

Bonita Historical Society Oral History Guidelines

If you are interested in donating your personal Oral History of the region, please take the time to read this document. This will give you an idea of what to expect.

Make sure we schedule your interview at a time when you will have at least 1 hour to sit with a Museum representative as they record your story. These stories become part of the Collection at the Museum. Oral history interviewing is one tool to preserve the history of local regions. It collects valuable information about our past and culture.

Please bring along any photos that go along with your stories so they can be scanned at the museum. If you would like copies of the scans please bring a flash/thumb drive.

There are several suggestions and guidelines for conducting an oral history for the Bonita Historical Society. This page is a selection of questions to help you prepare for giving an oral history. They are based on the assumptions of a person living in the Sweetwater Valley for a number of years.

- Basic biographical information like *When were you born?*
- *Where you born in the Sweetwater Valley? If not where?*
- *Born at home? In a Hospital?*
- *Why did your family move to the area?*
- *Have you move around the South Bay area or around the valley?*
- *How did you define your neighborhood?*
- *What type of gatherings did you have with your neighbors?*
- *How did your family celebrate holidays?*
- *How often did you journey out of the valley?*
- *What food did you grow?*
- *What was the first national event that you remember? How did it affect life in the valley?*

- *Where did you get your supplies? Food? Clothing? Barbershop? Beauty shop?*
- *What type of house did you live in? Did you build your own home? What was the racial/ethnic/economic make up of your neighborhood?*
- *Do you remember any songs you would sing?*
- *What did you do for fun?*
- *What sports did you play?*
- *Did you have a local meeting spot?*
- *Where were any local natural disasters that caused commotion (floods, earthquakes)?*
- *What family remedies did you use instead of going to the doctor?*
- *Is there a special place in the valley that you remember that is no longer here?*
- *Where did you go to school? How did you get there? What level did you achieve?*
- *Do you remember any of your teachers? What was special about that person?*
- *Did you use specialized agricultural machinery? Take care of animals?*
- *Where did you attend church?*
- *Were there social groups for young people?*
- *Where were you married?*
- *Where did you meet your spouse?*
- *Did you start a business in Bonita?*

If you are interested in giving your special and unique history of the region, please call us at the Museum to schedule your interview Wed. thru Sat. at 619 267-5141.