

Laguna Woods History Center
Community Oral History Project
Transcript

NARRATOR: Fran Lindberg
INTERVIEWER: Jennifer Keil
VIDEOGRAPHER: Cindy Keil
DATE: October 23, 2018
LENGTH: 01:01:03
LOCATION: Laguna Woods, CA
PROJECT: Laguna Woods History Center
VIDEO: https://youtu.be/XSeDz4_zGwM

ABSTRACT: With a publishing background and a New York native, Fran Lindberg moved to California in 1993. Her daughter resided here with children. Fran Lindberg started volunteering in 1995 for the Leisure World Historical Society Helen Clark introduced her to the organization. She served as the Archivist starting in 1995 when Marge Williams retired. She worked with different board of directors until 2017 when she retired her role.

00:00:00

JK: We're here at the Laguna Woods History Center on October 23rd, 2018 with Fran Lindberg. My first question for you is where were you born?

FL: I was born in Queens, New York.

JK: And what year? Would you share with us and your age?

FL: August 20th, 1920.

JK: And your upbringing in New York. Would you discuss about your career and your upbringing in New York City a bit?

FL: Well, I lived in Glendale. It was called Forest Park. And we had a flower house, a park, a band stand, golf course, tennis courts. And, of course, the forest was beautiful. The trees were gorgeous. I grew up with my three brothers who were younger [than I. We were a happy family.]

JK: And your profession as an editor?

- FL: I lived during the Depression years. I wanted to go to college to be an English teacher. But I couldn't [because of the depression]. I got my first job with McGraw Hill, which was publishing - made me very happy.
- JK: Primarily you worked on magazines.
- FL: Yes.
- JK: Your shift to California. Let's discuss how you learned about this community. So, what was the first time you heard about it?
- FL: Well, I worked up until I was seventy-three. And I'm out here because my daughter was here with her children. And at seventy-three I thought, well, they're not going to teach an old dog new tricks. So, I decided to come out here.
- JK: So, you hear about this community, but this wasn't the first Leisure World that you'd heard about. You heard about the one in Seal Beach.
- FL: Yes, I did hear about Seal Beach. I did go to Seal Beach and I was not too impressed. But then someone, a neighbor of my daughter, recommended I try Leisure World. Well, there's a vast difference. So, I decided on Leisure World. And at the time we did pursue some apartments like Cordobo and others. I was very impressed with the San Sebastian. It's a one-story house. What else did you want to know?
- JK: Let's discuss some of the differences about Seal Beach and this community. Is there something else you might mention?
- FL: Well, Seal Beach — it was treeless. I was enthralled with the trees in Leisure World. That's what brought me here. Having lived in a forest area. I was so impressed with Leisure World.
- JK: You mentioned Cortese's master plan with not only the amenities, but the landscaping of 200,000 trees you mentioned earlier.
- FL: Oh, yes.
- JK: And the variety has been documented recently with tree guides [for the Laguna Woods Village which include the [Aliso Creek Tree Guide](#), [Friendship Walk Tree Guide](#), and the [Serpentine Tree Walk Guide](#)].
- FL: I've had people come into the Historical Society to learn about trees.¹ And, of course, we have a

¹ See Image 1 in the appendix.

vast amount of information on trees. The one person that really was thrilled was Joan Lustig. She is really a tree person. And I'm still in touch with her, too.

JK: She [gathered data and] made a pull request about tree history and just the varieties [of trees early on when you were a historical society]?

FL: And not only that, many years ago, too, we had what we called tree walks. And we would walk through certain areas and they would document all the trees that we were looking at. And we would write them down. In fact, I still have a list of some trees that I saw as I walked through?

JK: And how do they differ from the east — from New York?

FL: Well, there is a vast amount of trees here by comparison with Forest Park. [Oaks and maple trees were prominent in the NY area].

JK: When you moved here in 1993, what was the community like? What was the community like when you moved here in 1993?

FL: My neighbors were in my age category. And all I can say is I was thrilled by my surrounding — the neighbors I had.

JK: Structurally, what was it like? Any differences you might know about the structure, the buildings, the layout of the place?

FL: [By comparison most units in CA are one-story whereas in NY our buildings are many stories higher].

JK: Any additions or changes since 1993?

FL: All I know is here we have what they call popcorn ceilings? We never had popcorn ceilings in New York. They were always very smooth. [Popcorn ceilings are] more durable.

JK: Uh-huh. And then your neighbors. How would you — how else would you describe your personal community? You mentioned some of the people you met.

FL: Oh, my first neighbor was just delightful. They were a couple with grandchildren. [With time I befriended all my neighbors].

JK: Your real estate agent probably showed you multiple [units] — you'd mentioned all the different kinds of units. You looked at a two-story unit initially. Would you describe what you were looking for as a buyer?

FL: All I know is I'll never forget Joan McCarthy. She was my realtor. She showed me a two-story

unit. I certainly didn't want a two-story unit. She showed me a San Sebastian, which is a one-level home. And I was just overwhelmed. I put down a deposit immediately. Of course, I had to sell my place in New York. At that time I lived in an area called Bellrose, sometimes called Queens Village.

JK: Preparing for your move to your San Sebastian-styled home from east coast to west coast?

00:09:55

FL: Joan McCarthy had to wait until I sold my place. She waited four months, which I thought was wonderful. They don't do that today. Finally, my house was sold and I got here. I had to pack and I was very happy to move here.

JK: And some of the community amenities — would you speak about what the clubhouses provided, some of the organizations that were made available to you?

FL: Oh, yes. I was just thrilled with the tennis courts, number one. There's another organization called Tops. I don't know if you've ever heard of it — Take Off Pounds Sensibly. I also joined the Historical Society.

JK: Let's discuss also, would you, about Bowling and Opera Club as well?

FL: Speaking of the Opera Club, I love that kind of music. Betty Howaiser was the president of Opera 100. We used to attend operas at the Segerstrom. And it was just wonderful. We'd get on a bus and we'd doll up in our operatic wear. And, of course, I wanted to tell you, too, that was the thrill of my life. Not only that, but I often wondered why we said Opera 100. Well, I finally found out by looking through my club file. They wanted to get at least a hundred members. And they retained that title Opera 100 through the years! But in the meantime, what happened through the years. Betty couldn't get anyone to oversee the club. It was so tragic. They had to disband in the later years. But I did have fun in the meantime [for] many years.

JK: Wonderful. Any other amenities that you utilized? Tennis, you utilized the courts.

FL: Yes. One thing I have to say. I was okay until I broke my hip. So, I had to [give up bowling after 15 years]. I was never a golfer even though I had access to [a] golf course in New York. I was never keen on golf, but tennis, yes. And oh, one thing I couldn't do here was sledding, but I could in New York (laughter).

JK: Yes (laughter). Would you describe your active role in — at the time the Historical Society? So, let's start with 1995 with your meeting Helen Clark.

FL: Yes, when I first came, I was introduced to Helen Clark who was the Archivist at that time. And the workroom was really the size of a, what shall I say, a walk-in closet. And what's her name?

JK: Irma Franklin.

FL: Irma Franklin referred to it as a broom closet. I got a big kick out of that. And all we could get in that room were two vertical files, a desk, and a manual typewriter.

JK: Would you describe maybe the mission statement at the time? Did you discuss, as a group, your mission as an organization in 1995? Do you know if they discussed the vision and mission of the organization?

FL: When I was introduced to Helen Clark, I knew what I had to do. I had to [give] the gift agreements, an ID number before they could go on the shelf. Not only that, but you have to remember the work room was [very small]. But our storage room was 600 feet away. That means we had to always walk there with our goodies for the archives.

JK: How much space was allocated in your storage for the archive? So, 600 feet away, but would you describe the parameters?

FL: It still was small [and inconvenient].

JK: It was fairly small.

FL: But it was certainly big enough to hold our files.

JK: Okay. Primarily files. Any sort of other types of objects like artwork or anything that needed to be shelved?

FL: There was not too much [room].

JK: Okay.

FL: We just didn't have room for [works of art]. And, of course, Irma Franklin was instrumental in getting us to try to get a building near the library. And we were just thrilled with that. The open house took place, I believe, in 1998. It's at that time that Marge Williams became the Archivist and I assisted her. She was my mentor.

JK: Would you describe the open house and the move from the former space to the new space?

FL: Well, it's hard to even tell you the difference. All I know is we had an entrance. Then we had a work area. And then we had our storage room. And as you entered the storage room, to the right we had a vast amount of scrapbooks. Oh, more than two hundred, possibly even three hundred scrapbooks. And then to the left, we had vertical files for [the following] subjects: the honorary people, film, clubs, and much more.

JK: And with this new facility, did you see a change in the communities' pull request?

FL: What?

JK: For pull requests for archival research materials. Did you see a change?

FL: Oh, definitely.

JK: Okay. Do you describe that — about that?

FL: All I know is we were kept mighty busy.

JK: Sure.

FL: The residents were always asking research questions. For example, they'd want to know about the meaning of some of the Spanish names here. And not only that, they[would] want to know about the area of their unit. There were so many questions that it was — hard for me to even express them.

JK: And you had a feature called the Archives Corner.

00:19:24

FL: When I was with Marge, we started a column called Archives Corner. And that kept me busy writing up articles about — oh, I would talk about some of the archival material that would come in. And then I would also describe some of the trees that were here and what not. So, there were many areas where we could really write for that column. And that kept us going. And, of course, we were always busy with research questions. I was thankful for that. That really kept us busy. I remember I had Alberta. She would take care of the obituaries. Oh, and one thing more, I had Paula. I think there were about three of us. And we were [a] very happy group.

JK: And you worked with the local paper. Myra Neben who was the Editor of the Leisure World newspaper.

FL: No.

JK: Did you ever make submissions to the paper?

FL: I had nothing to do with the newspaper.

JK: How about your relationship with the library? Because you physically share an adjoining wall space, has there been throughout the years [any] relationship?

- FL: Well, very often what would happen someone would either bring books back or take out Books. They would come over to see us, that was always welcome. And, of course, in later years Brenda Moore spent some time with us after Chris Macon left. She was with us [several years]. All our good people started to leave.
- JK: Transition is inevitable, isn't it? Would you share — ?
- FL: You know what was disturbing was when Chris Macon came to us, he was supposed to really do a change over, but it wasn't to be. He was with us, in fact, I think he was with us about six years.
- JK: You mention 2006 — that he becomes your Curator [and Director].
- FL: Oh, there's one thing [more]. We never had an index file.
- JK: Let's discuss this. This is critical.
- FL: That's something I was very happy we were able to achieve. It took us quite a few months. I wouldn't be surprised if it was a whole year. Because we had all those files on subject clubs and so forth. We had that. I'm thankful for that. And there was a gal from Oklahoma. Her name was Vinny Dole. She spent a lot of time doing that for us because she was able to take some of it home, which many of us couldn't do. Some of us didn't have typewriters. And we called her Okie.
- JK: Oh, yeah.
- FL: She was from Oklahoma. She was a sweetheart. And Alberta was wonderful, too. She worked on obituaries. There's one other, Paula was there.
- JK: This happens in 2005 about when you become the Archivist.
- FL: Yes.
- JK: Prior? A little bit prior?
- FL: No, no. It was once Marge Williams left.
- JK: Okay.
- FL: 2005.
- JK: You mention she had an affinity towards Apple systems like Macintosh and Apple computers. So, let's discuss technology.

- FL: We did have a typewriter, but we also had that Apple computer. And she was the only one that worked on it. At that time, I didn't even have a computer. It was only in later years that I got a computer. Not that I'm computer-literate, but at least I have it there for email and so forth.
- JK: Marge's background as a lawyer, it affected the way she probably managed the records.
- FL: Oh, yes.
- JK: Would you discuss her training?
- FL: She was very bright. All I know is I learned an awful lot from her. And we did a lot of things together. For example, we would display, our history at another Historical Society and vice versa. In turn, they would come back to us. And we did that quite a few times with Marge.
- JK: Would you discuss some of the places your archival materials were exhibited? What other organizations, maybe?
- FL: All I know is one of them was not too far. I cannot remember.
- JK: Like Laguna Niguel?
- FL: No, not Laguna Niguel.
- JK: Saddleback Historical?
- FL: No.
- JK: Okay. Interesting. That's a very interesting part of archival management is loan agreements and sharing your collections with the community.
- FL: Right.
- JK: So, would you say who, primarily, made those arrangements? Was it Marge, Marge made all of the loan agreements for this?
- FL: Yes.
- JK: Okay.
- FL: Yes, she did.
- JK: And how long did you do that? For a few years while she was active?

FL: Yes, in 1998. And then she got ill in 2005 and left us.

JK: Right.

FL: Yes, she left us. And it's two years later that, I believe, Chris Macon joined us.

JK: Correct. Okay. So, that's a mission statement for the archive about your policy about loaning materials to other communities.

FL: Right.

JK: Did you find other historical groups coming in like maybe other board members asking about your collection and your management of that? Were you — ?

FL: I don't recall too much of that.

JK: Not so much.

FL: No.

JK: Okay.

FL: I don't recall too much of that at all.

JK: Because you're a closed community, a gated community, how do you think that might affect your visibility as a gated, closed community? Do you think — ?

FL: Well, I think that definitely was a deterrent.

JK: Okay. And they knew about you through your exhibition. So, that's a program that allows your collections to go beyond the gates. So, community curation with these loans and exhibit displays — did you find a change in maybe calls or pull requests after you did an exhibit with somebody else like — with these displays? So, with Marge loaning some of your archival materials and showing them in the community was there more requests outside your community after these events or just about the same?

FL: Once she left, we were not as active.

JK: Okay.

FL: We were not as active anymore.

JK: I see.

FL: But we were certainly busy.

JK: With the community itself.

FL: Yes, within this area.

JK: Okay. Interesting.

FL: And, I mean, we got a lot of requests for the gift items and the research requests. We were really busy.

JK: What kind of things would people bring you? Was it things about their own life? Was it about the clubs? Was it about the local area? What sort of things were people donating to you?

FL: Well, a lot of them were the scrapbooks.

JK: Okay.

FL: That was a very important item.

JK: And they were done for club organizations, primarily?

FL: Right. Yes, all clubs.

JK: Okay. And at the time they were just storing them on the shelf. And you mention in our pre-interview Chris charging a fee for shelving.

FL: Yes.

JK: So, would you share a little bit about his kind of changes at that time?

00:29:17

FL: Yes. What happened is the moment he became, shall I say, Curator and Director of the Historical Society, he started to charge a fee of \$50 for shelving our, shall I say, scrapbooks. Then the coding started to change. [Before] we had such a simple code. He brought in a vast number of Microsoft computers. And he was supposed to really, teach us how to run [the computers]. Our hours were not as long. And as a result, I was losing some of my people because they were bored. But they stayed for a while and we managed somehow.

JK: The hours prior were 10:00 to 1:00 and 1:00 to 4:00?

FL: Yes.

JK: Okay.

FL: Yes, 10:00 to 1:00 and 1:00 to 4:00 in the afternoon.

JK: Okay. And when — what hours do you recall they changed to?

FL: Now, I'm talking about the front.

JK: The front reception.

FL: Yes, the front.

JK: Okay.

FL: And then our activity in the archives started to wane. It really started to wane. And I was losing my people.

JK: With reduced visiting hours, when you reduced your hours for the public it affected the archive, like fewer people coming in?

FL: Oh, yes.

JK: Okay.

FL: That is correct.

JK: Okay.

FL: Yes.

JK: Would you describe the ID system he instituted in detail for us? It went from a subject heading catalogue to a different type of ID. You mention he complicated the archive ID system.

FL: Yes, I'm talking about the numbering system.

JK: The numbering.

FL: Yes, the coding.

JK: Would you describe the accession numbers. Were they — ?

- FL: Well, in other words, if I recall, we used to have only four numbers. Then with Chris, I think it became either six or seven. I don't really recall.
- JK: Okay. Probably the year became part of the heading.
- FL: Yes.
- JK: Okay. So, he instituted accessioning by year. Is that what happened?
- FL: It amounted to only four numbers prior to [Chris' arrival].
- JK: Four numbers. Okay. And then you shifted to accessioning by year plus the collection numbers.
- FL: Right.
- JK: Okay. And that was all done manually or did you go with the system completely to computers?
- FL: Well, I did not.
- JK: Someone else would.
- FL: So, only someone that was experienced.
- JK: You would do it manually?
- FL: Yes.
- JK: And someone else would put the date into the computer system for you.
- FL: Right. Exactly.
- JK: So, it was like a partnership through the data. Okay. You said it took about a year. There wasn't really a backlog, really, with shifting policy and numbering? It wasn't like it just completely finished in that one year, renumbering everything, about a year?
- FL: Yes, I would say so.
- JK: Okay. And then as far as — .
- FL: And like I said, we were still active as far as the gift items were concerned. And also the research requests.

- JK: Were there changes as far as donations, the type of gifts? So, originally scrapbooks were a part of the original collection. Did you find through your years any kind of changes of what people were giving you? Maybe a variety of new materials. Were there new things introduced to the collection?
- FL: I think that pretty much remained the same.
- JK: Pretty much the same materials.
- FL: Yes.
- JK: Same kind of items.
- FL: We started not to get as much coming in because the Baby Boomers were [coming in numbers].
- JK: Okay.
- FL: See, that also hurt us.
- JK: Will you describe the difference?
- FL: Because they were working people [with no time for an interest in club activities].
- JK: And how else do you think they affected the community? Is there any other thing to measure...?
- FL: All I know is our [volunteers' started to leave. Paula was the last one I had with me. And she finally said, "Fran, I don't have enough to do here. I've got to leave."
- JK: Okay.
- FL: So, there — and then, of course, at that point that's when I was left on my own. In the meantime Chris left .
- JK: 2013?
- FL: Yes, 2013.
- JK: As your city manager?
- FL: Yes, at that time.
- JK: Okay.

FL: Then, Bob Ring became the president of the Historical Society. I did help [the board] as a secretary. I kept writing the — writing for the Archives Corner.²

JK: Okay.

FL: And that was it. Then it really started and Bob Ring [became our president] — that's when I knew something was amiss. Because I was wondering, why aren't we collecting membership donations? We always donated. And I used to ask Bob and say, "Well, when am I going to start to pay you a donation?" I knew then there had to be something in the wind about change. But he was on the board and I was on the board for a while. I wasn't doing that much in my department. So, I resigned from the board.

JK: Okay.

FL: Our paper for the Historical Society was called the *Historical Society Newsletter*. That's when it changed to *The Historian*.

JK: Yes.

FL: Okay. That I remembered very well.

JK: And the renaming of the facility as well. So, would you describe the change in name from Historical Society to History Center?

FL: While I was working [with Bob ring] it was noted as a Historical Society. It was only when Dean and Gail Dixon came on that it became the History Center.

JK: I see.

FL: Nothing in writing.

JK: So, the marketing didn't reflect the naming.

FL: Right. Exactly.

JK: Okay.

FL: So, that's where Dean and Gail came into the picture. And they really have been doing a wonderful job of helping the residents about the history of the center. They're two very delightful people.

² See Image 2 in the appendix.

JK: They have a new board here. A few new members. Would you describe the current leadership? Is there anybody else you want to mention about current, active — ?

FL: Well, Brenda Moore did help us. But there again she, too, left because of a family situation.

JK: Right. Would you want to note the book, the anniversary book of 2014? The History Center was involved with the book publication.

FL: Oh, yes! Bob Ring did a superb job of doing [the book, *Laguna Woods Village at 50 Years*. Have you seen the book?

JK: We have a lovely copy of it. So, we wanted to discuss it.

FL: I'm so glad you do.

JK: So, let's discuss that.

FL: And, of course, you can see that it transcribes [50] previous years. It doesn't follow through in later years at all. Although he does mention all the clubs. [Important,] one of the members of the Cortese family was collecting residual fees.

JK: For the naming.

00:39:53

FL: Yes. And that's when we decided we didn't want to continue to pay. We were forced to change Leisure World to Laguna Woods Village. All I know is if Cortese had been alive, that never would have happened.

JK: And because you're involved in this community at the naming change, time.

FL: Yes.

JK: Bob Ring, of course, was mayor during the shift in incorporation.

FL: [Most residents were happy with the name change].

JK: Would you share about your — any other memories about that change of naming?

FL: All I know is I was getting bored because it just wasn't [the same, workwise]. I had no one helping or anything else. And I just came because I knew that I could still help as far as the archives was concerned.

JK: You retired. Sure. This is in 2017 you retired, correct?

FL: Yes.

JK: From your Archivist role?

FL: Yes, I had an accident.

JK: I'm sorry.

FL: I just couldn't continue because I just didn't[have much to do].

JK: Right.

FL: But I remember even coming in to help Dean and Gail [when work was available].

JK: Right.

FL: The archival duties were not the same.

JK: It shifted with technology.

FL: Exactly.

JK: Can we describe maybe currently Barbara [Letter], your Digital Archivist. Would you describe maybe your thoughts about technology and its use in the archives? What your thoughts having seen all the change?

FL: Technology.

JK: Uh, huh.

FL: Well, as far as I'm concerned, the computer did not help us because these residents just get on their computer and get almost anything. So, that, I think, it has hurt us. And, of course, now I can understand why it's called [Laguna Woods History Center]—, but what puzzles me is someone has to be donating. I mean, — we're not functioning on nothing. So, I'm sure someone is donating quite a bit to the center. But I still feel badly about it becoming a center rather than a historical society. But Dean and Gail are doing a marvelous job of informing the residents about the history. But I wish we would get more residents coming in to inquire.

JK: Sure. Would you share about the facility itself? So, when you moved to this site, you have a

purposed space that is temperature-controlled for all your collections. And all the community to bring things into the [archive].

FL: Oh, yes. That's very true.

JK: Can we discuss the quality of the storage that you have here?

FL: Oh, well it's hard for me to get technical about it.

JK: Sure.

FL: All I know is there is a meter out there that controls the temperature so that it's cool and nothing wears away that much, but I can't tell you anymore.

JK: Sure.

FL: Anything else more than the technical aspect of it.

JK: Every shelf is identified with the contents.

FL: Right.

JK: I just think, for your listeners, it's important to describe sort of the policy that's in place with — how it's organized. How things are placed in sections. So, all the club materials are together.

FL: Well, the scrapbooks are all alphabetical, same with our indexes. Our vertical files, it's all alphabetical.

JK: And did you borrow any librarian-styled approaches, you think?

FL: Well, Brenda Moore, helped in that respect.

JK: Okay. I see.

FL: She really helped us in that respect.

JK: Everything when you arrived here was all ordered in the way in which it was — the arrangement of the shelving was already done? Or were you part of the placement of those shelves?

FL: Well, that pretty much remained the same.

JK: Okay.

FL: Nothing really changed.

JK: Okay.

FL: Brenda Moore just enhanced it, you know.

JK: I see, with digital things as well.

FL: Yes.

JK: Okay.

FL: And, of course, she was able to use the computer.

JK: Right. Okay.

FL: I did get a computer in later years, but I'm not a pro — I'm not completely literate.

JK: Would you share about your digitization project of the newspapers? So, while you were Archivist there was an undertaking of digitizing all the past newspapers in the archive.

FL: Oh, yes. Now, I did not mention the newspaper.

JK: Okay.

FL: We started this newspaper, *The Leisure World News* as far back as 1965. Now because of the residual problem, we became Laguna Woods. It goes as far back as 1965. If residents ever want to learn anything about our group here, all they have to do is look at the Leisure World newspaper [that goes back to 1965. With the name change our newspaper is called *The Laguna Woods Globe*.

JK: Mhmm. And let's discuss your role with UCI as a participant in their 90 Plus study.³ So, today you shared your story in part. But how did you get involved with that study?

FL: I used to hear about Irma Franklin who was part of it. I don't know if you ever heard of Helen [Lions]. She was another one. So, I thought when I turn ninety, I'll join this group. It was some kind of literature that I got me interested.

JK: Hmm. Okay.

FL: And I'm very happy to be a part of it. If my brain is going to help somebody else I'm [glad to be a

³ <http://www.90study.org>

part of the study]. But you know what puzzles me? Perhaps you do know. Did you know there's another group?

JK: Yes.

FL: But they're not part of the first group.

JK: Correct.

FL: Now, I'm concerned. You know my brain is being contributed to the first group.

JK: Right.

FL: Now, is there a problem there?

JK: I think separate inquiries are being made about — the methods are different. And so the way they analyze the datas will be different. But I'm sure they'll be utilizing your research in conjunction in some method.

FL: I want my brain to go to the first group.

JK: Yes. It's all, I know, thoroughly documented as far as how their process is being created.

FL: Okay, good. I'm glad you're knowledgeable about it.

JK: Yes, it is — it's important to take different — .

FL: And yet the second group is great, too.

JK: Right.

FL: I think it's just great.

JK: Right.

FL: They wanted me to look at a picture of my brain. Well, what did it mean to me?

JK: A neurologist can interpret that, but — (laughter).

FL: I don't — (laughter). And I said, "Thanks, if that's my brain. Thanks! But it doesn't mean anything to me."

JK: Sure. Right. Interesting. It's art, right (laughter)?

FL: I got a big kick out of that.

JK: Would you describe the study, like maybe the format in which they conduct the research?

FL: I'm pleased with it. It's about every six months they come to me. And they go through a lot of memory tests. It's also physical. They will take blood tests. They also take blood tests and I think they're super.

JK: That's great.

FL: They're keeping a check on me medically, too, which is great. I'm very grateful for that.

JK: And, of course, this school of USC has done similar studies.⁴

FL: You're talking about ICU?

JK: USC and just the origins of how like Dr. Tracy and his role in studies as well.

FL: Oh, that's going back prior to my time.

JK: It's very early.

FL: Oh, prior to my time.

00:50:00

JK: Any comment as far as how he introduced some of these studies in conjunction to the university?

FL: I don't think I can really express an opinion.

JK: Okay. Sure.

FL: Because that goes so far back.

JK: Early.

FL: And I didn't know these people very well.

JK: Sure.

⁴ http://lagunawoodshistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/1992_02_Newsletter.pdf

FL: I think I've told you that I've been with the group a good eight years.

JK: Right.

FL: And I'm very happy to be a part of the group.

JK: Yes.

FL: Preserving today for tomorrow. I'm very happy to have been a part of the Historical Society.

JK: Lovely.

FL: Now, called the History Center.

JK: History Center. Anything you'd like to comment about being a resident, about just change in general about — ?

FL: Well, let me tell you as a resident, I'm very happy to be here. The amenities are numerous. I'm very happy about that. But I do know the influx of another culture is coming in. I mean they're very nice people. Don't get me wrong, but our culture is quite different. And, I think, that's going to change Laguna Woods. And to what extent only time will tell.

JK: Demographics in California in general have been shifting.

FL: Yes.

JK: And it's part of a larger change.

FL: Right.

JK: I think we are seeing on a large scale as well.

FL: Yes.

JK: So, certainly on a micro level.

FL: Don't get me wrong, they're very nice people. They're always smiling and what not, but there is a difference in our culture. That's all I can say.

JK: In forward casting as well, what do you aspire the community to become? So, as a resident, as an active resident in this community do you have any thoughts about its future? Any hopes for it?

FL: You know, it's hard for me to predict something like that. Only time will tell. You can

see even politically in Washington D.C. Look at the big change right there, politically. Is it for the better? We hope it is. And so far it does look good. But it's a change. We don't know what the future is going to bring. And, I think, this also applies to Laguna Woods Village.

JK: Do you see any changes in political party and ties to the county? As a resident, have you noticed any other larger trends, as a resident of Orange County, as a resident of California?

FL: Well, I haven't seen too much of it, yet.

JK: And lastly, just anything to mention about organizations that you've been a part of or hope to join? Because we understand your club membership and organizations have grown.

FL: Well, one sad thing is I'm not independent anymore because I had to give up my driving when I was ninety-six. So, I won't complain because I started at eighteen. At that time we didn't have a family car. I started the family car. So, I've been driving for 18 years — so I'm not complaining (laughter).

JK: Oh, my goodness (laughter).

FL: I wanted to be an English teacher. I love grammar. I love puzzles so I'm very great at puzzles. But what I want to do is I really want to join the Scrabble Club. I love Scrabble. I love word games.

JK: You should do it (laughter). Would you describe your transportation system here? It's unique, your transportation system. So, you may have stopped driving....

FL: Oh, yes.

JK: Would you describe how you commute?

FL: I do rely on the bus, to a certain extent. And, of course, I do a lot of walking. I love walking. Even though I have to use a walker. I do a lot of walking. And I also have my younger daughter with me who lost her husband years back. So, I'm very happy to have her. She does drive, but I don't lean on her that much because she is an animal lover. She's dog sitting, cat sitting, whatever else — walking. I want her to enjoy that. And I'm still able to get around.

JK: Yes.

FL: I'm not complaining at all. I'm still blessed.

JK: Do you find yourself, within the community, it's convenient? Are there challenges? Or — with transportation, because it's a master-planned community, did you find that it — ?

- FL: I'd love to see some kind of improvement on the bus system. I have tried to get from nine to five I do well. For example, if I go to Tops, I have to leave early because I have to be there about eight. That's when I start to have a problem.
- JK: Okay.
- FL: I can never get a bus on time. So, I don't know what the answer is, but I'll keep trying.
- JK: Okay (laughter). Any thoughts about your founders? So, Ross Cortese, maybe about him?
- FL: Cortese was very impressive. But, there again, I wish [the name] had never changed. I wanted it to remain Leisure World because it has a meaning. It's telling you Leisure World, leisure is the important word. Now, with Laguna Woods it's lost its meaning.
- JK: So, the linguistic heritage perhaps, the linguistic heritage of those names. So, your love of language is evident in that thought. So, the names have meaning. They certainly do, so.
- FL: But Cortese, as I said, he did an awful lot for this place. And considering his background. Oh, my Lord! I don't know how he did it. But it just takes a good brain. Regardless of your background, a good brain will do it. And that's exactly what he did. I'm still very happy here.
- JK: Do you want to think about what he might think of his master-planned community?
- FL: All I know is the culture is going to change. We know that. What else will change? I don't think I'll be around to see it (laughter).
- JK: You've seen quite a bit (laughter).
- FL: I don't know whether I'll be around to see it, but it's — . I don't know why — I don't know what's happened to the Caucasians. Why are we in the — why are we declining? I don't know.
- JK: There are demographic changes generationally right now with Baby Boomers. And Millennial percentages are shifting.
- FL: Now you're really getting into politics.
- JK: So, there's the nature of county. There's a lot to document. And this is why this interview matters is to show an organizational change. So, you've been serving as an Archivist. But with the role that you've taken today, you're helping us capture the history of the History Center.
- FL: [I hope so].

JK: So, the historiography of an organization. You know, we — it's important.

FL: You seem to know a lot about ours, too.

JK: We practice oral history methods, but along with that, with archiving. We're Archivists.

FL: Well, that's why you're part of that group, too.

JK: So, our inquiry about your policy.

FL: Yeah. Oh, that's wonderful.

JK: Your methods and the digital changes affect the way we do our business.

FL: Yes.

JK: And so it's important that others listening as well will understand how technology changed the field.

FL: Yes.

JK: And how it affected you personally.

FL: Well, how long I'll be here [I don't know], but I will see some changes.

JK: I'm certain. Yes.

FL: But I don't think they'll be vast. I think that'll happen after I'm gone (laughter).

JK: Well, we appreciate your comments.

FL: [Thank you].

JK: It really helps the History Center understand its heritage.

FL: It's a pleasure to have worked with you, too.

JK: Thank you.

FL: It's marvelous how much you do know.

00:59:59

JK: Well, thank you.

FL: And you're so young.

JK: We appreciate you helping us understand the history of a place. As residents of Orange County, it's important to know what happened prior to you residing there.

FL: Yes.

JK: And so, keeping our doors open.

FL: And you'll be around a long time to see it all.

JK: It's important. So, we're excited to capture this memory. And how it's changing.

FL: My older daughter went to UCI.

JK: Really?

FL: That's another reason that I got familiar with [the study] .

JK: Oh! Interesting.

FL: Because she went to UCI.

JK: I see.

FL: She came out here for her residency.

JK: That was why you knew about this place.

FL: Exactly.

JK: Okay. During her studies, was it fairly early in the program, was the medical program very developed at that point? The university being a young program (laughter).

FL: Yes.

JK: Coming from the east, you know, they have programs there much longer.

FL: That's another reason why I'm glad to be part of this UCI program.

JK: Right. They just celebrated their 50th anniversary.⁵

FL: Really?

JK: It's been another subset of development in Orange County.

FL: Oh, isn't that nice?

⁵ <http://50th.uci.edu/>

Appendix of Images



Image 1: First Tree Guide Project Meeting
L-R, Dean Dixon, CEO, Fran Lindberg, Archivist, and Anne Martin Roland, Garden Club



Image 2: Archivist Fran Lindberg at the Volunteer Luncheon at Clubhouse 5 in Laguna Woods.