

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 2 hours to sit with a Museum representative as they record your story.

These stories become part of the Collection at the Museum. We will not sell your story, or reproduce it in any way without your written consent.

Oral history interviewing is one tool to preserve the history of local regions. It collects information about the past from observers and participants in that past. It gathers data not available in written records about events, people decisions, and processes. The Society is attempting to interview and catalogue the histories local residents to increase our understanding of the development of this area. Though every interview unique, there are several things that can make an interview better. The following are 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

When were you born?

Where you born in the Sweetwater Valley? If not where?

Born at home? Hospital?

Why did you family move to the area? Have you move around with in 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?

Where did you get your news? Did you read a newspaper?

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 you neighborhood?

Did you have any contact with the workers in the orchards or fields? Did they live locally?

What chores did you have to do?

What did you do for fun? What sports did you play?

Did you have a local meeting spot?

Did the community have neighborhood celebrations?

Where they any local natural disasters that caused commotion (floods, earthquakes)?

How far did you have to go for medical attention?

What family remedies did you use instead of going to the doctor?
Where you responsible for your siblings? Did they get into trouble a lot?
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?
What type of transportation did your family have?
Did you use specialized agricultural machinery?
Where did you attend church?
Where there social groups for young people?
Where were you married? Where did you meet your spouse?

If you are interested in giving your special and unique history of the region, please call us at the Museum to schedule your interview.

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