

**Interview with Barbara Scott Stillman, February 29, 1992. 5166 El Cecrito, Oceanside, California.**

**Interviewer: John A. Daley**

John: What were your parents' names?

Barbara: My mother's name was Margaret and they called her Mamie, that was her nickname. My father's name was Melville Scott.

John: What was your mother's maiden name?

Barbara: Veal. My grandmother's name was Isabella Ellen [Place] and I was named after her, my name is Barbara Ellen. She was born in Santa Barbara. She had one sister, Ramona.

John: What heritage was she?

Barbara: English and Spanish, Californian. She was seventy-nine when she died in 1932. Her father was from England and he was, I don't know if he was a captain on a boat or what, but he used to travel back and forth. I didn't get much of a history really on that.

She was born in Santa Barbara and her sister. No brothers. They were orphaned early in life and put in a Catholic home. In those days it was like a convent and they were raised until they were teenagers. Then, for some reason or another, Ramona and my grandmother came to Los Angeles to visit or something and then they stayed in Los Angeles for quite a number of years. I think they probably went to school, I don't know just what. How they met their husbands, I have no idea. My grandfather's name was William, Grandfather Veal.

John: Where was William Veal from?

Barbara: He came from Germany, he came through his uncle who lived in Ohio. While he was on the ship his watch and money and everything was taken away from him. He landed there in New York without anything, so the story goes. Then, finally he finally got in touch with the Uncle. I don't know where he came to in California, if it was Sacramento or where it was, some place up north. That may have been where he met Mr. Wolf. My grandmother's sister, Ramona, she married a man by the name of Louis Wolf. He settled in Temecula and Grandfather settled in Pala. He raised sheep up in Julian, on the mountain there. Grandfather had opened this store in Pala.

John: Do you know what it was called?

Barbara: Just the Pala Store, I guess it was. I think there are some pictures I have of the old store. Grandmother used to always say, "That's where our home was." It was close to the Mission. So anyway, grandfather used to get away from it all, he used to go up to Julian and help Uncle Louis out with his work up there and then come back to the store. I guess he got a little bit tired of being inside so much. So he would take little vacations and Grannie would stay home with the youngsters. I believe she started having youngsters right away. She lost several, two babies, I think.

John: How many of their children lived?

Barbara: My mother, Aunt Julia, Aunt Bella ... I guess there was five. I think she had seven children altogether. One of them was Henry and the other was Lawrence or something and they died as infants. They're buried at the Pala cemetery.

Oh, there's Uncle Willie, that was the oldest one. And then there's Aunt Bella, and then there's Aunt Julia and then my mother. Oh, I'm skipping them here! Then Aunt Maggie, they used to call her Lena and her name was really Magdalene. That's five. Then she had the seven, Uncle Paul and Uncle Jim, he was 22 when he got tuberculosis.

All the Veals are all gone. Grandpa didn't have any relatives really around here. It was just his family, his immediate family.

John: Let's go to your dad's side of the family.

Barbara: Originally they were from Eldora, Iowa, it's close to Ames, Iowa. The whole family came out. My grandfather Scott and my grandmother, his first wife, my Uncle Will and then my dad and they had a sister by the name of Gail.

John: What was your grandfather's name?

Barbara: Levi, I think. L. L. Scott.

John: Where he was from, before Iowa.

Barbara: England, I think. His wife['s name] was Rumbaugh.

John: Where did they first come to California?

Barbara: They came to Oceanside, or no, Escondido.

John: Do you know what year?

Barbara: Well, let's see ... Gail was probably ... she was just a teenager, maybe 16 or 17 years old. She was the youngest of the three of them. My Grandfather Scott was a barber and he also, I think he was the mayor of Oceanside. I have no idea how old Uncle Willie was, of course he worked with his father in the barber shop at the time and then my dad, he was 23 when he worked for Mr. Exton. I guess maybe he started out when he was 21 or something like that. He was studying to be a pharmacist. Their first home was down on Fifth and Hill, the Scott family's. That's where Gail, Uncle Will and my dad lived. Fifth Street, on Fifth and Hill, and there was a house similar to the Myers house on that corner. There house was right on Hill Street, on the southwest corner of Fifth and Hill. That's where my Uncle and my father's mother died. She died in that house there of tuberculosis.

John: What was their business back in Iowa?

Barbara: Grandfather Scott was a barber back there. Uncle Will was a barber and my dad went and studied for the pharmacy for Mr. Nichols. I think the Rumbaugh family came first, that was my Grandmother's maiden name and her family, the Rumbaughs.

John: Do you think they came to California before or after 1900.

Barbara: Well, let's see, it must have been before because Aunt Julia and Uncle Will were married in 1907 and my mother and father were married in ... I was born in 1903, I was the one and only.

John: How long did they stay in Escondido?

Barbara: Not very long, I don't think. Then they came over to Oceanside and my grandfather opened the barber shop and it was in the same location where Uncle Will had his shop, in the same building ... Where the theater was. [Between Tremont and Cleveland, east of the alley.] Then the post office was right across the alley from there, the old post office was in the Hayes building and it was upstairs. They had an upstairs to it. I remember that. When my mother, she was still a teenager when they moved to Oceanside and Aunt Bella, she was one of the oldest, she was second to oldest and Aunt Julia and my mother went to high school here at the old, old Oceanside High School. She was just maybe not even a teenager, well maybe around 13 or 14. ... Aunt Julia never had any children and my Aunt Lena didn't have any children. She was quite young, she was in her thirties, Aunt Lena was in her thirties when she died.

John: Do you know how your parents met?

Barbara: I think through school because they were about the same age. Mr. Exton probably could, if he was still alive, in fact, he was on the verge of adopting my dad, he liked him so well, so they say. Because he was a good student, too. Oh, I remember Mr. Exton telling me how much he liked my father and how much he liked my mother, too. Not knowing them, why, they told me all that they could about them, all the nice things.

John: Do you know what year they got married?

Barbara: I was born in 1903, so it must have been in 1902.

John: Where did they get married at?

Barbara: At home, at the Myer's house. My Aunt Lena, she was the bridesmaid and Father O'Keefe from the San Luis Rey Mission married them, and he also baptized me. And when I was born I weighed three pounds. I was born at the Myers' house. My mother and father, I guess young people, you know they wanted to get away from home or whatever and my grandmother was living there in the Myers' house and they had apartments in that old ... you had a picture of the old, old National Bank, and there was apartments upstairs. I don't know if it was apartments or if they made it into apartments and that's where my mother and father first lived was up there. It was close to the drugstore. It was a great place, I guess, for a young couple.

John: I didn't get your date of birth.

Barbara: September the 9th, 1903.

John: You were born in the Myers' house but your parents were then living in the apartments above the First National Bank.

Barbara: Yes, they went over to her mother's, my grandmother's place. They had moved to Oceanside quite some time before, because my mother was going to school. The whole family came here. They lived down on ... when they first moved to Oceanside, they called it the "Ramona Place". It was built by some old timer. It was a two-story house and it was similar, on the same order as the Myers' place only Myers' place wasn't two-story. But the old Ramona house, I don't know why they called it the Ramona, and that's where Grandfather died, was down there, I think on Topeka. Tremont and Topeka, I think. You know where the old laundry used to be, it was right across the street and there was a warehouse or something over by the railroad tracks. I don't know if they called it the Ramona house at the time because of ... maybe they

took in tourists that got off the train, or something. I don't know if it was a little hotel, or what it was. But that's where my grandmother and grandfather lived and that's where he died. Right across from the old laundry, that would be Topeka wouldn't it? I can barely remember it, I remember it was an old, old building. Bill Trotter lived right up on the corner, on Tremont, I guess that would be. No, it was Cleveland. It was on Cleveland and Bill Trotter used to live on Tremont.

John: Do you remember how they got the Myers' house? Was Myers still alive or had he already passed away?

Barbara: No, I think the senior Myers was still living. Was Carl Myers the old man's son? It was the older Mr. Myers that gram did the business with at the old First National Bank and who was in the First National Bank then, I don't know, an old timer, it must have been. The only name I can think about is Laurie Porteous, he used to work there and then he had a real estate office where the Myers' place was, a small office in there in the back, on the alley.

I can remember going to first grade and my teacher was Miss Sherwin. I was probably six or seven. Then when the Academy started, I was in third or fourth grade, then I went out there as a boarder.

John: Do you remember where the old school was?

Barbara: Yes, it was right straight up the street, on Horne Street, what's the street that Doctor Gabriel was on? First Street? Anyway, why the school was right up the hill there. It was a two-story. My mother also went to school there, upstairs in the high school, of course this was earlier. Anyway, why when I was in the sixth grade, back when I had this accidental burning, and I was out of school for a year.

John: Let's back up, you went from that school ... Was the change to the Academy because your parents had died?

Barbara: No, no. It was just because my Grandmother and Aunt Julia figured that I could get a better education or something out there. They were both good Catholics. The school opened and the sisters were out there. The Priest at the little old church there in Oceanside, he was working up business for them and that's how I happened to get out there.

John: How long did you go to school there?

Barbara: Up until the sixth grade and then I was burned. I got up in the morning to make my cereal, put the water on, a kerosene stove and it went dry. So I went out and got a little small gallon, I guess it was, I don't know, it had a handle on it and kind of like a little spout and a handle. My Aunt and Uncle were in Los Angeles, they were up monthly to see about their films, what they were having in the movies for the next month or whatever. So they'd go up every month or so and pick out these pictures that they wanted to show and what was popular at that time. So they had gone to Los Angeles and I was with my grandmother. So, she told me that the man had come around, Standard Oil used to come around and deliver the gasoline. Gram told me that and she told me not to use it. But Gram saved that and put it right down by the door. And she said, "Barbara, when you get up in the morning don't use that can that I put down on the end of the porch." You know what I did, I was so excited about getting up there and everything. I went down to the end of the porch and picked up the can. ... The wicks were still red and I don't know if I got the gas on the wicks, and it "WHEW" like that, and the can blew up and the bottom of it blew out and I got on fire, the kitchen was on fire. I didn't know how to put myself out so I went outside and put myself out with water. But I didn't try to put the fire out in the kitchen. [I]t was all burned up in the inside. So anyway, that laid me up for over a year. That was on December 4th and I didn't wake up out of the coma until January the

1st. I was twelve, because it was the year of the flood, 1916. It was during December, 1915 and January 1, 1916 I came out of the coma and my grandmother would not have me go to the La Jolla hospital, that was the closest. She wouldn't have me go to the hospital, I would die if I went there and she said, "She's not going, that's all there is to it." Dr. Reid took care of me, Dr. Nichols also. ... And I pulled out of it, but I had a hard time doing it, but I did it. They had the Christmas tree up in the corner of the living room and when I opened my eyes ... I never got so many Christmas presents in all my born days! There were just piles of things from all the merchants and the people who were friends, and the Catholic Church. I had dolls, I had everything to eat, you know, cookies. It was nice!

John: How old were you when your parents died?

Barbara: Nine months old, they died just two months apart. From August and October, I think it was.

John: How did they die?

Barbara: Tuberculosis. Uncle Will took my father to New Mexico... My uncle Will, the one I told that was shot, he was in New Mexico, he had a store there, a Jacobi clothing store, I don't know if they have a Jacobi clothing store in Los Angeles there or not but they did for years. They sent Uncle Willie after he got of St. Vicent's college there in Los Angeles and they gave him the job of manager of Jacobi's in Los Cruces? New Mexico. Then when my dad got bad why Uncle Willie took him out there, they thought maybe the dryer climate might help but it didn't do much good for him.

John: Who took care of you all this time when your parents passed away?

Barbara: I went between my grandmother and my Aunt Julia and Uncle Will. Two brothers married two sisters, you see, and my name was Scott and so Aunt Julia and Uncle Will never adopted me, there was no reason to.

John: What's the nickname you call Uncle Will?

Barbara: Unc. Aunt Julia was "Jude." "Unc and Jude." I don't know how I ever got started calling her Jude. Aunt Bella asked me one day, how come they call Aunt Jude, "Aunt Jude"? And I said, "I don't know, I guess in my baby talk I must have said instead of saying Julia I said Jude." So that's what she called her and that's what I called her and everybody else. Uncle Will, he had a motorcycle. And he had all the works, the goggles and the leather jacket and all that and Aunt Julia used to ride with him.

John: What year was that?

Barbara: Well, let's see, they were married in 1907, and see I was three or four years old. Well, Aunt Julia used to take care of me anyway before that. But, anyway, Unc used to come to Fallbrook. He opened up a barber shop in Fallbrook and he got this motorcycle and the leather jacket and everything to go with it. It was a big thing, as I remember. He used to ride back and forth from Fallbrook and open up his shop there and worked there in Fallbrook and he had somebody working in Oceanside, maybe his dad stayed there, I don't know. It was around 1910 or something like that. I have a picture of Unc with his "motor" out in the country. Anyway, out here on Mission, you remember where Mrs. Kolb used to live or the old Harrington place out there where the freeway goes through? Where Mission Shopping Center is up on the hill there, where Thrifty's and the other places are? Well, over in here a man by the name of Mr. Harrington had a two story building there and Mr. Kolb, her house was next to that and then Mrs. Fisher opened a little hospital, there was three places in there. I guess you've heard of the Maxey family here, haven't you? Ruth Maxey. They lived out there in that area where the freeway is and it was all cut out. There was a canyon

there. I guess Mission was kind of oiled street then, you know, oiled or whatever. I know it wasn't paved. Unc was on his motor one morning going to Fallbrook and he hit a little rock or a pebble or something and over he went and boy, he was knocked out. He nearly lost his sight in one eye and he was out of work for a long, long time because of that eye and it kind of affected ... it was kind of like a skull fracture or something. Dr. Nichols, old Dr. Nichols took care of him at that time. He had a bad time with that eye. I used to take him by the hand and walk from Fifth Street up to Sixth street and back with him.

## **Part II Oral Interview with Barbara Scott Stillman, March 5, 1992.**

John: Do you remember the high school up on Horne street when they used the second floor of the building?

Barbara: Yeah, I sort of remember that. The upstairs high school and the downstairs the grammar school. Recalling who were the students ... Upstairs it seems to me I remember Rena Martin going to school there, but she went upstairs when we were downstairs. Rena Martin, she was Frank Martin's sister, but I don't recall anybody else. My mother went to school upstairs there. When they came from Pala she went to high school and I believe my Aunt Lena, I think she went to high school there. I am not positive about it but I think she did. Because when she was old enough to go into nurse's training, why, then she went up to Miramar.

John: Do you recall what it was like living in the downtown area?

Barbara: Well, the first house that I recall would be Aunt Julia's and Uncle Will's. He bought that in 1906. They were married in 1907 and I think he bought it shortly before that and it was supposed to be a beach house for a doctor that lived in Escondido. I think by the papers his name was Burnside or something like that, a doctor or a dentist. He bought that house and built it for a beach house and they would come from Escondido in the hot weather, you know, and come over to Oceanside and stay. So, that was the first house. It's still there on Fifth and Freeman. And we had our little house built after Aunt Julia and Uncle Will got so they couldn't take care of themselves very well, why we built on the back of their lot, which was a 50 x 150 or something like that.

John: That would be the northwest corner of Fifth and Freeman, the front house, there. And he bought that about 1906?

Barbara: Right on the corner.

John: Right next to the Alley?

Barbara: No, not right next to the alley, Mrs. Spencer lived right next to the alley. Mrs. Louise Spencer, right next to the alley.

John: The house that you used to live was right behind it?

Barbara: The house that we built was right behind this house that Dr. Burnside had built and Uncle Will had bought. I remember Mrs. Spencer's place because it was right next door and that was on the alley.

The reason we had built that little house on the back of the lot there was because Aunt Julia had cancer and Uncle Will was getting up in years and so they asked us if we would like to build a little place on the back of the lot so we could kind of look after them, you know. Uncle Will was all crippled up with arthritis pretty badly.

John: What year was that?

Barbara: That was in 1945 we built the little house in the back. Mr. Hoover loaned me the money and I had just came across a note that he had written me. They had been on a vacation and, of course we were making payments on the loan and they'd been on vacation, gone to Europe or something. Mr. Hoover was the president of the Bank of Italy then. Anyway, I came across this note and he said he had received the payment in whatever month it was and also, just today he had received the next payment for it and he thanked me very much, and he said "you're my best gal"!

John: What was in that neighborhood?

Barbara: I can remember the neighbors. Mr. Love, he was a marshal, or an officer of the law, right across the street on the corner of Freeman, Fifth and Freeman. He lived right across the street on Fifth and Freeman. He would be east. He had a family. One of the Gabriel girls, Pauline Stewart's sister, Mabel, married Harvey Love and Harvey passed away quite a number of years ago. Pauline was telling me on the phone not too long ago that Mabel was 94 or 95. Harvey Love, Jr. still lives over in Vista. She lives in Vista, that's where she raised her family. Mabel Love, she was a Gabriel, Herb Gabriel's sister and Pauline Stewart's sister. There was another girl, I think she's still living in San Francisco, Louise, and she was my age. We went to school together in the first grade. Miss Sherwin was our teacher.

John: Elizabeth Reid lives over in that neighborhood now. Had she lived there for a long time?

Barbara: Elizabeth Reid lived on Freeman Street? No, a number of years, but they previously lived on Pacific Street.

John: Did Elizabeth or her family build the house on Freeman?

Barbara: No, Mr. Farmer, he was a retired Santa Fe railroad engineer and he lived there, Frank Farmer. He built the house. Elizabeth, well, this place in Carlsbad that they bought, it was a two-story place and he had parrot toes? on both feet, Dr. Reid did and his toes were like this and he used to have to wear a roll of cotton under his toes. Bergie(?) and Walt Johnson lived right up the street. They lived on Freeman Street, the next block up, across from Elizabeth Reid, on the south side. Walt and Bergie lived there a long time with Margorie, until she was a pretty good size. When they were first married they lived up on, I think the house is still there, Horne Street. I believe Mrs. Renner bought it later or owned it. That's where Marjorie was born, was up on, I think it was Clementine or Horne, on a hill there. Then they came down and I think they built that place on Freeman street. It was just a small little house. They lived there quite some time until they sold the dairy out in the valley and then Herb got killed and then they sold the place. They built the apartments right on the corner at Fifth and Freeman, this side of where they lived and that was Marjorie's. She was in charge of the rentals and everything else. She was married to Pennington, his name was. He was a photographer. They had two children, two girls. Marjorie and Don Pennington.

John: Do you remember any of the business on Hill Street in your area?

Barbara: There was nothing I don't think. I think the closest building as I recollect was on the corner of Third and Hill, Schanks store. It was a hardware store and that building is still there, I think, on the west side. Do you know where Tait's Pharmacy used to be? Well, this building was right across the street there and I guess it was Schanks, somebody was there afterwards and then the Palomar Theater across, I can remember when that was going up. Clark was the owner, I think, at that time. He wanted Uncle Will to go in with him, when the talkies came in, you know. And Uncle Will was too set on that they wouldn't make

the grade, you know, that they wouldn't have any luck with it! So he didn't go in with Mr. Clark. He should have. But he didn't. He kept going as long as he could, you know, with the silent pictures but everybody wasn't going to go for silent pictures anymore so they would go to the Palomar. He didn't consider it, so he sold the building to Archie Freeman.