to 1942, when I was appointed a full-time fireman. I was a fireman for 30 years and retired in 1962. I will now try to give you the history of the Redwood City Fire Department before and after I became a fireman.

Before the turn of the century there were three hose cart companies stationed throughout the city. The #1 company, Main Station, was located on Main Street near Stambaugh across from Holmquist Hardware. It housed the hand pumper manned by ten volunteers, five on each side. She pumped a lot of water from the cisterns in the street, as well as from Redwood Creek. There were hose carts located with hose at the Main Station.

The #2 company was located on Jefferson Avenue across from the tracks, then moved to a new location at Main and Elm in a little park across from the railroad track. The park is still there.

#3 company was at Arguello and Bradford.

All companies had hose carts in them at the time. There was a Chief and a Hose Company Foreman over the volunteer firemen. Even the Chief actually fought for the hydrants at the fire; that saved a lot.

From that time up to 1915 there were five fire chiefs: Chief Luton, Chief J. M. Winter, Chief George W. Lovie, Daniel Mullen and Chief John W. Glennan. They handled hose wagons and pumpers that pumped water from the cisterns in the street and Redwood Creek with the rest of the volunteers.

The first motorized piece of equipment was the J. J. Schneer, a chemical engine (1916), which was made in San Francisco.

In 1915 Mark E. Ryan was appointed Fire Chief. He was a trouble-shooter for P G & E and came out here from New Rochelle, New York. Mickey Collins and Chief Ryan worked for the P G & E and the City of Redwood City. Later Mickey Collins was made the first Police Chief in Redwood City. He married the former Mary Dunnivan.

In 1915 Chief Ryan organized the three hose companies into one Fire Department. He was paid \$250 a month and \$10 extra for being City Electrician. At that time Con Drathman was City Electrician and Building Inspector. Chief Ryan installed a small fire alarm system to take care of fifteen fire alarm boxes that were installed only in the business district. From 1915, and for several years later, they were known as the Redwood City Veteran Volunteer Fire Department, consisting of the following men (all of whom were volunteers except Chief Ryan).

Clarence Choate, first assistant chief
A. W. Russell, second assistant chief
Phillip E. Brand, battalion chief
Edward Allen, battalion chief
John Anderson, battalion chief
A. S. Liguori, recording secretary and treasurer

Shortly after Chief Ryan organized the Fire Department and kept all volunteer firemen responding to fires, he picked out the first fifteen men that attended most of the fires. They were to be paid so much for a fire - \$2.00 for a 2½ inch hose, \$1.50 for 1½ inches or smaller and \$2.00 for fire drills. The fire drills were held twice a month. The men were also paid \$2.00 for false alarms.

In 1921 the main fire station was being built at 1044 Middlefield Road across from the City Hall. That was the old Police Station at the time. This is still the Main Fire Station headquarters. While this building was being built, the new 1,000 gallon per minute pumper 1922 Seagraves had arrived, so it was housed at the Chopic Garage on Winslow Street near the S. P. Depot. The garage mechanic manned the engines during the day. Jim Brown was his name. The volunteers manned the rigs at night and when the garage was closed.

Also in that garage was the 1915 Schneer. Shortly after that the Schneer was revamped. The soda and acid bank was removed and the 150 gallon type water tanks with a small pump and hose wheel were installed and the back compartment was made into a hose bed. This took care of all dry fires and small fires.

In 1922 the main station was completed. It housed the new 1922 Seagrave and the 1915 Schneer, as well as a rack of ladders, all blue, which were mounted on a chassis with wooden wheels and rubber tires, solid. This was pulled with a 1917 Model T.

In 1922 these volunteers were to man the equipment: Bob Bell, Bert Werder, Brent Werder, Stan Wood, Sylvester Douglass, Bud Thorpe and Clyde Genochio. The last five became policemen. Later on when Mickey Collins retired, Stan Wood became Police Chief. Jack Beegle was also one of those men.

In 1924 the main station was dedicated by the Native Sons of the Golden West, Redwood Parlor #66. In that year another change was made, the appointment of full-time firemen. The first to be appointed was Larry Wood, whose father drove a stage coach from Redwood City to La Honda, then Chick Fowler, Tony Prusch, Walter Genochio and Bill Lutje. They were all paid \$165 a month. Soon after Chick Fowler was made Captain and was paid \$10 extra for painting and keeping all the equipment in shape. Then Tony Prusch was made Captain and was paid \$10 for keeping all fire department books, records and money. His penmanship was beautiful.

Shortly after another 1,000 gallon per minute pumper, Seagraves, was purchased in 1926. It was kept at the #1 station.

In 1928 #2 station was completed by Russell and Duncan, also volunteer firemen. They were building contractors and Engine #2 was officially installed at #2 fire station.

In the thirties another change took place. The volunteers needed some place to drill twice a month. They used the tall buildings downtown for their ladder work, so the men decided to build a three story drill tower in the rear of the main fire station. All of the lumber was bought or donated by Gray-Thorning Lumber Company at Five Points. So one day they went to work building the tower on Saturdays and Sundays. This job was finished in two days. Quite a few of the volunteers were carpenters, including the retired Fire Chief Lodi. He played baseball for the Fire Department team and was a pretty good pitcher at that.

On Easter Sunday in 1930 Joe Lodi was appointed full-time fireman. In 1931 the first aid drill team was organized. Joe Lodi was appointed Assistant Fire Chief by Chief Ryan. The drill team was as follows:

Bill Russell, Captain
Harry Stevens, instructor
Dick Remond
George Locatelli
William deBenedetti
Bud Mackay
Jack Hundevant

In that same year the drill team was organized. These three units performed well and achieved an excellent record. The first state drill team competed in the competitive drills in Los Angeles. They lost first place by two points by the Sholoff Company of California Drill Team.

The Fire Department orchestra was already organized in 1925. The orchestra was as follows:

Chick Fowler and John Oden, leaders; Alden Nagey and Bob Archibald, trumpets; Army Armstrong, Earl Crawford and Manual Soto, saxes and clarinets; George De Bon, drums; Harry Burgland, violin; Frank Burgland, bass fiddle; and Bill Lutje, trombone.

These units played and performed throughout the state. The orchestra travelled to most of the California State Firemen Association meetings and played for the dances Saturday night after the day session.

The orchestra played for the local Fire Department dances held upstairs at #1 station every other Friday night. Admission was twenty-five cents. They also appeared at the Sequoia Theatre (now the Fox Theatre).

The Tower Drill Teams also performed at these functions; also locally and at the Menlo Park Fire District Drill Tower.

As the city grew bigger and took in more territory, there was need for a third station. The new station was completed at 2nd and Bay Road and was manned by new firemen and equipment. This was the #3 station.

Then in 1934 the American La France ladder truck arrived. It was kept in the middle stall at #1 station. It had ladders from the roof back to a 55 foot extension ladder. It took six men to raise it. The old Schmeer was retired to the old Corporation yard.

After a few years the 75 foot aerial ladder Maxium truck had arrived. It was the first of that make on the West Coast. At station #2 a new stall was extended on the side of the station and the aerial ladder was in service at that station. The old ladder truck was retired to the Corporation yard, standby service.

Before that time, in 1940, the City of Redwood City went in for Civil Service pensions, fringe benefits and competitive examinations.

Soon after Chief Ryan retired, Deputy Chief Lodi was appointed Fire Chief, Leslie Assistant Chief, and Vic Derman Fire Marshall, the first marshall the city had ever had.

As the city expanded west and to the hills, there was need of a forest fire station. Station #4 was completed and in service with new firemen and equipment on the corner of the intersection of Jefferson and California Way. In the near future there will be a new fire station, #5, in the Redwood Shores district.

Shortly after the new aerial snorkel cherry picker had arrived (75 feet with a basket platform at the top), all hydrants, all hydraulic, were in service at the main station.

Soon after more men were hired and trained and more fire equipment went into service. This brings the Fire Department up to the present time. The Redwood City Fire Department has come a long way in its 108 years of existence and is one of the most modern fire departments to be found in the country.

The present Fire Chief, John Keller, has been in the Fire Department for 38 years.

REDWOOD CITY ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

An interview with

HILDA MCGOVERN

Conducted by: James DeBenedetti

Transcribed by: Virginia Beaumont

Typed by: Mary Darrough

Redwood City, California

Date: July 19, 1976

I was raised in San Francisco and came to Redwood City in 1919, after my marriage to Thomas McGovern, who later became Sheriff of San Mateo County. At that time he was a deputy sheriff under Michael Shean.

McGovern had formerly been a deputy sheriff from 1907 to 1910 under Sheriff Bob Chattum. Then he left the Sheriff's Office and was Chief Deputy Recorder under Harold Heiner from 1911 to 1916. He left that office and went to Dunsmuir, where he was organizing the Red Maze Ranch for six months.

He came back to Redwood City in 1917 to work as a deputy sheriff under Sheriff Michael Shean. In 1922 H. W. Lampkin was elected Sheriff and he appointed McGovern as Under-Sheriff.

Lampkin was fatally injured in an automobile accident and Thomas McGovern was appointed Sheriff by the supervisors in 1924. In 1926 he was elected on his own. Prior to the election in 1926, McGovern had an automobile accident. He passed away in July 1927, while we were on vacation up in Truckee, from a heart attack which was apparently caused by the accident the previous year.

After McGovern passed away, McGrath was appointed Sheriff, and during his regime we had one very famous kidnapping case. The grandson of Christian deGuine, a well-known capitalist of Hillsborough, was kidnapped. The boy's name was Marc deTristain, Jr. He was picked up while walking with his nurse on Poett Road on September 20, 1940. He was three years old. A wide search was made for the boy. He was found several days later up around Placerville. The kidnapper was subsequently apprehended. His name was William Muhlentroich, age 40.

There were well-known murders in this County during the time that I was first established here. Names that I can't remember now, but two very well-known murders right after the first World War. Then we had a well-known doctor from San Francisco who was involved in a murder case - I think it was in 1919, involving an army nurse from the Presidio. And then we had the famous Father Heslin case in Colma, where William Hightower had enticed the priest to go on an errand of mercy and he took him out to the beach and murdered him. They found him buried under the sand and several days later they picked up Hightower and he spent most of his life in San Quentin. I understand he was released a few years ago, but I have no knowledge of his whereabouts at the present time.

A few months after Mr. McGovern's death, I was appointed by the Board of Supervisors in 1928 to serve as a clerk in a newly formed office in the traffic bureau. About a year and a half later the State took over all patrolling of the highways, forming the California Highway Patrol. I remained with that agency until I retired in 1966.

I might add that Mr. McGovern was born in Half Moon Bay and came from a pioneer family, who established their home in 1864. They originally came from Boston. McGovern was also a brother of Dr. J. C. McGovern, a former coroner and public administrator.

REDWOOD CITY ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

An interview with

JOHN RYAN

Conducted by: James DeBenedetti

Transcribed by: Virginia Beaumont

Typed by: Mary Darrough

Redwood City, California

Date: May 16, 1976

I was born in Redwood City on February 6, 1906, the year of the big earthquake in San Francisco. My father, Peter Ryan, opened a drug store on Main Street in Redwood City in 1898. He came from New York, met and married my mother, who was a native San Franciscan.

There are six Ryan children, all born on Marshall Street in Redwood City: Edward, Francis, John, Rosemary, Peter and Ann. I remember Redwood City when practically everyone in town knew each other.

The business district extended from Main Street and Middlefield Road to Broadway, and down Broadway to the railroad tracks at Arguello Street. We had one policeman on day duty, and one at night who was known as the night watchman.

All the property west of El Camino Real was Dingee Park, simply known as "The Park," and there were very few homes there.

There were several hotels in downtown Redwood City. The Capitol, the Grand, the Tremont House, and later the Sequoia Hotel. These hotels had wagons which met the trains from San Francisco. The hotels were patronized mainly by travelling salesmen and overnight visitors from Woodside, La Honda, Pescadero and San Gregorio.

Thursday was Court Day in Redwood City, when farmers and businessmen from the coastside came to town. Some came by stage coach and some by horse and buggy. Main and Broadway was the heart of the business district. I remember Highsee's and Stafford Bros. grocery stores. Later Elmer Hinman opened the first self-serve market at Main and Stambaugh Streets.

The center of the outdoor sports activity was in the block bounded by Brewster, Broadway, El Camino and the SP tracks - the town baseball field.

There were two banks: the Commercial Bank at Broadway and Jefferson and the First National Bank at Broadway and Main.

The social center of our town was the Germania Hall. It was above the Larrouy Bros. saloon, on Broadway at Jefferson.

The first moving picture house was the Bell Theatre on Main Street near Stambaugh. On Saturday afternoons we watched serials such as "The Clutching Hand," "The Iron Paw," and "Neil of the Navy." The only legitimate theatre in town was the Alhambra, located on Main Street between Broadway and Stambaugh Street, which is now the Masonic Hall. Besides stage plays and other social functions, the Alhambra was occasionally used for boxing matches.

We had no man-made swimming pools. We swam in the Redwood Creek or hiked up to Emerald Lake. The only grammar school was on Broadway across from the County Courthouse. The high school was in the next block east.

I remember many good things about Redwood City years ago, and I still think it is a fine place to call "home."

REDWOOD CITY ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

An interview with

WINTHROP H. THORPE

Conducted by: James DeBenedetti

Transcribed by: Virginia Beaumont

Typed by: Mary Darrough

Redwood City, California

Date: May 18, 1976

My name is W. H. (commonly known as Bud) Thorpe.

I was born on Stambaugh Street in Redwood City on December 4, 1901. I have lived here my entire life.

My mother was a school teacher here for many years at the old Redwood City Grammar School, and also at the McKinley School on Duane Street. She took up teaching shortly after my father passed away in 1908. I attended the old Redwood City Grammar School, which was the building across the street from the present Courthouse, and I went to Sequoia High School, which was in a brick building adjoining the block where the Penney's store is now located.

My grandfather at one time was a Superior Court Judge of this County, George Fox. My uncle, Claude Fox, at one time worked in the County Clerk's Office of San Mateo County.

At an early age I decided I wanted to be a policeman, and in the early days, when I was a young boy, we had a marshal. The first marshal was John Christ. He was followed by Jim Coleman and then Clem (Mickey) Collins, who afterwards became Chief of Police. He came here as a night watchman. He served as night watchman for a number of years and then was appointed the first Chief of Police of Redwood City. In 1924, he appointed me as a police officer, and our department at that time consisted of Stanley Wood, who later became Chief of Police of Redwood City after Mickey retired; Sylvester Douglass, who became a Captain in the Police Department; and Edward McAuliffe, who later became a judge, but at that time he was a police officer. Joseph Roza was also a police officer.

In later years some of the younger men came along who developed quite a bit: Earl Whitmore, who became Sheriff of San Mateo County, and Bill Faulstich, who later became Chief of Police upon Stan Wood's retirement.

Before Ed McAuliffe was appointed Justice of the Peace, at which he served for many years, there were several other men. One was Ray Griffin, who preceded Ed McAuliffe, and there was George Seeley before him, as well as Mr. Lampkin, who later became Sheriff of San Mateo County. George Walsh was a constable for the Justice of the Peace in the early days. During Ed McAuliffe's time, Jack Grill of Menlo Park was the constable.

Later, about 1945, I was appointed by the City Council as Police Judge of Redwood City, and served for seven and a half years. After my retirement from that position, I became the San Mateo County Law Librarian. I was there for many years until my present retirement a couple of years ago.

I have liked Redwood City, have lived here all my life as a boy, and have seen it grow from a small town to the big city it is now. My life has been very good here, and I would not have enjoyed living anywhere else but in Redwood City.

HISTORY OF SEQUOIA UNION HIGH SCHOOL

1895 - 1948

BY

A. C. ARGO

This is a brief history of Sequoia Union High School from the beginning in 1895 until June 1948. Particular emphasis is placed on the years between 1921 and 1948. During this period of 27 years a new and functional plant was built and used on a magnificent campus. The school, through these years, gave outstanding service to the community.

In 1895 the people in the community organized the first high school between San Francisco and Santa Clara. The school was named Sequoia after the many redwood trees that grew in this area. Redwood trees had been named Sequoias after the great Cherokee Indian Scribe, Sequoyah.

The high school at that time used the upstairs rooms in the old Central School in Redwood City. This building was torn down in 1928 to make room for the Sequoia Theatre. There were 53 students and two teachers, Principal David Curry, and Mrs. Emma Myers. After a few months Mrs. Curry was employed to assist with the teaching. Students came from all over the district by walking or by train.

The school had a college-preparatory curriculum. The chief student activity was debate. Later the boys played baseball and girls played basketball. Diversions were spelling bees, picnics, and square dancing. The first graduating class in 1895 had 19 members.

In 1899 Frank Rossiter became principal and an additional teacher was added. In 1904 the first high school building was completed, located across the street from the San Mateo County Courthouse. In 1905 S. P. McCrea became principal. He was followed by A. C. Argo in 1921.

In spite of inadequate facilities, from the beginning years the school had given good service to the community. With the building and use of a new plant on a beautiful 40 acre campus, the period 1921 to 1948 became a time of great service to the students in the community. Such advantages were possible because of an understanding and loyal community, a strong school board, a well trained and devoted faculty, a functional curriculum, a receptive and enthusiastic student body, and an excellent school plant.

During the period 1921 to, January 1924, most of the school functions were carried on in the old school on Broadway. Next to this building was the Carnegie Library. The school became so crowded that classes were held in the "Old Barn" on the new campus. Basketball was played in an old warehouse of the John Poole Transfer and Storage Co. Football was played on the town baseball field at the corner of El Camino and Broadway, which the school board purchased in 1917.

Teachers and students walking from the old school on Broadway to the "Old Barn" on the new campus passed through an open field area between the railroad track and El Camino, in which only one old house was located. Redwood City has grown from a population of around 4,000 in 1921 to 24,000 in 1948, and 53,000 in 1976.

The student population increased from about 350 in 1921 to about 500 in 1924. It was at this time that the school was moved to the new campus at El Camino Real and Broadway. After that move, all classwork and activities were

carried on at the new campus. By 1948 there were more than 2,500 students and the second school in the Sequoia High School District was being built.

The campus has an interesting history. The area was purchased by the school district in 1919 from the owner, George Pissis, for \$80,000.

It was part of the land grant in 1835 by the Spanish Governor to Don Louis Arguello, for whom Arguello Street in Redwood City is named. A manager for Arguello, Senor Mezes, took control of the southern part of the grant. He laid out Redwood City and called it Mezesville. William Carey Jones acquired the property from Mezes and sold it to Horace Hawes.

When Hawes died, he left \$6,000,000 as an endowment for a Mt. Eagle University. His widow and daughter broke the will. Part of the property, sold to Moses Hopkins, had on it some of the land of the Sequoia Union High School campus. Hopkins was a breeder of thoroughbred horses. The Emerald Lake reservoir was built especially for him. After his death, his widow sold the land which is part of the campus to William Dingee.

In the meantime, the remainder of the campus land had been sold by Hawes to the Talbot family, who built a large house on it. This family sold the property to Dingee.

Mr. Dingee now owned all the property which became the present campus. He built a beautiful mansion there, which was destroyed in the 1906 earthquake. Because of financial difficulties he later sold the estate to George Pissis for \$80,000. The latter spared no expense to make the grounds a showplace. He planted much of the shrubbery and a great variety of trees, including Cedars of Lebanon, and an olive tree, which legend says came from a seed from the Mount of Olives.

In 1919, after the death of Mr. Pissis, the 40 acre estate was sold to the Sequoia Union High School District for \$80,000. It has been a wonderful campus, with needed area for school buildings, athletic activities, and beautiful gardens. It has been a great inspiration to the students throughout the years to develop a love of beauty and a desire to preserve it.

In 1921, when the school began to make use of the property, there were four structures: the Slate Gatehouse, the Talbot house, the old storehouse, and the old carriage house, or "Old Barn." The Gatehouse, located at the main entrance on El Camino, was soon moved elsewhere, to the 100 block of Birch Street. The Talbot house, in the southwestern part of the campus, had as an entrance road from El Camino the eucalyptus tree-lined road back of the football bleachers. The house was used as a gardener's residence, and was later moved from the grounds. It is now on the west corner of Katherine and Elwood.

The temporary residence and storehouse were used as residences for the families of two teachers. Some of the plumbing and full-length mirrors in the residence were elegant. They evidently had come from the old mansion on the campus. The structure was torn down to make room for school buildings.

The magnificent "Old Barn" served as a stable for a string of thoroughbred horses, owned by Moses Hopkins, and as a garage for William Dingee. It even had rare wood paneling and a fireplace. From 1921 to 1924 it was used for classrooms for the overflow from the old high school. After 1924 it was used for shop classes and later as a maintenance building.

In 1921 the school was forced to develop a bus system. Ravenswood and Runnymede students, even though located in the Sequoia Union High School District, had been attending Palo Alto High School. Because of overcrowding there, they were required to attend Sequoia. To care for this transportation, a 30 passenger bus was put into service, and as the enrollment grew, the number increased to three buses in 1924 and nine in 1948.

During the period of 1921 to 1948, accomplishments at Sequoia were many. There was a strong school board and enthusiastic support by the community, resulting in an excellent school plant with good equipment, a beautiful and functional campus, a well-trained and devoted faculty, and an excellent curriculum, which became nationally known.

Plans were drawn and the first of the buildings were constructed between 1921 and 1924. The school was built on the site of the former mansion around a beautiful Japanese teagarden. Views of the teagarden were visible from many classrooms.

The school buildings were so well planned that there were many compliments. The line drawings turned over to the architect were based on school-use standards and the needs expressed by the teachers.

Members of the faculty were well qualified in their fields and deeply interested in the welfare of each student. In addition to teaching basic skills and knowledges, they helped students through counseling and example to develop physically, mentally, and socially. Improved human relations was a major objective.

There was little vandalism, and students took pride in keeping buildings and grounds clean of papers and debris.

The school had a functional curriculum, adjusted to the basic needs and abilities of the students. Strong programs were offered in college preparation, also in the arts, including music, drama, art and journalism. Practical arts included homemaking, shop, business courses and gardening.

In addition to these day-school courses, a comprehensive and effective adult education program was developed over the years. It was started in 1920 with an enrollment of 75 in a few courses in commercial work, citizenship and English. By 1941, there was an enrollment of 1,500.

The origin of the adult program in 1920 was due to the initiative of James W. DeBenedetti, a Redwood City resident. He requested Principal S. P. McCrea to start night school classes and was informed he must have a petition with 50 signatures. These he secured. With the Board of Trustees' approval, classes were started. Mr. DeBenedetti was a successful member of the first bookkeeping class.

In order to teach cooperation and to learn knowledge and skills supplementing those learned in the classroom, a strong student activity program was carried on. It included athletics, music, journalism, dramatics, public speaking, debate, and student government.

There were so many excellent teachers it would be impossible to name all of them and adequately state their contribution to the school. One exception is made, Otis Carrington, who joined the faculty in 1907. He was an inspiring music teacher, beloved by the community, faculty and students. He wrote the Sequoia Hymn and other school songs. His operettas were enjoyed locally and had national popularity. In addition to being an excellent teacher in both secondary and elementary schools, he was a builder of character. He developed and was head of an excellent music department, which had its own well-planned building, later named Carrington Hall.

Sequoia was fortunate to have an outstanding English department. In the development of communication skills, the needs and abilities of the students were given prime consideration. Appreciation of good literature was also a major objective.

An attractive, well-stocked library, greatly increased in size during the thirties, was especially helpful to students of English. Librarians instructed class groups in the use of the library, and the system by which books and periodicals could be located. A collection of classical music records, gift of the Carnegie Foundation, was kept in the music building. In the main library a lending collection of records, as well as a large number of art prints, were available to students. Books helpful to all departments of the school were on the shelves so that the library was a center of information when needed, including the ever growing collection of Sequoiana.

One activity connected with the English department was drama. Many excellent plays were produced in the little theatre and in the well planned main auditorium. Another English related activity was journalism. A magazine named "Sequoia," which later became an annual called "The Sequoya," was published yearly between 1905 and 1926. It was such high quality that it was given many honors in national contests.

The Cherokee Manual was published in January 1927, March 1930, and September 1941. It was a student guide, informing Sequoians about the school, courses of study, and student activities.

The "Ikozion," a school paper, was started in 1922 by the IKOX Club of Sequoia. The paper grew steadily, and when the school moved to the new campus in 1924, it was named the "Sequoia Times." It has been a paper of much excellence. For many years the "Sequoia Times" took highest rating in national contests.

The physical education departments were outstanding. Both boys' and girls' departments put great emphasis on satisfying the physical needs of each student through classwork and athletics. Many teams provided most of the students an opportunity to compete in various sports.

Several of these were carry-over sports, which provided hobby interests for later life.

Sequoia was a member of the Peninsula Athletic League and won many championships. One basketball coach's teams won 71 per cent of the games from 1933 to 1944. For eight years the varsity won six championships and was in second place for two years.

Two large gymnasiums, a swimming pool, athletic fields, and tennis courts provided excellent facilities for the physical education program. An unusually strong staff of teachers and coaches made the departments outstanding.

Industrial Arts provided a comprehensive shop program, including required home arts and applied science for boys and the following electives: electric, machine, general metals, and wood shops. In addition to mechanical drawing courses, drafting was offered as a major. After a boy was sixteen, he could take pre-apprentice shop. Learnings and skills useful in homemaking were included in various courses, providing hobby interests for many boys and a start toward a vocation for others.

After completion of the major school buildings, the new shop buildings were constructed and equipped to handle all the Industrial Arts courses. These were used also in the adult education program, which was continually expanding, to take care of avocational needs and pre-apprentice courses.

The Homemaking department with its functional activities met in laboratory classrooms in the main building. A model apartment offered girls excellent training in home decoration and meal service, as well as opportunities for entertaining guests. In the freshman year, all girls were given a course in home arts and applied science, in which they learned general skills and knowledge valuable to all homemakers. In successive years courses in food and clothing were offered as majors or electives. Much help was given also to adults in night school classes.

The Commercial department offered majors in bookkeeping, stenography, office practice and selling, as well as valuable electives. Many students got a vocational start through this department. Adult programs added much to the vocational efficiency of workers in the business world.

A rich curriculum was offered in art. In addition to general culture there were majors in teacher preparation, commercial art, and handicrafts. The murals on the walls of the front hallway near the library were drawn by art students. Many adults took advantage of the evening classes in art.

Science instruction was offered in well-equipped laboratories, including courses in physics, chemistry, physical science, biology and botany. Four years of gardening were offered, general and vocational. These classes assisted with campus gardening, labeling and listing all the trees and shrubs, and planting one lawn.

Four years of languages were offered in French, Spanish and German, as well as two years of Latin.

A complete mathematics program included algebra, geometry, solid geometry and advanced algebra.

Three years of social studies were required of all students and taken by most students for four years. Major objectives were a greater understanding and appreciation of our country, and a desire to improve human relationships here and throughout the world. World History, United States History, and a study of contemporary problems, gave students an historical background and knowledge basic to good citizenship.

Music was a major interest in the school. Choral and instrumental music was offered for four years, and harmony in the third and fourth years. There were several choral groups. The Treble Clef, an unusually strong organization, dated from the first years of the school. There was also a C Clef for the girls and a Bass Clef for the boys. The music building, with its practice rooms, added much to the program.

A counseling system devoted to student well-being aided teachers and students in their joint relationships to school problems. Faculty members, personally well adjusted to life and deeply interested in student welfare, helped Sequoians in their educational and vocational planning, and with their personal problems.

Student government was an effective part of the many activities, resulting in the excellent behavior of students both in the building and on the grounds. School spirit was stimulated. Training in developing leadership and attitudes carried over into life after graduation. Many of our outstanding community leaders were graduates of Sequoia.

The commissioner form of government was established about 1924. There were commissioners of Student Welfare, Boys' Activities, Girls' Activities, Finance, Publications, Publicity, Boys' Athletics, Girls' Athletics and Cultural Activities. Each commissioner cared for his own field of responsibility. They met as a Board of Commissioners to determine general policy and co-ordinate their activities. The Commissioner of Welfare was chairman of the board.

A student court, associated with the Board of School Welfare, was successful in promoting good citizenship.

A comprehensive awards system gave recognition to achievements of students in their activities.

One of the great achievements of the school was the dramatic "Pageant of The Seal," produced in 1927, with practically every student and faculty member participating. Through a series of episodes of the past and present it built up an understanding of the spirit and ideals of the school.

In the seal the mighty redwood represents the spirit of Sequoia victorious. The rays coming from the rising sun represent the spirit of promise. The

word "Unaliyi," at the bottom of the seal, means "place of friends." The pageant did much to set high standards for the school and to develop school spirit. A replica of the seal in colored glass is placed on the wall of the entrance to the library. A large design of the seal in color is in the concrete at the main entrance to the building.

Service to the community between 1921 and 1948 was outstanding. Many of the citizens of this and other communities have lived happier and more productive lives because of the education received in Sequoia. The functional curriculum, outstanding faculty, and constructive environment helped produce many good citizens.

