

LANDMARKS SOCIETY ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

1600 Juanita Lane Belvedere-Tiburon, California 94920 415-435-1853

Transcription of Taped Oral History

SIDE A

Narrator: Louis Brunini

Interviewer: Jeanne Ortalda

Date: March 29, 1995

I: My name is Jeanne Ortalda and I am going to interview Louis Brunini who will be the narrator. The interview is held at 14 Paseo Mirasol [Tiburon] on March 29, 1995.

Lou, when did you first come to this area and where did you live?

N: I first came to work in this area in 1965 and I lived in Tam Valley at the home that I built by myself with very little help. I was born in Mill Valley. My father worked for the railroad in Sausalito. He had friends in Tiburon working for the railroad and we would take the train to Sausalito and a ferry to Tiburon and visit friends. One of them was the Pastori family. They lived on Centro West which was a dirt road. We would walk up from Mar West through a little alleyway and visit and we kids would take a hike up in the hills behind and pick wildflowers.

I: When you came to work in Tiburon...

N: I came to work in Tiburon in 1965. I was the only outside person working for the Town of Tiburon at the time.

I: Lou, would you tell us about where you went to school and some of your activities as a child when you were living in Mill Valley?

N: I was born and raised in Mill Valley and I went to the Mill Valley schools and Tam High that serviced a lot of children that lived in Tiburon and I got to know a lot and had friends in Tiburon. I was going to Tam in the early 30s and I worked in a grocery store in

Mill Valley. On Saturday night we would go to Tiburon at Hooper's to purchase some liquor. Hooper's was a pool hall, but in the rear you could purchase liquor. Also, in Blackie's Pasture, there were the Connell brothers that had the front (selling clams) but you could also purchase liquor. I graduated from Tam in 1935.

I: And what happened between 1935 and 1965 when you came to work here?

N: Well, I went to work at a grocery store right after graduating from Tam for a short time where I was working part time. And later I had the opportunity to go to work in San Francisco for American Can Company to serve as a machinist apprentice. I became a machinist and after ten years, in 1945, a strike forced me to quit. I went to work with my father-in-law as a tree-climber for four years and then went to work for the City of Mill Valley as a fireman. My former wife did not like being home by herself and my duty was every other day, so I had the opportunity to transfer to the Parks and Rec. Dep't. which I did. Later on, the city manager said, "I need somebody to run my pump station down at the end of Mill Valley. You've been a machinist; you should know something about pumps." I knew a little bit about pumps. But in doing so, I was put on the Sanitation Dep't and later on I was transferred to both the Sanitation and the Street Dep't. And in the meantime, I was trying to build my house in Tam Valley. So after ten years, I decided that I had enough of that so I purchased a bike shop in Corte Madera and that didn't work out too well. After two years I went to work for the San Rafael Sanitation District for four years. I left San Rafael after four years and went to work for the City of Tiburon, 1965.

I: And what were you doing when you came to Tiburon; where did you live?

N: I lived in Tam Valley in the house that I built with my former wife and my son and I would commute over to Tiburon every day which was a very easy commute. Traffic was always very minimal in those days because I was going against the grain and I enjoyed it very much. In Tiburon I was hired as a Superintendent of Maintenance, later becoming Superintendent of Public Works. I was the only employee working on the outside. The city had no equipment. I used my own pickup for about six months and I purchased brooms, shovels, rakes, tools to do maintenance work on the outside. I would have to sweep Main St. three times a week, pick up the debris and we would have the County Public Works do our street-sweeping in the subdivisions on request. Our first headquarters was at 1610 Tiburon Blvd. upstairs and my pickup was our corporation yard. I kept all the tools as we had no yard. We later moved to 80 Main St. The city purchased a

pickup truck in 1966. I was able to hire Frank Brooks and we built our corporation yard underneath the entrance to 80 Main St. using the Main St. parking lot to store our trucks.

I: What building is at that location, 80 Main St., right now?

N: Right now, downstairs is a lawyer and upstairs is just little gift shops, I believe. Two of them. Upstairs was our City Hall and I had an office up there; it was a little cubicle in one corner and it was very detrimental because everybody [that] went by stopped in and talked and I couldn't get much work done. I had to go there on Saturdays to finish my work.

I: When the Town was incorporated, was that the Town Hall?

N: They had no Town Hall at all. When it was first incorporated it was at 1610 Tiburon Blvd. upstairs. And they would meet at Del Mar School for Council meetings and their Planning Commission meetings. And they did not have a Council Chamber until they moved to 80 Main St. Downstairs at 80 Main St. was the Council Chamber and the Sheriff's Headquarters. And upstairs was the city offices.

I: So there was no police station?

N: There was one little cubicle downstairs which was the Sheriff's Dep't. We had no police at that time. The police came much later. I believe they didn't come until '72, I believe it was. I'm not positive on that.

As one of my duties for the City as a new employee in the newly formed Park and Recreation Dep't. I was a liaison to set up the meetings and record the meetings. After the first meeting, I confronted the city manager and said I was quitting unless someone would come and take the minutes because you have five people talking at one time and me not taking shorthand, it was very difficult to take minutes of a meeting. I did take the first set of minutes and it's on an eight and a half by eleven page. So after talking to the town manager, Virginia, who was taking the Town Council meetings, Planning Commission meetings and Board of Adjustment meetings, walked through the door. And the city manager confronted her and asked her if she would take the minutes and she obliged. And later became my wife.

I: Is that the first time you met her?

N: Yes. Oh, I saw her at the meetings, you know. I would go to the Council meetings, but she was married and getting separated and when we attended the Park and Rec meetings we got to know each other a little better and then we made dates and there we were.

All right. Getting back to this...after we built our corporation yard underneath 80 Main St., we were able to purchase a used loader, a new sweeper and a dump truck. And they were parked in the now Main St. parking lot right next to 80 Main St. The second employee was hired shortly after that and the department has grown to four men and myself. I was able to hire an assistant later and he became the superintendant when I retired. We tried to find a corporation yard and our town manager had quite a time trying to locate a yard for us.

I: That was Bob Kleinert then?

N: No, that was Larry Rose was our city manager at the time. And, as I said before, after we had all this equipment we were able to bunk in with the Belvedere corporation yard and in so doing, we did some of the sweeping for them for free for being housed there. We later were moved to an abandoned office at the Hilarita housing which is now the Town Council chamber. At that time, they had the administration building there that they had abandoned because Hilarita had closed up.

I: What year was that?

N: We moved over there around 1970.

I: Could I ask you a question about when you're talking about Hilarita, are you meaning the apartments that are there now for low-income housing or are you talking about the buildings that the Town Hall is in now?

N: I'm talking about the Town Hall buildings. The only two that are left are the Town Hall and the Police Station. There were several buildings in that area that they had housing for the employees or the Navy personnel that were working out at the Net Depot.

I: So, the Hilarita housing development that is there now wasn't there at all at that time?

N: Not at all.

I: And just the buildings that are located on the other side of the street, you might say, and there were several buildings and now there are only two left?

N: Right. But there also were buildings where the present Hilarita is, there were also buildings on that side, housing buildings similar to...they were all practically the same except some with a different design. But they were all built to the same shape. And there were several buildings; I don't remember how many. Probably twelve, fifteen buildings.

I: Were they all taken down at one time and then this housing project built?

N: They were taken down gradually. In fact, the fire department tried to have a drill to burn one of them down and after several attempts, they gave up. They couldn't burn it down. It was very unbelievable, I mean, they tried all kinds of things and the fuel they put on there would burn and all of a sudden... And they were very disappointed because they thought they'd have a big flare-up but...

I: Was it redwood?

N: No. They had insulation inside that was like, not masonite, not sheetrock, like celotex. And evidently it didn't want to burn. We still have over it in the Town Hall now. Some of the ceiling is still that celotex, believe it or not. And they want to save the Town Hall!

I: The housing project that's there right now - when was that completed?

N: Oh, boy. Well, we moved over there in '78. The Town Hall moved there in '78 and I think it was just being built because it's about up to 20 years now that the ownership changes. So about '75, in that area. I wish I knew the exact dates.

So then still looking for our corporation yard, the city manager tried to get a more suitable location. One was Richardson Bay Sanitary District, but this was rejected by the Reed Heights owners. The second proposal was the end of the Belvedere Tennis Club where there was the septic tank. Hawthorne Terrace owners objected, suggesting that the yard be housed in a tunnel to be dug under the knoll before the bike path. Finally, good councilmen, Tom Drohan and Bill Bremer obtained the location that we enjoy today which has been proven to be the greatest of all, tucked away, yet easy access to serve the town.

We shared it with Reed School District for a short time and it proved to be extremely servicable and we appreciate it and councilmen Drohan and Bremer for their farsightedness.

I: What was at this location when you took it over for your maintenance yard?

N: When we first moved in there, the building that was the ranchhouse for the dairy ranch was across there at the Reed School. It was built close to the ground and when you walked in it you had to duck your head. So we had it raised up five feet so we could get our equipment in there and do our maintenance work. And also in the back, the school district used the building that we took over originally as their office. And they later on had mobile units parked right beside them. I believe they had three or four mobile units that they used as their office. So, for a short time, while they were still there we worked together and they used our facilities as well as we used some of their's.

I: This is Reed School?

N: Reed School District.

I: Which is still now in the same location as it was then?

N: The school is there, but the building, the house which was the rancher's home was originally the Reed School District's office. And later on, it got too small for them so they moved in three or four mobile trailers on the far side and they had that office and they used the building where they originally had the storage; where they stored all their books, all their equipment and all their necessities in there. So, when we moved in they had already purchased the buildings where the city hall is today. And they were in the process of remodeling that.

I: You mean the Town of Tiburon had purchased that?

N: Oh no. The Reed School District had that and they were moving over there for them to have their office and they were doing remodeling work. So all the books and storage was put in where the police station is now. It was also their's. And so, when they got vacated, when they moved the trailers out, then we were able to go in there and excavate some area there and we built a shed which housed all our equipment. And we paved it and installed

our fuel tanks and we were able to let the Reed School District purchase the fuel from the City at a very cut rate.

I: You were actually in charge of this whole operation then, weren't you?

N: Yes.

I: So, actually, you were the one who established this whole maintenance system that we have for this town.

N: Exactly. And, as I say, I started with nothing and we built the shed and after we had the space available for it, I was able to purchase a used backhoe. And then, in 1984, we were able to purchase our second sweeper and the first sweeper lasted us seventeen years which was normally only good for (supposed to be) ten years. I think that about does the corporation yard.

I: Well, can you tell us about the improvements that were made to the Town since the incorporation - that you had a part in and that you observed?

N: There have been many improvements made since the Town was incorporated. Too many to list them all, but with the help of our Town Engineer, Stan Bala, the drainage facilities were greatly improved. Tiburon Blvd. used to flood at every high tide. Pine Terrace used to flood at every rain. And Belveron, the crick would overflow at the least little rain. Since then Tiburon Blvd. has not flooded to any great extent; Pine Terrace floods no longer and Belveron Gardens, through the cooperation of the Perini Development, constructed the concrete-lined ditch that parallels the whole subdivision and they have not been inundated one bit since. And we've had some heavy rains during that time. The other thing that was done was the bike path was improved and McKegney Green was built. Tiburon Blvd. from Mar West to Main St. was rebuilt.

I: When did that bike path get put in?

N: That got put in in about 1970.

I: And that was the old railroad right-of-way?

N: That was the old railroad right-of-way and through the negotiations and the insistence of a resident here, Bonnie Raisin and Bran Fanning and others they were able to purchase the reversionary rights of the railroad. The railroad was owned by a gentleman (I can't recall his name right offhand) but the minute the railroad stopped running the rights of the property reverted back to him. And, through negotiations, the Town was able to purchase it. And after it was purchased, Bonnie Raisin insisted that it had to be made into a walking path or whatever and through our former Town Engineer, Ray Foreaker, we were able to construct part of the path. One suggestion was using the crushed rock and putting some liquid on there. After making some tests with it, it proved to be very inappropriate, so we were able, later, to pave a stretch which was only eight foot wide at the time. And it serviced a lot of...in fact, my wife and I rode that the day it was finished, in the dark which I'll never do again, but she insisted we ought to take a ride on it on our bikes. But we've got to come back and thank Bonnie Raisin for insisting and lo and behold, Bonnie Raisin moved to Los Angeles, but a lot of people don't remember her, but I think some of the old-timers do remember Bonnie and she was a very insistent little person which I have to say, "Many thanks to her." Later, after the use got so much, we had to widen the path. We widened the path to ten feet and also installed a jogging path with cinders (the joggers insist that it has to be cinders and not asphalt because it's too hard to run on asphalt). We tried to satisfy the people and we gave them cinders for a running path.

The other thing we improved to a great extent was the Shoreline Park. Through the development of Point Tiburon, we were able to have *them* construct the Shoreline Park and also, with the insistence of our Town Engineer, create the seawall of rock which protects it very much - from Main St. all the way to Elephant Rock. There's so many people seen on the weekends sometimes that it is really covered and people can't see the grass there's so many people. But it's an enjoyable sight at all times.

Also, with the help of our Town Engineer and myself, we try to improve our streets with the use of the gas tax. And all gas tax money, with the exception of one year, (to my recollection) has been used for street improvements and there was also a drainage fund that subdividers had to put in some drainage. But unfortunately, the money from gas tax is not sufficient to keep up the deteriorating streets. We've tried and tried and it just got ahead of us and at some time or other it's going to be some kind of a system that the people are going to have to realize that gas tax is not sufficient enough to keep up our streets.

I: When the developers put in a new development, don't they have to put some money in the coffers to take care of the destruction of the roads with their trucks? For years going over it with their heavy trucks...

N: No, they don't. Unfortunately the state law says that a vehicle is allowed to run on a city street and it's almost impossible to restrict (especially at a construction) the size of the vehicle. Now, if there is damage done to a street by negligence...

SIDE B

N: There's a state law that vehicles can traverse on city streets if they're within the weight limit and most trucks are within their weight limit. The only time that we have any leverage is if somebody runs a bulldozer with metal cleats or a backhoe with metal cleats on a paved road then we have recourse. We also initiated a system now that when a new house is being built, the contractor or owner has to put up a five thousand dollar deposit either in cash or a letter of credit or some means that any damage is done to the street or curb and gutter they have to repair it to our satisfaction or we have the privilege of using that five thousand dollars or any part of it to repair it. Since we've had that regulation, they have been very, very careful of not damaging our streets. We've got a toe-hold on them that we have it in our hands and they know that. It's a good safeguard.

I: About subdivisions...how about tracing the growth of subdivisions since incorporation of the Town in 1964?

N: There've been several subdivisions that have been constructed since 1964. To mention a few of them: there was Del Madera which is going up Gillmartin and there's Smith's Ridge at the end of Round Hill and there's La Cresta that takes off of Via Los Altos and there's Ring Mt. which encompasses Taylor Rd., part of Paseo Mirasol and part of Reed Ranch Rd. and part of Blackfield, and then there's Little Reed Heights which was the upper part of Stewart Dr. and Moitoza subdivision which was off of Moitoza Lane and there was the Norman Estates out off of Paradise and there was the Tiburon Highlands up at Upper Cecilia and there were the Perini I and II which is Turtle Rock which takes off of Trestle Glen and Indian Rock which takes off of Reed Ranch Rd. There might have been others that I have overlooked, but I think that that takes care of [most of them]. There were some subdivisions that were in process before the city was incorporated and they are up on top of Sugar Loaf (is one) and at the end of Portomarino was another. Oh, we have another one at the end of Acacia; that's another subdivision. There were a lot of little

subdivisions and a lot of annexations that have been taken care of outside and they are so minor that I don't think...some out on Paradise Dr. Some are one or two-lot subdivisions or annexations. I don't think they mean too much other than the fact that they had to according to LAFCO annex to a city in order to get into a sanitary district.

I: What about Paradise Cay?

N: Paradise Cay is still unincorporated. They've asked and they tried but I guess they don't have the facilities to get into it. Another annexation that I want to mention at this time that never took place but our Town Manager (at that time City Manager), his name was Bert Balmer, he had a scheme that was going to incorporate Strawberry Shopping Center into the Town of Tiburon and not take the residents (because the residents didn't want to), but he had a scheme that would go out into the water, come around and pick up Strawberry Shopping Center and get all that nice sales tax but, unfortunately, Bert left before he could put this idea into effect. He was a very sharp person; he didn't stay very long. But he was interim between Larry Rose and our present Town Manager, Bob Kleinert.

I: A lot of people seem to think that Tiburon should start at Hwy 101 now that it's in and all this side, the whole peninsula would be Tiburon and then Mill Valley would be the other side. But now, Mill Valley is on this side as well as Tiburon. It's unincorporated, but they have a Mill Valley address, don't they?

N: They have a Mill Valley Post Office in all of Strawberry and some of Eagle Rock is Mill Valley Post Office. But then we get down to Blackfield and it's Tiburon. It's very confusing. And I was asked the other day if the Strawberry Rec Center was in Mill Valley and I said, "No, it's not in Mill Valley. Well, they've got a Mill Valley Post Office, but it's just like Bel Aire [which] originally had a Tiburon Post Office and we weren't in Tiburon. We got annexed to Tiburon in 1984, through the cooperation and the demanding of my wife, they annexed all Bel Aire and Pelican Hill.

I: Well, they tried to get Cypress Hollow to be annexed as well. That's a new development and then, of course, there's one at Reedland Woods School that's in Tiburon that is being developed now.

N: Right. And that was the Talden subdivision. It was peculiar that the way the city limits ran, that was outside the city limits. The city limits went down and up Via Los Altos and

picked up two lots up on top of the hill and I looked at that and said, "What the devil is that for?" But that's the way it went. But they later annexed with the Reedland Woods School area.

I: And also the Via Los Altos is within the city, right?

N: Yes.

I: On the western side of Tiburon when development occurred, when subdivisions were put in, there was one that was called Reedland Woods II. Were roads extended for that subdivision?

N: Yes. Reedland Woods II started where Via Capistrano divides, at that time, into two - upper and lower. Reedland Woods I stopped at that point and Reedland Woods II began. While being under construction, putting in upper Blackfield, the contractor ran into a burial ground. And all construction was stopped for some time.

I: Indian burial grounds?

N: Indian burial grounds, yes. And all construction had to stop to excavate and people were excavating the remains with spoons and small tools. What they did, they cordoned off the area and each individual had like a little fence around each plot. I would visit them because I lived a short distance away at the time and there were several people that found all kinds of trinkets and human pieces of bones and it was very interesting to watch how they were able to scrape off the dirt on each piece. They were very particular and they handled all those almost with kid gloves, as the old saying goes, because they didn't want nothing to fracture. And the location of that was on Blackfield just off to the west of Blackfield and just about west of Via San Fernando in area. I can't remember how many lots there were, but there were several and the contractor was not too happy at the time because he was very, very perturbed that he had to stop. But that's a fact; when you find an Indian burial grounds, there's some kind of law that says that you have to excavate it carefully. And also there used to be a dairy right on the west of Blackfield, a dairy ranch. Also Bel Aire School and Reedland Woods School.

I: The Diffebach property was there, too. The home.

N: The Diffebach property was about where Cypress Hollow is being built. It was very private like. I remember walking down there one day and the house was there; the barn was gone. But they didn't seem to want any people traversing their property. And I went to school with Tom Diffebach, Jr. and I knew his dad and mother quite well. But they had steers and it was also a milk dairy. But I don't have too much remembrance of that because, as I say, they kept that to themselves.

I: You couldn't even see the house from the road, hardly.

N: You barely could see it if you stopped and looked down the driveway. It was a long driveway. You could see one side of it but it was so covered up with growth that it was impossible to see. But Cypress Hollow is turning out to be quite a nice little area.

Amazing.

I: Well, you said that you met Virginia at a council meeting and then you also have had two homes in the Tiburon area. Where are those and what were the dates?

N: When I first met Virginia and we were married, we lived on Leland and that was in 1970. She was renting a home there and we lived there for about a year and we were able to purchase a home on Karen Way in which we are living today after almost 25 years. It's been a very pleasant location and we've enjoyed the neighborhood. Very much so. And I think that it's going to be my last house. We have a cabin up in Nevada City which my wife wanted to retire to up there, but I refused because now that I'm retired and I go downtown and I see people I know and it's very enjoyable. I just don't like to go up to Nevada City and get in the snow.

I: Well, you've been very active in this town and in its development and Virginia is still very active in the town, too. And so you both have a lot of friends here.

Well, tell me about your work and after you got established there in the maintenance yard and all of your years of work here.

N: Well, my duties as superintendant were many. Of course the most was supervising the help and scheduling their work and seeing the work was done. Also, I had to do maintenance work on our buildings, our equipment and on our grounds. I had no secretary. I had to do my own office work, prepare budgets, approve bills and write letters. Another duty was setting up for council meetings and attending council meetings.

Of course, one of the foremost was the public relations with the public and trying to keep the public happy which I enjoy doing. I answer a lot of complaints and I learned by not ignoring the public. Sometimes the public doesn't like your answers but they are appreciative of the fact that you did answer them and not pass them by or not attend to their complaints. And then, of course, I attend the Parks and Rec meetings. I had the privilege (or the job) of issuing encroachment permits to anybody doing any work on city streets or city right-of-ways. Issuing encroachment permits had meant that anything that was done on the city streets such as replacing curbs and gutters for driveways or taking the streets for sewer connections or pipelines, they had to get an encroachment permit through me. Originally, the Town Council wanted [me] to and I would make a list at every meeting of the issues and they would approve them. And later on we had some construction that had a carport constructed on the city right-of-way. In Old Town Tiburon some of the roadways are off to one side and some of the people wanted to have off-street parking so they applied for an encroachment permit. So I made the policy that anything that was built on a city street had to get a revocable encroachment permit stating if and when the city wanted to widen that street, the owner would be responsible for removing that structure. But, in as much in all the years, the streets in Old Tiburon have not been widened so, consequently, all the encroachments that were issued are still issued. There are several carports that have been issued. They, by the way, are approved. I recommend them and they are approved by the Town Council. Anything that is built, any excavation or any cutting of the streets, sidewalks is done through the Superintendent of Public Works which was quite a chore. I was on call for 24 hours a day, seven days a week, rain or shine and if I left town I always put somebody in charge that would be on call. I retired in December of 1990 after 25 years of superintendant, but I still work as a consultant one or two days a week. And I enjoy it tremendously. I get to meet a lot of old friends and a lot of old people in the town and I enjoy it tremendously.

I: How many people did you have working for you that filled out the department when you left?

N: When I left there was six of us.

N: Did you ever get a secretary?

N: Never did get a secretary. I was able, the last year and a half, to hire an assistant that he later became the superintendent. And at that time I had some of the office work turned

over to him. His name is Tony Iacopi. And he is superintendant now and he also has an assistant superintendant that is tied into landscape more than public works. He is a former landscape worker.

I: Because you have to maintain the landscaping along the bike path and all around the town?

N: Well, they've increased the landscape to a point now where it used to be a half a man to take care of landscaping, now it's almost two full-time men plus sometimes a third man and sometimes a fourth man to take care of landscaping. So the town has become a beautiful sight but the amount of help to take care of landscape is incredible. And that's one thing that I would point out to the Town Council in my tenure, that if you want landscape be prepared to maintain it. Because if you don't maintain it, it's a waste of money and also it's looks just horrible.

I: Why doesn't that go under Parks and Recreation?

N: Well, it is two accounts, really; one account is for Public Works and one account's for Parks and Rec. But the way the help is so mingled together and the yard together, it's not big enough to have two separate departments. So consequently, as it goes on, and I understand now that they are going to do something out in Blackie's Pasture and I'm afraid that's going to fall back to be maintained by the Public Works. Which I don't think it 's right, but that is what is going to happen.

I: Well, when you retired, they retired your truck with you, didn't they?

N: Oh yes. I meant to mention that. I was given the 1971 Chevy pickup truck that I purchased brand-new and I was about the only one that drove that except for [a few times] but the truck has not come home, yet. It's still in the yard and I use it when I am at work there. And everybody laughs at me. They say one day it's going to die; well, I expect it's going to die one day, but in the meantime, I enjoy driving that old clunker.

I: [Laugh] It's nice to see you going around town in it, too. A very familiar sight.

N: [Laugh] The only trouble is that after I retired they sold one of the first trucks to one of the employees in town and several people have said, "You are awful stuck-up." I says,

"What do you mean 'stuck-up?'" They say, "I wave at you going down the highway but you didn't wave at me." I say, "What day was that?" Well, I wasn't there. Come to find out the employee that bought the truck will ride up and down the boulevard at times and he didn't realize the fact that people were waving, thinking it was me because the color of the truck almost is identical. It's a little bit bigger than mine. I finally told Dennis, I said, "Say Dennis, if somebody waves at you, you better wave back at him or I'll catch hell. [Laugh]

I: Well, you have received some rewards. The Rotary Club gave you one?

N: Yes. I got several awards. The Rotary Club gave me a beautiful award here this last year. And when I retired, the California Senate gave me an award, the California Assembly gave me an award and Marin County supervisors also gave me an award. The City of Belvedere gave me an award and the Town of Tiburon had a Resolution in my behalf. And I treasure those very much so. The trouble is my living room isn't big enough so my wife says I'll have to build another room to house all my awards. But I have them in safe-keeping and I treasure them - every bit of it.

I: Well, they are very richly deserved, I'm sure. You have also been on some boards. Are you still on any boards?

N: Yes. I am unfortunately on more boards than I should be, but I was put on the Marin-Sonoma Mosquito Board in 1983 and at that time, I was not in the city so that I had to give it up but, consequently, the county-at-large representative was retiring so through the good of our supervisors I was appointed on the Marin-Sonoma Mosquito Board and I've been through the chairs, I've been the president. Also, I'd been asked to be on the Richardson Bay Sanitary Board about three and a half years ago which I am still on and I am going to have to run for election this next election. It'll be my first time. And also the Alto-Richardson Bay Fire District person resigned and there were applications sent out and I answered it, not ever thinking that I would ever...but being as much that I've had some fire experience in Mill Valley, I was taken in with open arms. So I'm on the Alto-Richardson Bay Fire District. And the other one... I've been on the advisory board for the Flood Control District #4 which is the Bel Aire area. And through that they were able to build a second pump station on the West Ditch which has relieved flooding at Pamela Ct. and lower Blackfield.

So with that I think I will call it a day and...give up! [Laugh]

I: Well, it sounds to me that you are every bit as busy now as you ever were before. It has been wonderful interviewing you. I thank you so much because this will be a rich addition to our archives.

N: There's one thing maybe I should add. After four years of being retired and working a day or two at Tiburon (at that time it was only a day, and sometimes not even that) I got tired of sitting around the house so I hired out and got a job at Goodman Lumber. So I'm a hardware serviceman and salesman at Goodman Lumber now which I enjoy and I meet so many, many people. I had been going there for years getting equipment and stuff and the people are very nice and I meet many, many people and it's a real pleasure.

I: That's wonderful! Thanks again.