

Transcribed Zoom Interview

Narrator Name: Mrs. Robyn Fredricks (Robyn), *Longtime Carlsbad Resident*

Interviewer: David Sharak (David)

Date: May 12, 2024

Location: Each participant in their own home via Zoom Meeting.

Collection: Race and Oral History Course, Spring 2024

Length of Interview: 10 minutes and 8 seconds

David: Alright, you can see me, you can hear me?

Robyn: Yes I can.

David: Ok that's great-Ok so the first housekeeping item- I am David Sharak, I am a student enrolled in the United States 120D course Race and Oral History. I am going to conduct a recorded Zoom interview that will be uploaded to the Race and Oral History Project Website and Geisel Library_Digital Commons as you saw in the Digital Release Form. I just wanted to ask you what is your name, hometown and the site you will be talking about.

Robyn: Okay-My name is Robyn Fredricks, my hometown is Carlsbad, California and I am going to focus on the Carlsbad beaches today.

David: Sounds good. What would you say is your earliest memory of going to the beach in the Carlsbad area and do you remember what beach was it?

Robyn: So I would say that I was going probably at an early age of like 6 or 7 with my family to the beach. Where we would all go down to the beach and mom would you know pack us a lunch and we would all play together in the water. So that was probably my earliest experience.

David: What would you say is your happiest memory at that site?

Robyn: I think it was when I was about 12 or 13 years old and it was our freedom years of being at the beach with just friends without the parents and we would basically spend all day at the beach and are highlight of those days were going to Linda's yogurt shop and getting a sandwich and a yogurt, those are probably my happiest moments. We would get the freedom of just being with friends, getting money to buy some good food and really just enjoy the day.

David: Sounds awesome. So what would you say that were community events. What kind of community celebrations, whether they were weddings, funerals, what kind of events that are important to the oral history of the site.

Robyn: Sorry I couldn't hear all that, David.

David: What kind of Community Celebrations were there?.

Robyn: So, Community celebrations back in those days, - hmmm. We did not have a lot, we were a small town and the only kind of really community things you did was like Walk for Mankind which was big. It was a fundraiser for Bobby Sox. But we really didn't have what we have today, you know how we have a lot of street fairs and stuff. Those did not come until I was much older, probably in my twenties. But the younger years we really didn't have street fairs.

We didn't have-you-know- the Carlsbad Half Mile. We didn't have any of those things. So Carlsbad has really expanded and became more of a community in that sense, of having those kinds of events, from when I was young.

David: Fascinating, How would you say the changes in Carlsbad over the years_affected the community from a cultural or racial standpoint?

Robyn: So I would say we became more diverse in cultures and just everything from food to people, just really expanded. I mean Carlsbad wasn't really well known when I was a kid. People from other states and other countries really didn't know about Carlsbad. They knew about Del Mar more because of the racetrack and they knew more about Oceanside because of the harbor. But Carlsbad really just got discovered from people coming here and exploring the area, and once they explored it they saw how much we had a beach life. You know it's rare to have, where you have a whole section of wide beaches for people to walk on. Everywhere else had smaller, tighter sand and we had the bigger beaches and so once people started coming here they were like "Hey, we should start laying out." Plus, Oceanside always had big beaches, but Oceanside was a little bit scarier back in those days. You know with the military and stuff like that there were also hookers and, you know, bums and stuff along the streets. That was something that wasn't in Carlsbad at that time. So when you came to Carlsbad you had fresh beaches and you had enough space to kind of have your family or your friends in one section, and other people could have their people in other sections, and you weren't touching each other, but you all had the same beach.

David: That is great to hear. Why would you say that this community site should be known beyond the immediate Carlsbad Community?

Robyn: Say that again.

David: Why would you say that this site should be known beyond the Carlsbad Community or San Diego area?

Robyn: I think it is because if you really want a good experience, if you really want to have a beach life experience, Carlsbad offers that as well as other cultural things now. Like I said, it has a whole bunch of different food to choose from, it has more nightlife than it ever had. It has the quality of life most people are looking for where you can work, live and still have a lifestyle that you will enjoy. So I think that more people should know about Carlsbad. I know we have grown a lot and people don't like to hear that. But, it is always good to bring in other cultures and stuff. It's people really getting to know things, be more worldly.

David: Nice. So if you just had to pick a name from a hat what would you say is the most significant named beach?

Robyn: To represent the town?

David: Yeah, just the experiences we've been talking about.

Robyn: One word you said?

David: No, one name of a beach. Like a named beach.

Robyn: Nothing comes to mind. State the question again and see if something pops.

David: So, like, many of the individual beaches have a-are named, have a individual name attached to them, but which beach that has a name-

Robyn: Okay so most of the time you name your Beach based off of the street that you're closest to so- I believe back in those days the most of the beaches we went to from the Power plant all the way to what we call Offshore. Because Offshore is the Surf Shop. So you have the Powerplant, Tamarack and then Offshore. But the beaches in the middle of that, you would name by the street. So, like Cherry Street you would say because you were across the street from Cherry Street. So back in the day you only had two lanes there on Carlsbad Boulevard and so it was a little bit easier to cross the street but, it wasn't always safe. Now we have the boardwalk that allows you to walk and be more safe. But now we have two lanes on each side so a total of 4 lanes that you need like lights and stuff to cross. Just because -you know-there's more traffic and stuff. But I would say Cherry Street is closest to Linda's, that I loved, but I was really down at Tower 4 which was closer to the Powerpoint- Powerplant I mean.

David: Very fascinating. So I think we had a lot of good comments in this video. So is there anything else you would like to say about beach

Robyn: I think the beach lifestyle is a really wonderful lifestyle. It teaches you a lot of different things. I think the the fact that you can just really have a day of play at the beach, a day of relaxation and like I said for mental health it is a great way to just soak in and realize that there's there's a big power out there and if you want to actually enjoy, you have to get along with a lot of different adversity and then you'll have more pleasant life and so I think just knowing that, that it can be calm, but also dangerous. You have to realize that that's what the world is and how to fit into it. So I love the beach and it keeps me sane.

David: Thank you. It has been a lovely interview, I am going to stop the recording soon, and I just want to thank you Mrs. Fredericks for your time and consideration. Sorry about the technical difficulties but thanks for doing the interview.

Robyn: Thank you very much, have a great night. Bye.