

SAMPLE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

I. Household and Family.

Biographical information about interviewee: name, present address, birthdate, marital status, year of marriage, birthplace.

How many years did you live in the house you were born?

Where did you live then? Did you ever move?

If so, do you remember why the family made these moves?

How many brothers and sisters did you have?

How old was your father when you were born?

What was your father's occupation?

Information on father's business/occupation.

Do you ever remember your father being out of work?

How old was your mother when you were born?

Had she any jobs before she was married?

Did she work after she was married or not?

Part-time jobs?

If she did, who looked after the children while she worked?

II. Domestic Routine.

Please describe your life at home when you were a child; when you finished school.

Please describe the house you lived in; how the rooms were used and what kind of furniture you had.

Did anyone else besides your immediate family live with you?

Did you have any household help? How much did your mother pay anyone to help in the house?

Household work: provisioning, cooking, vegetable gardening; cleaning; washing/laundrying; mending and sewing family wardrobe; fires and heating; decorating; repairs; improvements to the house.

Who helped you to dress; undress; bathe; read to you; tell you stories; help you with your studies? Did you have regular tasks to carry out to help your family? When did you start helping out with household chores?

III. Meals and Provisioning.

Where did the family eat its meals? - *large kitchen - dining room*

Who did the cooking? Where? - *Mom*

Describe some typical menus for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Sundays and holidays: did meals differ? - *all*

What foods were prepared at home from scratch? What were bought? - *fresh*

Did you keep livestock; hens, pigs, goats? - *yes*

Did the family eat meals together? Describe. - *yes always*

III. Meals and Provisioning--cont'd. *part of growing up*

Describe canning, pickling, preserving foods and storage for winter, if any. Did the cook follow a seasonal calendar in canning and storing up provisions? *yes*

IV. Family Activities. *picnic*

Were birthdays celebrated? Describe.
Were there musical instruments in the home; did anyone sing; was the family music-making?
Were there books in the house, or magazines? Did you use the library, or was one available? Newspapers. *Cappelli Weekly*
Festive days and celebrations. Describe.
Do you remember a funeral in the family? a wedding?
Family outings, shopping, visiting with friends and neighbors. Describe.
Did you ever go away for a holiday? Camping or picnicking? Describe.
Did your family attend church? Describe where.

V. Politics.

Did your father take an interest in politics? *Didn't discuss with*
Do you remember what his views were? Why do you think he held those views? *trade*
Do you remember what party he voted?
Same questions for your mother.

VI. Parents' Interests. *outdoors, gardening*

When your parents weren't working, how did they spend their time?
Did your mother have interests outside her home and family?
What did she do when she went out? Did she ever go out to enjoy herself? Whom did she go with?
When did your father get home from work in the evening? *1 to 2 PM*
How did he spend his time? Did he attend any clubs, or community groups? Did your mother belong to clubs or social groups?

VII. Childhood Activities.

As a child, who did you play with? What games did you play?
Could you play with anyone you pleased?
How did you spend your free time? Did you have any hobbies?
Did you keep any pets?
Describe some of your activities: theater, concerts, church groups, social clubs? Did you have pocket money?

VIII. Community and Family Relationships. *no*

Did anyone outside the home help your mother look after the house?
In what ways? How often?

What relatives of your father and mother do you remember living nearby, or seeing regularly? *Grandparents - Aunts & Uncles*

Did your parents have friends? Where did they live? When did you see them? *Most in Aunt. - Occasionally*

Were people invited to your home for meals or visits? *Always*
People often say that in those days they made their own amusements; what sorts of activities fit this description? *Card games - Books - News - Winter - Dances - Polish - Nelly*

Many people divided society into different social groups; in your childhood, did you think some people belonged to one group, and some to another? Could you tell me what the different groups were?

Were there different ethnic groups living near you, in your community, when you were growing up? What groups did they belong to? Describe them as much as you can remember?

In the area you lived, who were considered the most "important" people? Did your family come into contact with them? Why were they considered important?

Do you ever remember your parents having to struggle to make ends meet? Did they help poor, less fortunate people in any way? Did they belong to any philanthropic organizations, or church groups which actively helped less fortunate people?

IX. School.

Where did you attend school? How many grades did you finish? Did you attend college or university? If you attended school for a degree, where?; subject studied; new friends, attitudes; social activities; how were women regarded at college in those days?

X. Work History.

continue to live at home,
After you left home, did you live alone/or with other people?
What jobs did you have? Describe.
How much money did you earn?
How did you spend your spare time as a young woman/ young man?
What was your relationship with your parents like when you were a single young adult?

XI. Marriage.

At what age did you marry? How long had you known your spouse then? Describe your courtship: how long were you engaged; did you save up money before getting married? Did your parents help you in setting up your home? Did you ever consider moving out of the area when you got married? Where did you live when you got married? Did you move? Describe moves.

How old was your spouse when you married?

*Respect Dr Herbert
with the school -
Applet - please -
approval - respect
- Grant Court -
U.S. Forest
S. G. County
A.E. - Brother*

XI. Marriage--cont'd.

What was your husband's job when you married? Describe in detail.
Did he have other jobs before or after that?
Did you work after marriage? If so, what did your husband think about your working?

XII. Children.

Did you have any children? How many? Names and years of birth.
Were your children born at home?
If you needed advice on childrearing, who do you ask for help?
Did your husband participate in childrearing? In what ways?

XIII. Family Life After Marriage.

How did you manage the household after you were married? Budgeting, money allocation, etc. How much did the husband earn? How did you decide how the money was to be spent?

If you worked, who looked after the children?
Describe children's schooling; activities, education, early lives.

XIV. Early Community Life. *Scouting -*

Transportation within the county: describe how you and your family and friends got from one place to another, say, from Felton into Santa Cruz, how long it took; what roads you used/travelled. Describe travelling around San Lorenzo Valley and other places in the county during summer, winter, rainy season. What kinds of conveyances did your family have when you were a child? Did they have an automobile later on? What kind?

Public Services: electricity, water, sewage, mail service; public library; schools, police. Medical care: local physicians; hospitals; illnesses. Describe. Any public figures you remember particularly well? Describe. Participation or knowledge of local politics? Social issues which concerned you or your family?

Describe what stores you shopped at; where you bought foods, baked goods, shoes, clothing, hardware, furniture. Describe business district and things you remember distinctly. [businesses, offices, banks, churches, attorneys, etc.]

Historic events: World War I: how and to what degree did the First World War affect your family, local businesses, your community? Great Depression? World War II? Same questions.

*Armistice
No -
W. War II yes - all families.*

*Depression
Whoooping Cough -
I loved to cook & still do
I didn't work while raising my family except to help others
Had a joint check acct + still do
P.O.
Post
see name
burn
subscr.
Parade
Salway
Eriemur*