

Wednesday
May 21, '85

Dear Irma,

The lead that we put on the tape before we begin the interview goes like this:

"The following recording is an interview with Irma Oksen Reaves on May 21, 1985 in her home at 1184 Green Valley Road, Watsonville, California. Arrangements for this interview were made by the Oral History Committee which is jointly sponsored by the Pajaro Valley Historical Association and the American Association of University Women. The interviewer is Alzora Snyder, Volck Museum Archivist."

Then, we start out by saying something like this

Reaves
?

Irma, could you state your full name and your birthdate?

Were you born in the Pajaro Valley?

(You would talk about being born in Watsonville, at your grandmother's home, giving the street that home was on. . .we don't worry about street numbers, unless they are routinely remembered.)

What was the full name of your mother? Her parents names. The names of her brothers and sisters. (Your aunts and uncles.)

What was the name of your father? His parents names. The names of your father's brothers and sisters. (your aunts and uncles)

(Don't worry if some of this information is incomplete. We do not pick up a lot of birthdates, etc. in the oral interviews, just enough genealogy information to establish which branch of the family you are in. A family history researcher in the future can then get details from other public records available. We do try to pick up, especially, women's unmarried names because these are the surnames that get "lost." It would be very good to be sure to include the Schanbacher brothers and sisters and the Kuehnis brothers and sisters.)

Then to your own family as a child. Did you have brothers and sisters -- their names. Here, it would be good to just give the year of birth of your brothers, so we keep your immediate family in sequence of birth.

What are some of your earliest memories of the houses where you lived in Watsonville? some of the earliest memories of the neighborhood.

Description of the earliest home you remember the best. Location? Interior? Exterior? Out buildings? Barn? Stable? Alley? Vegetable garden? Flowers? Chickens?

How was cooking done? Where was shopping done? Food vendors. Typical meals. Special meals . . . such as birthdays, Christmas meals, etc.

Food storage. . . pantries, coolers, ice boxes. Fuel for cooking. Canning.

Clothes washing and ironing. Table settings. Mending. Sewing of clothes in home.

Purchases of ready made clothes and shoes. Where?

Depending where this line of questioning goes, we would probably next go on to earliest schooling, and as you got older and could move about the town more, touch on recreation areas, such as the ball park and the lake at the river, etc. Later, in another tape, we would probably want to talk about all the businesses we listed the other day.

See you Tuesday! Fondly, Jane

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Oral History Committee

American Association of University Women

Pajaro Valley Historical Association

Watsonville, California

I give preliminary permission to the Oral History Project Committee, sponsored by the American Association of University Women, Watsonville Branch, and the Pajaro Valley Historical Association to record an interview, or series of interviews, on tape. I understand that the interview will, in general, focus on questions submitted to me prior to the interview. I also understand that I will be able to review the completed recorded interview(s) before giving final permission for their placement in the Oral History Collection(s) sponsored by the above named organizations.

Signed *Dena Olsen Reader*

Date May 22, 1985

Address 1184 Green Valley Rd.

City Watsonville

State California

Interviewer Jane Burg
Alzora Snyder, interviewer

Date May 22, 1985