

Interview with

**Doug Tico**

August 25, 2007

by Kristi Hawthorne

for the

Oceanside Historical Society

**Interview with Doug Tico on August 25, 2007. Interviewer: Kristi Hawthorne of the Oceanside Historical Society. Transcribed by Kristi Hawthorne**

Kristi: It's August 25, 2007 and I'm at the home of Doug Tico, 1870 Basswood in Carlsbad, California. Let's just start off—what is your full name?

Doug: Douglas Tico.

Kristi: Do you have a middle name?

Doug: Jerome. It's never used.

Kristi: When were you born?

Doug: 1928. (At the time there were 2,800 people in Oceanside)

Kristi: When is your birthday?

Doug: May Day, the first of May.

Kristi: You were telling me you were born at home, do you remember the address?

Doug: Actually it was this other person's house on Tremont Street. It was on the corner of Sixth and Tremont. But that house isn't there any longer.

Kristi: Do you remember the person who owned the house?

Doug: No.

Kristi: What were your parents' names?

Doug: My mother's name was Lucille and my dad's name was Ralph.

Kristi: Do you know where your dad was born?

Doug: San Marcos, and my mother was born in Carpenteria. I'm a seventh generation Californian.

Kristi: Do you have brothers or sisters?

Doug: I have a brother who is twelve years younger and I had a brother who just died recently, he was two years younger.

Kristi: What were their names?

Doug: Ralph is the one that died and the other one is Dennis.

Kristi: What brought your dad from San Marcos to Oceanside?

Doug: That's a pretty good question, I don't know. He wanted to start a barbershop, I think.

Kristi: What did he do in San Marcos, do you know?

Doug: Probably pattered around building a little bit. He built the house that we grew up on Nevada Street.

Kristi: What's the address on Nevada Street?

Doug: 117 South Nevada.

Kristi: Is it still there?

Doug: Yes, in fact Beverly and I stopped by there a couple of years ago. I just wanted to go inside and see it. The ceilings weren't as high as they used to be! Because we were little kids then. I can tell you a little story, my brother that died, because he and I were closer to the same age, we were walking down to the beach from that house because it isn't far, and some policeman picked us up and brought us home because we just had on bathing suits. My mother got a little irritated because she's from Carpenteria, you know, a beach town, and this is a beach town. She told that officer what for a little bit because he had no reason to do that!

Kristi: Do you remember the policeman?

Doug: Heck, no. I was only about seven, probably.

Kristi: What was grandfather's name on the Tico side?

Doug: My brother that died knew all this stuff.

Kristi: Did your grandfather Tico live in San Marcos, too?

Doug: No, he died pretty young. Everybody died pretty young back then.

Kristi: So your dad came to Oceanside and opened a barbershop?

Doug: Right, called the "Oceanside Barbershop" on South Hill Street.

Kristi: Do you remember the address?

Doug: 224 would be close. (234)

Kristi: Did he have other barbers there?

Doug: One barber once in a while, maybe on the weekends.

Kristi: Do you remember any names of the barbers?

Doug: Not at all.

Kristi: Did he cut your hair?

Doug: Yes, at the barbershop. When he died, he was 73. He always cut my hair and you sit and you wait and you wait. So I took to cutting my own hair very soon after my father died and I've always done it. Now my wife doesn't like the way I do the very back, so she does the back, but I do all the sides, the front and the top.

Kristi: Did you live in the little house on Nevada Street as you grew up?

Doug: Yes, went all through grammar school. By the time I got in high school, my folks bought a little house on South Clementine, 605 South Clementine Street. That house cost my father, a brand new house: \$3,200.00.

Kristi: How long did they live there?

Doug: They moved around.

Kristi: What was the school called when you went to school there?

Doug: Oceanside Grammar, up on Horne Street next door. It was called Oceanside-Carlsbad High School, because there was no high school in Carlsbad.

Kristi: Do you remember any of your teachers?

Doug: A little bit. There was Mrs. Anderson and there was a science teacher was Mr. Burton. He amazed me one time. He showed us what muriatic acid would do. So he had a little plate and at the beginning of the class he put a penny on there and then at the end of class it was gone! That muriatic acid had eaten it all up. Then we had a shop teacher that all of the guys really liked, Mr. Brady. He was real good, I learned a lot about woodworking from him and it's stuff that you use now, basic stuff.

Kristi: Did you walk to school with your brothers or did you have other friends in the neighborhood that you walked with?

Doug: I just kind of walked by myself, I think. I got a bicycle when I was 12, so I used that until I was 15. I got a car when I was 15, I don't think I had a driver's license yet.

Kristi: What kind of car was it?

Doug: A 1933 Ford Coupe.

Kristi: How did you get that?

Doug: With some money I saved. It cost me \$225!

Kristi: Do you remember who you bought it from?

Doug: No. Then in high school I got this '39 Ford convertible and I fixed it up nice. Would you like to see a picture of it?

Kristi: Sure!

Doug: (showing photograph) Bill Culberson and Maury Ball, those are the two you don't see [in the trunk of the car]. (showing another photograph): This is the car that my son-in-law bought six months ago. They collect cars. I don't know if you ever heard of it, Simpson's Garden Town in Jamul. They have about 70 cars. They have restored most of them and they are just like brand new. They're just beautiful.

Kristi: Growing up, did you have a paper route, did you have a first job?

Doug: The very first job, and I was very young, was selling Liberty magazines and Saturday Evening Posts. The two went together. They'd give you a little sack thing that hung over your shoulder and you put the magazines there and you'd go around and see if you could see them. I wasn't too good at that.

Kristi: How old were you?

Doug: Probably 7 or 8, closer to 8, I guess.

Kristi: Did you ever work for your dad at the barbershop.

Doug: No. My brother at Escondido that died, went to barber college and he did for a little while. He didn't like that too much and ended up working for the government. Had some real good jobs.

Kristi: Who were some of your neighbors on Nevada Street?

Doug: The Berry's lived next door on the corner.

Kristi: They owned a funeral home, Charles Berry?

Doug: Yes. They were good neighbors. Back in those days, a lot of people didn't have trash pick up. They would burn anything in an incinerator and the garbage, that went into a

hole in the backyard until it got full and then they'd cover it and they'd dig another hole. We had trash pickup but some of the neighbors didn't, but got by.

Kristi: How old were you when you started walking yourself down to the beach?

Doug: 7 or 8, probably.

Kristi: When did you learn how to surf?

Doug: I learned about 65 years ago when I was friends with the lifeguards that were there. One lifeguard, I kept after him to use the paddleboard. We didn't have surfboards. He said, "Well, if you can carry it to the beach and not drag it, you can take it out and paddle around." So, I grew old for my age, I grew up fast, and I was pretty strong by the time I was 14 and I would paddle out and try to catch waves, and catch a few waves with that. After that, I had a surfboard made, redwood and white pine and balsa. It weighed about 65 pounds, 11 foot long.

Kristi: Who made it for you?

Doug: A fellow by the name of George Miller that lived in Carlsbad on Highland up there. He made two boards at the same time and they were like twin boards. One went to Byron Jessup and one went to me. Then later on I got an all balsa board, then a foam board. The board I ride now is an epoxy, which is a foam, but it's a closed cell foam, it doesn't take on water if you get a ding or a crack or something, you just keep surfing. The others you've got to come out of the water because they soak it up. Then you have to wait for it to dry out.

Kristi: How old were you when you learned how to swim?

Doug: Probably 12. Maybe 10.

Kristi: Was the plunge still around when you were a kid?

Doug: No, that's going back a little further. I learned in the San Luis Rey River, at the north end of the Strand. There were some guys, they might have been a little older than I, but they said, "all you've got to do is kind of jump in." It was over my head in the middle, "just jump in from that side and kick and you'll end up on the other side." "I don't know about that!" But once I did it, you just do it and from then on pretty soon you use your arms for strokes. I guess by the time I was 12 I could swim pretty well.

Kristi: How did you get involved in lifeguarding?

Doug: Just hanging out at the beach. There weren't any lifeguards available because it was during World War II. My first lifeguarding job was in 1944. There was one other fellow that helped me, there was just two of us in Oceanside, that was the crew! Byron Jessup and I and we took care of it all right. Nobody ever drowned!

Kristi: How old were you when you started?

Doug: 16.

Kristi: Byron Jessup, is he the same age?

Doug: He was a year or two younger. One or two.

Kristi: Where was the lifeguard tower, or did you have one?

Doug: At the beginning we had a little stand with a little seat up on top.

Kristi: Where was that located?

Doug: Behind the band shell on the south side of the pier, but on the beach. They had a band shell back then. That got torn down and now they have this other thing. I just read in the paper they want to revamp it and make it modern now and make it a see-through band shell so it doesn't obstruct the view of the water! Well, I kept surfing I guess all of the time.

Kristi: Do you remember any of the other surfers that you surfed with?

Doug: Bill Thompson, Vic Magee and George Miller, the one that made the board for me. We had a group of maybe six or eight in Oceanside and Carlsbad.

Kristi: Who was the lifeguard before you became lifeguard?

Doug: I'm not sure...there was a lifeguard there by the name of Larry Sherwood when I was very young. I think Vic Magee life guarded for awhile.

Kristi: How many years did you lifeguard?

Doug: Let's see, '44, '45, '46 and I guess '47. About four years.

Kristi: I don't know if it was you or somebody else that told me there was a tower at the end of the pier?

Doug: Oh, they had that for a lookout during the war. They seemed to think, because I heard the story from John Oakley, that it fell down in a storm with some of the pier with it and washed up down by the river. The story was that they made it. They brought the pieces back and made the lifeguard tower with that. What makes more sense to me is they had one like it on Pacific Street, on the bluff, about six blocks north of there, right on the bluff overlooking the ocean. It was up high, much higher than the others up on top of the bluff. I think that's the one that they really brought down. I remember Byron and I painted it one time. Byron Jessup and I, white, and we were white when we got through! That was in the old days when you always used enamel so we took off our suits and we got a gallon of

gasoline and just rubbed gas all over us and finally got cleaned up but I don't think we smelled very good for awhile!

Kristi: Was that the only lifeguard tower they had for a while?

Doug: Back then, yes.

Kristi: Do you know who succeeded you?

Doug: I hardly remember because when I left I was married and had kids. I think John Oakley was a lifeguard and maybe Don Huffman.

Kristi: Do you remember any rescues?

Doug: Yes, I do. One that sticks in my mind was when Byron and I were by ourselves. There was a riptide and there was pretty big surf that day. The water piles up on the beach and it would find this little place of least resistance to go out and that causes a riptide. That's what we called it back then. They had another name. There were about 3 people out there. All of them got into trouble at one time just out past the breaker line. The waves were pretty big and I told Byron, "I'm going to try to get the board out." He ran out on the pier with swim fins and a can. They were real tin cans back then, made out of thin metal. They had a point at each end and a ring where you can tie a rope. He went out on the pier with that in case I didn't make it out with the board, which would have been very possible, but I hit it lucky, I used the riptide and there was a lull in the sets and I made it out okay. I could paddle faster too. I don't think I'd make it out now! But I got out there and the girl was kind of in the worse shape and I told her to get on the board and lay down on her stomach and hold onto the sides and I told the guys to hold on to the sides too and we'll pick a time when we can get in. Part of that, the beauty of having a girl on the board in front of you is that they spread their legs and you put your chin on their butt and it's always soft!! Anyhow, that's probably beside the point! We got in okay, all four of us made it.

Kristi: How old do you think you were when you made that rescue?

Doug: 17 or so.

Kristi: It was you and Byron Jessup. At any point were there any more lifeguards?

Doug: Yes, Tommy Williams.

Kristi: What days did you work?

Doug: Byron and I had one day off a piece. Maybe I'd take Tuesday and he'd take Wednesday, so there'd be just one of us those two days.

Kristi: What hours?

Doug: 10 to 6. We'd get there early and we'd rake the high tide line, the seaweed and make it nice in our area and then we'd bury the seaweed and the next morning there would be some more! It was a never ending process but some days there wasn't much to rake as other days.

Kristi: So you had to clean the beach and man it?

Doug: Yes, but there wasn't anybody there when you get there at 10.

Kristi: Do you remember how much you got paid?

Doug: I think it was somewhere in the neighborhood of 69 cents an hour or 82 cents an hour, something like that. I just happened to ask one of the lifeguards the other day, I think they're making something like \$16 an hour or something like that!

Kristi: Who hired you, do you remember that?

Doug: Well, we were hired from the Street Department, but Johnny Walker was the caretaker of the beach.

Kristi: What was his position or his duties as caretaker?

Doug: Play music. I don't know. He just kind of watched over things.

Kristi: They played music on a loud speaker at the music?

Doug: Yes! They played all day at the bandshell.

Kristi: Was the municipal dining room still open?

Doug: Yes it was open. It was open to the public and it was like a little cooking area. They had gas stoves you could use at no charge and tables inside and people would go there and cook their meals and it was really nice. You couldn't do it nowadays, I don't think.

Kristi: Do you remember any of the events at the band shell?

Doug: Well, once a year they had the bathing beauty contest, that was a big event. The other big event was the swim around the pier on Labor Day.

Kristi: Did you ever participate in that?

Doug: On my paddleboard as a lifeguard. I'd paddle around and make sure they were okay.

Kristi: What was north of the pier where the community center is now?

Doug: There was nothing. Oh, there would be a little carnival there in the summer. They had a ferris wheel and a merry-go-round and they had little side things where you would throw stuff and try to win them.

Kristi: Was Hawaiian village there when you were a kid?

Doug: There was a village north of the strand but it wasn't called Hawaiian Village. There was a place at the south end of the Strand that was like a Hawaiian beer joint. I can't think of the name right now but I know it and it will come to me. The Islander. At the very end of the South Strand, the very, very end. It was quite popular for quite a while.

Kristi: Is it where the parking lot is now?

Doug: South of the parking lot.

Kristi: It was a little beer joint? Do you know who owned it?

Doug: I think somebody by the name of Money Penny and another fellow, too, but I can't think of his name. He ended up going to Hawaii. A lot of fun days there.

Kristi: What was downtown like growing up?

Doug: Well, the Bank of America was on the corner. The two big clothing stores were Huckabay's Department Store and then next two was Penney's, and those were the only two. Johnson's Sporting Good Stores sold guns and it's still there.

Kristi: Do you remember Harold Davis?

Doug: Sure! One time, down by the Islander, at the end of the Strand, I wanted to go back the other way and make a U-turn in this cute little car, and it was really gutsy. I stepped on the gas and the back wheels are spinning and it's turning real tight and he happened to be right there. He said, "Hey, Tico, I want to see you up in my office tomorrow at 10 o'clock." Okay. So he gives me a lecture and tells me "you don't have control of the car when you're doing that." "I guess you're right!" So he just gave me a little lecture and that was all.

Kristi: Did you ever get a ticket?

Doug: No, I don't think I did.

Kristi: Did you ever get in trouble as a kid?

Doug: I don't think so. It was harder to get into trouble back then, I think. There weren't so many temptations. I remember one time, this car and Harold Carpenter, we graduated together, he had a car like mine. His was a year newer, this is '40 and this is '39. We had a little car club called the "Road Hawks" and guys like Bill Culberson and Maury Ball, the Dunham brothers, they all belonged. We had a meeting once a week, I guess. Sometimes

afterwards we'd drive out to where they were building the new 395 and we'd use it for our race track because they weren't any cars and it sure was nice, smooth, straight road. I remember another night where we didn't go that far, went down by San Luis Rey and Harold Carpenter kind of challenged me, or I challenged him, I don't know who did who, but we raced, the two of us together and we were side by side. His pipes on his car were making a lot of noise but I had no air filter on my carburetor and it was sucking air and it was making as much noise, winding up, and we went pretty fast! But I won that race for some reason! I don't know why!

Kristi: Do you make trips down south?

Doug: We'd go to Cardiff reef to go surfing and we'd surf at Swami's. At Carlsbad, it's called Terramar now, it used to be "Guayule" is what we called it.

Kristi: Oh, because of the rubber?

Doug: Yes, there weren't any houses or roads, just nothing but this rubber plantation.

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Kristi: So you were a Helms Bakery man? When did you start working for them?

Doug: I don't even know the year but I worked there for 15 years, until they closed up shop. The fellow that had the route in Sterling Homes was Ronnie Clark. I had Oceanside residential and it was good.

Kristi: Was Helms Bakery in Oceanside?

Doug: No, the bakery was in Los Angeles. Montebello had one and LA had one. They had about a thousand routes during their heyday. San Diego on up to Santa Barbara.

Kristi: Where would you pick up the bread to deliver it or did it come to you?

Doug: No, I'll tell you. You know what used to be called Ralph and Eddies [in Carlsbad]? It's called the Boar Crossing now, that place down by the train station, the west side of the tracks. That was a big building and they had big doors on the south end and the north end and this big semi-truck would drive in there and this guy would get there before we would and have all of our stacks that we had ordered two days before. We'd park our trucks in there, we'd get about 8 or 10 trucks in there and we'd park them on the sides and left the middle open and that's how we'd get it. We'd get it down there. That was our office, we'd order it and pay our bills. They were franchise routes, you owned your own route and were responsible for all the bread that you ordered. I think everyday you would make 27 percent and at the end of the month you'd get an extra 3 percent and that went towards paying off our trucks.

Kristi: How old were you when you started that, do you think?

Doug: Maybe 27 or so.

Kristi: You were already married then?

Doug: Yes.

Kristi: What did you do after that?

Doug: Well, that isn't the first job I had. After that, I took a month or two off and I had never had unemployment in my life and I had been paying into it. I kept my egg customers from the bread route. We could sell whatever we wanted, more or less, as long as our bread sales kept up.

Kristi: Where did you get your eggs from?

Doug: I guy from Vista would bring them. Joe Ulavich.

Kristi: Do you remember some of your customers?

Doug: The Johnson's on Mission. I had Mexican town.

Kristi: Eastside?

Doug: Where it is now, yes.

Kristi: Were the streets paved in Eastside? Do you recall what Eastside was like?

Doug: I don't remember. It must have been paved because in the winter it would have been awfully muddy and I don't remember it being muddy.

Kristi: Do you remember any of your customers in Eastside?

Doug: Yes, pick a Mexican name! Hernandez, Soto's. There were some black people that lived there, too.

Kristi: Do you remember their names?

Doug: Yes, I could think of them because there were two brothers that lived there, the Fisher brothers. But they'd get behind on their bread bill, like everybody else. I remember one time this gal, she comes up and ask her about the bread bill because it was getting a little bit behind and she said, "we is negotiating for a loan." Those were the words that she used!

Kristi: Do you remember the streets that might have lived on?

Doug: I could get out my old route book!

Kristi: Do you have it?

Doug: Somewhere, I think.

Kristi: Do you really? That would be great.

Doug: I have my old tip book from La Costa, I worked there 20 years, that's the last job I had.

Kristi: What did you do at La Costa?

Doug: I was the gym instructor, *the* gym instructor, because that's when it almost first started.

Kristi: What year did you start there?

Doug: About 1962, maybe, somewhere in there. I worked there 20 years and at the end of the 20 years period I got to thinking, well, there's no retirement, no pension, no profit sharing, no anything and I turned 62 finally at the same time I had been there 20 years, so that means I started in, I don't know when, I'd have to figure that out! So anyhow, I told them goodbye, they couldn't believe it. "Well, can't you come back about 2 or 3 days a week?" No, I think I'll just quit and that's it. I started getting social security at 62. We were living here in this house then. And that wasn't a lot to live on so pretty soon my wife turned 62 and I don't know if the government realized it, they could almost be making a mistake, but the wife, gets half of what the husband gets when she turns 62, whether she has ever worked or not, and Beverly never had to work. She worked two weeks, I think, as a masseuse at La Costa. But that didn't work because the kids were in high school and they get kind of wild...

Kristi: So you were a gymnast out there?

Doug: Yes, I had classes.

Kristi: So the people staying there for vacations...

Doug: Yes, or coming on what they called the "spa plan" to lose weight.

Kristi: Any celebrities?

Doug: Oh, Bill Holden and The Duke.

Kristi: John Wayne?

Doug: Yes, I remember one time John Wayne was in my class and I was giving him a little warm up first and we'd stand up and we'd do this and just kind of ease into it. I said, "and if

it hurts a little, it does a lot of good.” And he says in his voice, “Hey, Tico, what if it hurts a lot?” Another time Bill Holden was late coming into class and I said, “well, if it isn’t old Bill!” and he said, “Tico, I hope you mean that as a term of endearment!” I said, “Yes, Bill!” So those are couple of things that stick out in my mind. I made exercise tapes for them to take home. The establishment didn’t like it too much, but I just kept doing it. I made 5,000 exercise tapes and they were all personalized and some of those were videos. My boy handled the camera pretty well and I’d do them in the backyard with the background, so they could take those home and do them. So that was a few extra bucks. I never charged, it was under the table, they’d give a little bigger tip. I took a couple of guys surfing. I took John Belushi and John Landes surfing, both of them, one morning. The funny thing about that, we were up by the harbor and we came home and went skinny dipping in the pool and got the salt water off and went in the house and our boy was about 14, our youngest, and he said, “Whoa!” and he called some of his friends and they came over and got some pictures. They got some pictures sitting on the couch and some when they were in the pool. We’ve had the pool 45 years, and we’ve been here 46.

Kristi: What year did you graduate from high school?

Doug: 1946. There were 94 graduates in my class.

Kristi: Then when did you meet Beverly?

Doug: Well, actually, I met her on the bread route. I was married to a girl named Sally at the time and we had been married about ten years.

Kristi: What was her maiden name?

Doug: Simpson.

Kristi: Was she a local girl?

Doug: No, Pasadena. Big, big business her dad had, Simpson’s Garden Town up there and it was on Colorado Street. They wanted to make the road bigger and bought the land and that’s when he moved down here to Jamul where my daughter is at Simpson Town, down there, that’s where they have this car collection. It’s a big nursery, plants and things, you drive around up and down, you put a load in your truck and you go through the check out stand, with the stuff in the truck and they give you an ice cold apple. Everybody gets an ice-cold apple and that’s been going on for years and years. Anyway, that’s my daughter from my first wife.

Kristi: What’s your daughter’s name?

Doug: Kathy.

Kristi: When was she born?

Doug: You can figure this out, she is 53.

Kristi: So she was born in 1954.

Doug: I have another daughter in Hawaii. She's a very famous lawyer. She was one of the top eight lawyers in the United States just these last two months.

Kristi: What's her name?

Doug: Terri Tico, over on the island of Kauai.

Kristi: When was she born?

Doug: Four years before this other daughter. She's 57, the other one is 53. She just got this award. She didn't get first place but she said, "I'm just happy to be in the top 8." They went to Chicago for it. It was a big, big affair. The way she got that she was suing for the state of Hawaii against this guy. He's a big guy over there. He owns car agencies and housing tracts and lots of land. She's suing this guy and even gets threatened two different times and she wanted some other lawyers to help her, 'we're not even going to try, that guy is too powerful, you'll never get anything.' She worked on it two years and got \$4 million for the state of Hawaii. The state sued for \$7.5 million but they settled and she got a \$4 million dollar judgment, which meant she got a third of that. She owns a nice house right on the beach on Kauai, right on the sand, a beautiful house. She called me the other day and said, "Dad, this law business is taking too much of my wind surfing time!" She's serious about it!

Kristi: Do you have any other children?

Doug: Yes, those are my two and we have one of ours. He's about 45. We call him Dougie, Douglas, Jr. He works at the hospital at the Wild Animal Park. That hospital is hi-tech, first class. He takes care of the electric, he can do telephones and computers, he can do all that. It's unbelievable. He's been out there for about seven years.

Kristi: You were telling me you met Beverly on the bread route.

Doug: Yes, because I had Camp Pendleton first, before Oceanside. We got caught having a little rendezvous and the MP's reported it, they got the number off the car and Beverly said, "Oh yeah, I loaned it to my girlfriend" trying to get out of it. It didn't work. I got kicked off the base. But a guy that was in town, we traded because he thought that was better and I didn't know about this one too much but this one worked out fine.

Kristi: When did you get married?

Doug: It wasn't too long after that, maybe a couple of years after that.

Kristi: How long have you been married?

Doug: 46 years.

Kristi: Is that when you bought this house?

Doug: Yes.

Kristi: Was the neighborhood brand new?

Doug: Oh, brand new. You could look through from Basswood over to the other street. One night we got a phone call, after we had been married for a while, it was her ex-husband saying, "I hope you're having as much fun as we are." He married my ex-wife! They lasted about ten years and then they got a divorce. She died not too many years ago. She was a smoker all her life and she got emphysema.

Kristi: Did she stay here locally?

Doug: No, she moved around a little bit. They were in Hawaii. He was in the service. That's how Beverly happened to be living on the base. They were in officers' quarters up on the hill.

Kristi: By the rear gate or closer to the harbor?

Doug: Closer to the harbor. Not the officers' quarters that are there now. These were individual houses. So, we've been happily married ever after!

Kristi: When did you start doing all the improvements to your house?

Doug: Right away. The first thing I built was the fence. It's a six-foot fence all around and I could tell from that where I wanted to put the plants and things. We had been here about a year, not quite a year, I built this patio first, and then we had the pool put in. We had the pool kind of revamped, a different deck around it and different tile. We had a new plaster job maybe ten years ago. We made it just like new for \$15,000. To build a pool like that and fix it up it'd be about \$30,000 or \$40,000 now.

Kristi: When did your parents pass away?

Doug: Well, my dad passed away first, when he was 73, that must be almost 30 years ago now. But my mom died more recently, at 85. Maybe 15 years ago or so.

Kristi: Where was she living?

Doug: In Vista. She had a massive heart attack. My mother never felt sick in her life. My dad died and she married somebody else and she outlived him. Then she had this boyfriend. When she died she turned over and said, "You know, I'm having a heart attack. I'm going to

die.” And she did. My dad had heart problems but they didn’t have much to help them back then, like open heart surgery. He had the angina real bad, real bad. He had it for years.

Kristi: Where are they buried?

Doug: Eternal Hills. To show you that heart problem is hereditary more than anything else, my brother that’s 12 years younger, had open heart surgery about 4 or 5 years ago. My brother that just died had open heart surgery maybe 12 or 15 years ago. I had open heart surgery 20 years ago. It just went down the line.

Kristi: What about your kids?

Doug: Well, I keep telling them, you better get checked. But I feel fine, I feel wonderful.

Kristi: Do you remember going to visit your grandparents on either side?

Doug: Yes, my mother’s side.

Kristi: Where did they live?

Doug: Camarillo, inland from Oxnard. It’s quite a little town now, I hear, but it was just a little town. My grandmother was postmaster.

Kristi: Tell me your grandmother’s name?

Doug: Carrillo.

Kristi: Related to the Carrillo family?

Doug: Probably somewhere along the line. Everybody in California used to be related if you go back far enough! Actually Beverly and I went up on the train just for fun and looked around town. There’s some Tico’s up there. I don’t know if they’re related or not, but you don’t hear that name, too often.

Kristi: What was your grandparents Carrillo’s names? Your mother’s parents’ names?

Doug: No, I’ve heard of them, but I can’t think of them at the moment.

Kristi: Well, let me ask you some more questions about lifeguarding. You talked about the paddle boards and the cans. What were the requirements for you to become a lifeguard?

Doug: Just to know the ocean, mostly and how it reacts at different times and be a good enough swimmer.

Kristi: Did you have to prove that you could swim? Did they give you a test?

Doug: No.

Kristi: They just took your word for it.

Doug: I guess so. Well, we could swim around the pier on our own, sometimes, things like that, body surfing. Here's an interesting fact. You've heard of swim fins, they didn't sell them here of course, in Oceanside or Carlsbad. They were just barely coming on the market and it was during the war. They were made out of this imitation rubber, it was heavy and it would sink if you would drop one. There weren't any around here and this other fellow, Bill Thompson, he and I drove down to Stanley Andrews and we each bought a pair of swim fins. We were the first two people in Oceanside and Carlsbad to have swim fins. Probably \$8 or \$10.

Kristi: Who did you say was the beach manager in Oceanside?

Doug: Frank Walker.

Kristi: Where did he live?

Doug: In Oceanside on North Ditmar, maybe.

Kristi: You told me he played music at the beach, but what were his other duties?

Doug: He would unlock the restrooms in the morning.

Kristi: Besides the can and the paddleboard what other equipment did you have?

Doug: Later on we had a reel with maybe a quarter inch line, or less, and we could swim that out. Most people got pulled in, but that was almost after my time.

Kristi: Did people jump off the pier?

Doug: Sure, everybody jumped off the pier. If the surf was too big to paddle out you'd throw your board out and jump in.

Kristi: It wasn't illegal then?

Doug: I don't know if it was or not. It didn't matter! We shot the pier, ride our boards through and come out on the other side.

Kristi: That's kind of dangerous.

Doug: Yeah, kind of dangerous. I remember hitting a piling head on. The board stops immediately! It does not move a fraction and you keep going! That piling was coming at me so fast, I put my arms up and glanced off the side of it. I didn't get hurt. There was a way

to do, as the rows of pilings go like this, you start on this one and go through these first two and then the middle two and the other two.

Kristi: So you go from north to south.

Doug: Yes, or south to north!

Kristi: The pilings are probably configured differently from the old pier.

Doug: Well, the first pier that I remember was iron pilings and that didn't last two long. Then they built another one and that came down, I don't know how long ago, 40 or 50 years ago. The one they have now is really a solid one.

Kristi: The pier before the one we have now was built in 1947. Do you remember any of the construction?

Doug: Yes, you could hear it, the pile driver.

Kristi: Were you lifeguarding down there when they were building it?

Doug: No.

Kristi: What did you do when you got out of high school?

Doug: I got married. I was 21 when I got married the first time.

Kristi: What was your job before you did the bakery thing?

Doug: I worked for the post office a little bit, for just a year or two. I had what they called a limited mounted route. I used my station wagon and put the parcels in it and I was on the base with that. I delivered all the packages and then I'd park the station wagon and walk the route with the mail. I think I went from that to the bread route. I was there 15 years and then at La Costa for 20 years.

Kristi: What do you remember about downtown Oceanside. What were some business where your dad's barbershop was?

Doug: Dixon Ford garage was right across the street. There was a Texaco station on the corner. A little market just on the next corner, going south was Vaughan's.

[Tape ends]