Guide to the Mountain Drive Oral History Collection AR.1992.001

Chris S. Ervin CA
First edition
Gledhill Library

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Contributing Institution: Gledhill Library
Title: Mountain Drive Oral History Collection
Creator: Santa Barbara Regional Oral History Clearinghouse
source: Santa Barbara Botanic Garden
source: Santa Barbara Historical Museum
source: Santa Barbara Museum of Art
Creator: Cleek, Patricia Gardner, 1925-2018
Creator: Remak, Roberta Ann, 1925-2008
Creator: Gasser, Teddy G.
Creator: Bruss, Wendy
Creator: Benet, Linda
Creator: Newberry, Helen C.
source: Anteau, Laurie (Laurie Ann Johnston), 1956-
source: Bernhardt, Bunny (Ruth Pritchard), 1930-
source: Birdsell, Marty L., Jr. (Martin Lewis), 1936-2005
source: Boegle, Jack Y., 1907-
source: Claytor, Becky M. (Rebecca M. Rodriguez)
source: Daily, Natalie Maravic, 1925-2006
source: Dole, Kathryn (Kathryn Lee Holcomb), 1920-2011
source: Dunn, Burdette, 1918-
source: Fortner, Elizabeth
source: Grant, Lou, 1916-2012
source: Greyson, George
source: Hill, Sandy P. (Sandra Petertyl), 1926-
source: Hill, Stanley D., 1923-2009
source: Hyde, Gavin, 1930-
source: Johnston, Dick (Richard Woodwell), 1931-2017
source: Johnston, Gill, Jr. (Gill Stuart), 1924-2003
source: Lane, Mervin, Jr. (Mervin Louis), 1928-2016
source: Lane, Peggy (Margaret), 1926-2013
source: Macy, Bud (Eliot Eldridge), 1920-2011
source: Maurer, Eric W., 1915-1987
source: Maurer, Nina (Nina Ruth Macy), 1916-1994
source: McPherson, Paule P., 1935-
source: Neely, Chris (Christopher Ulrick), 1951-2020
source: Robinson, Frank D. (Franklin Donald), 1923-2004
source: Schertz, Ed (Edward L.), 1931-
source: Sisson, Susan Robinson (Susan Gilmour Hamilton)
source: Smith, Dana D., 1922-2000
source: Soini, Mary Lynn, 1942-
source: Tonetti, Susan Hyde, 1905-1989
source: Walden, Chris (Christine L.), 1943-
source: Young, Noel, 1922-2002
source: Santa Barbara Regional Oral History Clearinghouse
Identifier/Call Number: AR.1992.001
Physical Description: 2 Linear Feet2 record storage boxes
Physical Description: 48 Cassettes
Physical Description: 51 Diskettes 5.25"
Abstract: Mountain Drive, a residential enclave of free spirits located in the hills above Montecito, coalesced in the years following World War II. The driving force behind its formation was Robert McKee Hyde, known to all as Bobby. The spirit of the community was bohemian, a "live-and-let-live" feel that fostered a close-knit camaraderie. Community interaction often centered on a growing number of celebrations and festivals. Probably the best-known was the Wine Stomp, begun in 1952, in which the Wine Queen selected that year was joined in the large wine vat by neighbors to crush that season's harvest.

Two generations following development of the Mountain Drive community an advanced oral history class set out to record the personal memories of those who were part of Mountain Drive's early days as a Central Coast experiment in non-conformity.

Language of Material: English.

Scope and Contents
The Mountain Drive Oral History Collection contains thirty oral histories of people who experienced the early days of Mountain Drive, Santa Barbara's bohemian community. The collection originated as an advanced oral history course conducted during the summer of 1986. The success of the group project, and the feeling that it had only scratched the surface of a rich subject, caused the effort to be continued by the Santa Barbara Regional Oral History Clearinghouse for another six years. One of the envisioned outputs of the project was a publication on the history of Mountain Drive, but funding for the book was never realized. Twenty-two of the recorded oral histories were transcribed into electronic format using the first generation of personal computers. The collection also contains related materials such as photographs, news clippings, and newsletters. An outline of the proposed publication, drafts of three of its chapters, and project administration materials are also included in the collection.

Biographical / Historical
Bobby Hyde, born in 1900, a writer and son of a Santa Barbara artist, instigated the plan to create a community based on his desire to live an unconventional life. He purchased 50 acres of rugged land in the foothills above Santa Barbara and parcelled out one acre lots to like-minded friends and relatives in the post-World War II 1940s and 1950s. The community was made up of writers, artists, teachers, musicians, naturalists, tradespersons, wine makers, free thinkers and their families.

Bobby Hyde's idealism fueled a communal spirit of neighbors helping each other build adobe homes, buy commodities in bulk, and grow their own food. With a sense of humor, Mountain Drive families developed annual traditions that inspired California folk customs such as the communal hot tub soak, the Renaissance Pleasure Faire, early music revival, home wine making, and Santa Barbara's Summer Solstice parade.

The experiences and mythology of the Mountain Drive community have been documented in no less than four monographs, two dozen articles, and an oral history project, and a social media presence.

Arrangement
The Mountain Drive Oral History Collection is arranged in four series:
1) Interviews, 1986-1992
2) Related Materials, undated
3) Manuscript, 1991
4) Administration, 1985-1991

Immediate Source of Acquisition
The materials were transferred from the Santa Barbara Regional Oral History Clearinghouse.

Processing Information
The Mountain Drive Oral History Collection was processed by Chris S. Ervin CA in December 2020.

Preferred Citation
[Identification of file], Mountain Drive Oral History Collection, AR-1992-001, Gledhill Library, Santa Barbara Historical Museum, Santa Barbara, California.
Conditions Governing Access
Collection is open for research.

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Bibliography
Lane, Mervin. 1985. *Going to town*. Santa Barbara, CA (P.O. Box 4513, Santa Barbara 93108): Sadhe Pub.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Mountain Drive (Santa Barbara, Calif.)
Oral histories
Communal living
Santa Barbara Botanic Garden
Santa Barbara Historical Museum
Santa Barbara Museum of Art
Anteau, Laurie (Laurie Ann Johnston), 1956-
Bernhardt, Bunny (Ruth Pritchard), 1930-
Birdsell, Marty L., Jr. (Martin Lewis), 1936-2005
Boegle, Jack Y., 1907-
Claytor, Becky M. (Rebecca M. Rodriguez)
Daily, Natalie Maravic, 1925-2006
Dole, Kathryn (Kathryn Lee Holcomb), 1920-2011
Dunn, Burdette, 1918-
Fortner, Elizabeth
Grant, Lou, 1916-2012
Greyson, George
Hill, Sandy P. (Sandra Petertly), 1926-
Hill, Stanley D., 1923-2009
Hyde, Gavin, 1930-
Johnston, Dick (Richard Woodwell), 1931-2017
Johnston, Gill, Jr. (Gill Stuart), 1924-2003
Lane, Mervin, Jr. (Mervin Louis), 1928-2016
Lane, Peggy (Margaret), 1926-2013
Macy, Bud (Eliot Eldridge), 1920-2011
Maurer, Eric W., 1915-1987
Maurer, Nina (Nina Ruth Macy), 1916-1994
McPherson, Paule P., 1935-
Neely, Chris (Christopher Ulrick), 1951-2020
Robinson, Frank D. (Franklin Donald), 1923-2004
Schertz, Ed (Edward L.), 1931-
Sisson, Susan Robinson (Susan Gilmour Hamilton)
Smith, Dana D., 1922-2000
Soini, Mary Lynn, 1942-
Interviews 1986-1992

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Physical Description: 48 Cassettes
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Subjects and Indexing Terms
Anteau, Laurie (Laurie Ann Johnston), 1956-

Bunny Bernhardt Interview 1987-02-23
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source: Bernhardt, Bunny (Ruth Pritchard), 1930-
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Bernhardt, Bunny (Ruth Pritchard), 1930-

Marty Birdsell Interview 1987-02-01
Creator: Gasser, Teddy G.
source: Birdsell, Marty L., Jr. (Martin Lewis), 1936-2005
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Subjects and Indexing Terms
Birdsell, Marty L., Jr. (Martin Lewis), 1936-2005

Jack Boegle Interview 1988-02-28 1988-03-13
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source: Daily, Natalie Maravic, 1925-2006
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Subjects and Indexing Terms
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Kathryn Dole Interview 1987-02-18
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Dole, Kathryn (Kathryn Lee Holcomb), 1920-2011

Burdette Dunn Interview 1987-01-10
Creator: Remak, Roberta Ann, 1925-2008
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Subjects and Indexing Terms
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Dick Johnston Interview 1992-04-08

Creator: Gasser, Teddy G.
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Johnston, Dick (Richard Woodwell), 1931-2017

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Interviews 1986-1992

Frank Robinson Interview 1986-07-22
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Subjects and Indexing Terms
Robinson, Frank D. (Franklin Donald), 1923-2004

Ed Schertz Interview 1986-10-24
Creator: Benet, Linda
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Subjects and Indexing Terms
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Susan Sisson Interview 1987-01-17
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Dana Smith Interview 1991-01-26
Creator: Gasser, Teddy G.
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Subjects and Indexing Terms
Smith, Dana D., 1922-2000

Guide to the Mountain Drive Oral History Collection AR.1992.001
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Subjects and Indexing Terms
Soini, Mary Lynn, 1942-

Susan Tonetti Interview 1986-11-28
Creator: Urton, Elaine
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Tonetti, Susan Hyde, 1905-1989

Christine Walden Interview 1986-08-30
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Noel Young Interview 1990-02-18
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Young, Noel, 1922-2002

Related Materials
Additional Information from other Interviews
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News Clippings
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Mountain Drive Grapevine
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Parcel Map Information
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Writings by Residents
  Physical Description: 1 Folder(s)
  Separated Materials
  One (1) copy of; Lane, Mervin. 1985. Going to town. Santa Barbara, CA (P.O. Box 4513, Santa Barbara 93108): Sadhe Pub., transferred to Gledhill Library book catalog

Manuscript 1991
  Physical Description: 2 Folder(s)
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  General
  The planned Mountain Drive book was outlined and at least one chapter drafted, but it was never published due to a lack of funding. Elias Chiacos's 1994 book, Mountain Drive: Santa Barbara's Pioneer Bohemian Community, could be considered a recasting of the oral history project's attempt to summarize Mountain Drive's history.

Editing and Illustrating Ideas 1991-07-02
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Sources of Illustrations
  Physical Description: 1 Folder(s)

Chapters 1991-06-07
  Creator: Remak, Roberta Ann, 1925-2008
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  General
  Six (6) diskettes containing files for unpublished Mountain Drive Oral History manuscript. Labeled Chapter 2 Building Homes and Chapter 6 Coyote Fire.

Administration 1985-1991
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