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Laura Berend

University of San Diego School of Law

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University of San Diego

Legal Research Center

CONVERSATIONS IN LEGAL EDUCATION:

ORAL HISTORIES OF THE FIRST HALF-CENTURY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO SCHOOL OF LAW

Narrator: Professor Laura Berend

Interviewer: Ruth Levor

Recorder: Ruth Levor

Date: April 19, 2006

Accession No.: OH-LRC-Berend-1a

TAPE 1a: SIDE A

RL: This is an interview of Professor Laura Berend for the project: Conversations in Legal Education: Oral Histories of the First Half-Century of the University of San Diego School of Law. The interview is being conducted by Ruth Levor at the University of San Diego Legal Research Center on April 19, 2006. This is the first session of this set of interviews. Tapes and transcripts of this interview will be archived at the University of San Diego's Copley Library.

RL: You and I have talked about this project for a long time and you have given me a lot of leads for other people to talk to and interesting stories about the Law School. So I'm just delighted that I finally have you, as Nancy says, here on the hot seat, and ready to tell us your tales. I'd like to start with a few questions about people's personal background. For example, where did you grow up?

LB: I grew up in Los Angeles and moved to San Diego when I was fourteen. I went to high school here.

RL: I see, and those are the two places that you've lived. That's it.

LB: Well, pretty much.

RL: Have you spent some time in other places as well?

LB: My Dad was stationed in Germany with us. My brother was born in Darmstadt. I was too little to remember much but the snow. But other than that I grew up in LA and spent time in San Diego. I did live in Palm Springs for three years.

RL: Basically, a Southern California girl.

LB: Absolutely.

RL: So what were your parents' occupations?

LB: My mother didn't work when she was pregnant with me. She had been a secretary and she became a secretary again after my brother was out of the house. My father worked for the State, in the Department of Industrial Relations. He did wage enforcement to make sure people were being paid what they were supposed to get paid.

RL: So like an Administrative Agency job.

LB: He investigated. I remember he went to the garment district and he went to restaurants, and he went to businesses. Usually making sure the lower paid people were actually getting paid properly.

RL: And you were, it sounds like you were aware of this: whereas, many folks, even after they are children can't describe what their parents did. And I'm just wondering if it tied in with any identification that you have with peoples' rights and the underclass?

LB: Oh sure. I remember that he would talk at times, about the garment district in Los Angeles, in particular, and how people were working too many hours and not getting paid at the sweat shops, and that sort of thing. Sure.

RL: What were your parents' names?

LB: My father's name was William Subber and my mother's name was Elsa Subber.

RL: And you had just the one brother?

LB: One brother, Stephen, with a ph.

RL: And what is Stephen doing these days?

LB: He is an interventional radiologist in Denver, Colorado.

RL: What is the interventional part?

LB: He does angioplasties, that sort of thing. So he is a radiologist who also does procedures to unclog or the opposite, clog the veins and arteries and that sort of thing.

RL: So you've been in San Diego now for quite a few decades and I guess you've seen a lot of change here.

LB: 1963

RL: 1963, what part of town did you live in then?

LB: I lived in Casa de Oro which is about a mile from where I live now. Which is on the Eastern, Southeastern side of town.

RL: What was it like back then?

LB: Deserted, it was very rural. There was a brand new High School, I don't think they'd had a graduating class when I started. I think the first graduating class was 1964 or 1965. Before me. No sidewalks, just out there in the middle of nowhere. There was a little town, sort of a strip along Campo Road, which still exists. And the highlight was the Foster Freeze. Very different then downtown Los Angeles.

RL: And did you feel like you were in just being exiled or did you...

LB: In the middle of nowhere. No cable cars. Nothing.

RL: Laughs, that's funny, and that's a fine time to go to a rural area just before the urban areas were going to start with all kinds of civil unrest and the like. I guess you were kind of isolated from that.

LB: No, I'd spend the summers with my aunt in Los Angeles in Huntington Park, which is right next to Watts. I remember the Watts riots.

RL: You do.

LB: I was up there that summer staying with her.

RL: What do you remember about it?

LB: Tanks, tanks and National Guard on the street corners with machine guns. Angry people.

RL: Did you stay inside?

LB: No, we drove around like we usually did. But we stayed inside at night that's for sure.

RL: And down here in San Diego, did you pretty much stay out in the East area or did you go to downtown?

LB: I remember downtown. I'd go into the Globe and high school, which was a very big deal. So I was downtown for that. I remember going back and forth to Los Angeles to visit family on the old highway five. That I guess is really highway one. Seal Beach route is all there was, there was no highway five yet. Going through the cattle in Mission Valley, the meadows with the cows. There was no shopping centers, no buildings, no nothing.

RL: And did you just go West to the coast on streets or was the Eight there?

LB: The Eight was there but it wasn't as wide as it is now. I think it was two lanes, maybe. Going right through a dairy farm.

RL: So how has that felt, going through all that change that came around?

LB: I think it's sad, it was beautiful. The river was beautiful. It was very green with lots of trees.

RL: I'll bet. So can you think back and tell me what lead you to decide to study law in the first place?

LB: Maybe what my father did for a living was some influence. I think the way I was raised was a bigger influence. It was not an ideal household for a child. And I thought, I remember thinking I could learn to defend myself so I might as well learn to defend the rest of the world.

RL: Interesting. Did any of that have to do with your sense of what a woman could or couldn't do?

LB: I think that came later. I think my generation, or at least my environment was so steeped in Ozzie and Harriet that I thought there were limits in what women could do. I don't know that I even thought about it.

RL: But you thought that it would be natural to go to college.

LB: There was no choice.

RL: So your parents wanted you to go to college.

LB: Absolutely, with zero guidance of what to do after that.

RL: And where did you go to college?

LB: UCSD

RL: What did you major in there?

LB: Existentialist Philosophy.

RL: My dear, tell me how did that come about with no guidance?

LB: It was a great time at UCSD. It was brand new. Again there was no graduating class by the time I got there. I think that was in 1966. So first class that graduated was probably 1967 or 1968. A brand new place, very exciting except for the citizens of La Jolla who certainly didn't want poor students wandering around their city. Intellectually challenging. I took years of Philosophy with Herbert Marcuse who was there and one of my teaching assistants was Angela Davis. She was inspirational along with him to say the least.

RL: Tell me a little bit about each of them. They are pretty famous.

LB: He was an older man, even in the 1960's, very gruff and I'd never heard anybody talk like that before. I had never heard those ideals expressed before. Not that I can remember anything specifically, I was just mesmerized. I took his series of classes for a full year, my second year in college. I thought Angela Davis was certainly one of his followers, both personality wise and ideologically. Very sharp woman, very passionate and committed. With a civil rights overlay, obviously that got her into trouble later.

RL: Was there any sense of that she would be so vocal and so focal in any kind of movement?

LB: I don't think so. The campus itself was pretty volatile for the couple of years I started there, because of the Vietnam War. There were lots of protests. I remember the Marines came on campus one night, contingent with them were flags because we had protested about something. I don't know what so it was a very volatile time politically. She didn't stand out any more than a lot of people. There were classes in civil disobedience. There was a class on violence. I remember I still have the little booklet about bomb making. I don't know that anybody seriously did anything but committed, a very committed political time.

RL: So when you say classes, these were sort of ad hoc sessions?

LB: No, these were credited classes. I took Civil Disobedience for credit, along with the Wakelin class, whatever that was.

RL: Interesting that was for credit. Any participation in demonstrations?

LB: I don't remember that I did. I was probably too serious, way too serious for that.

RL: Really.

LB: I was there and I remember being, I remember, well I probably did. I know we had demonstrations all the time. I remember being infuriated by the Marines.

RL: Were you living in the area or did you go home?

LB: I lived at the dorm. It was the first two years.

RL: And then on your own off campus or did someone...

LB: No, I quit school to get married.

RL: One of us.

LB: (Laughs). Oh no, I'm sure I was dumber than just about anybody.

RL: No, you weren't.

LB: I have a category of my own.

RL: And this was someone you had met at school?

LB: No, it was my next door neighbor. We moved next to him in 1963 when we got here.

RL: I see. I see. Did you work at that time, after you quit school?

LB: Actually I got my first job my second year on campus at \$1.83 an hour. I was very proud of myself when I saved half of my paycheck. Every time I got paid, I saved half of it. It must have been, I don't know, \$5.00 a paycheck or something.

RL: This was a campus job?

LB: Campus job in Public Relations. I was the secretary.

RL: Did you stay in that job once you got married?

LB: No, I moved to Palm Springs. My husband got a job in Palm Springs, up in Indio. We moved to the desert.

RL: What type of a job did he get out there in those days?

LB: It was an Urban renewal position, which Indio desperately needed at the time.

RL: And probably still does.

LB: I'm sure it does. We moved to an apartment in Palm Springs.

RL: Did you work there?

LB: I did. I volunteered for a while. I remember Angels View something. It was a charity there I worked for. I went to school there at a college in the desert that had just wonderful classes that I took. I took pottery and weightlifting, and shorthand. It was really a good school in the middle of nowhere.

RL: Did you get college credits for those courses?

LB: I probably did. I don't remember a lot transferring. Not very much transferred back actually. Ultimately, I came back to UCSD. I did and I had to finish two full years so I don't think much transferred there.

RL: There was a few years gap in between?

LB: Three.

RL: Had a lot changed on the UCSD campus?

LB: There were more colleges. When I started there was Revelle. That's it. In the middle of a forest of eucalyptus trees. When I came back there was Muir and maybe something else. I don't remember. So there were more choices.

RL: Was Marcuse still there?

LB: I don't know. That would have been 1971-1972. I didn't take any more classes from him, so maybe not. I don't remember that he was.

RL: But you continued with Philosophy?

LB: I did and I took a Philosophy of Law class that was just spectacular. It probably brought me to USD.

RL: So that's when you think maybe you started getting the idea that you would actually apply to law school?

LB: Yes. He was spectacular. The professors there were unbelievably good.

RL: Do you remember the professor's name?

LB: I remember exactly what he looks like and his name started with an A. I'd want to say Aristotle but that's wrong.

RL: But an understandable substitution for whatever his name may have been, right?

LB: Yes.

RL: So you were single when you went back?

LB: No, I was still married.

RL: Oh, you were still married. And how soon then, after graduation did you actually apply to law school?

LB: Oh, before graduation.

RL: You did and you came to USD.

LB: It's the only place I applied to. Back then, women couldn't go anywhere their husbands didn't go.

RL: Uh huh and so that was the choice. What did you know about USD or law school? Had you visited?

LB: It was geographically accessible and that's it. That's it.

RL: Well, that parallels my library degree so. Hah, hah.

LB: Hah, hah. I feel ready to go, I was connected to a man.

RL: Yes, yes. Yes.

LB: What a thought, little did I know.

RL: Well, we've all learned a lot. Were there any lawyers in your family?

LB: No, I was the first one to go to college. I was, I think my mother did have a high school diploma and had gone to community college but I don't think, I think my dad did. But my grandparents certainly didn't have formal schooling to speak of.

RL: Were they born in the United States as well?

LB: No.

RL: Where were they born?

LB: Nobody was.

RL: Your parents, neither?

LB: My parents were.

RL: Your parents were but the grandparents were born where?

LB: My mother's parents were born in Sweden and my father's parents, it's a bit unclear. Nobody would ever give me the straight story. They were born in either Syria or Egypt.

RL: I see. Why do you think people wouldn't give you the story?

LB: I think their arrival in this country still has some mystery. They are recorded in Ellis Island as having come through. One of my uncles, the oldest uncle finally said that they had come through Boston. I know they were forced out by something that had to do with the Turks. There was a war the turn of the century or something. So my father's family fled and apparently many were killed in the process. But I'm not exactly sure what.

RL: Did you know your grandparents?

LB: I knew my mother's parents in Los Angeles. I think my father's father died before I was born and the mother shortly after I was born. There is a picture of me with her but I have no memory. They were in Philadelphia.

RL: Did your mother's parents, was there any vestige of Swedish culture in their surroundings?

LB: There was. I still have some of their furniture and many of her linens. My grandfather was a carpenter and his brother was, I guess we would call it, Finnish wood worker. He made furniture inlays and stuff like that. I still have what they made for me when I was born. And I have my grandmother's linens that she made. The spinning wheels work, I'm told.

RL: What they made when you were born, was a cradle?

LB: They made a spinning wheel.

RL: Oh, they made a spinning wheel.

LB: For all of us. Everybody in my family.

RL: Oh, I see. Interesting.

LB: I'm told it works and I'm told my grandmother made fabric that she crocheted the edges to and designs on as well. And I still have all of that.

RL: Oh, that's very interesting. It's an interesting background. You know I have to note that you are the first participant in this project who is a graduate of USD Law School. You are the first alumni that I have interviewed and so I'd like to talk, before we get into talking about teaching and the quake, I'd like to talk about life as a student at USD. So put on your law school memories, go back in time to that, and let's do some loose questioning first. Just what are some of your favorite law school memories?

LB: I have to say, compared to UCSD, there aren't many. It was an extremely difficult time for the few women that were here. We were not welcome. That was crystal clear.

RL: How did that manifest itself?

LB: A couple of the professors told us we were not welcome and we were taking up spots that would be more usefully occupied by men.

RL: Who said that?

LB: Umm, I'm trying to separate out the people who said that from the people who certainly implied it on a regular basis.

RL: Well those who implied it, can you describe the techniques that they had for implying that you were not welcome here?

LB: Condescending. They were very paternalistic. Dismissive. Sarcastic in class. We were put on the spot more than the men, I felt. In class, our answers weren't very seriously regarded as a contribution, so it was pretty clear that we were not welcomed.

RL: Did your male colleagues pick up on that?

LB: Yes, I think that some did. One of my closest friends from my section, who was a male, just died a month ago, and he would comment periodically. He's a very sensitive guy.

RL: Who was that?

LB: Bill Fletcher.

RL: I actually, that's a good answer to the question, I kind of had a different bent. I meant, I guess, do the professors influence or cause similar attitudes in your male colleagues?

LB: Oh, reaction to us? I don't remember, no, I don't remember any colleagues in my class making me feel unwelcome and I never heard from any of the other women. I think my section started with six women. If I remember correctly, and I may be off, but a chunk of them left by the end of the first year. It was just too painful.

RL: So what mates, who were the women that you can remember?

LB: Well the person I stuck closest to was Jackie Horton, who was Jackie Decker at the time. She was a Godsend.

RL: In what way?

LB: We were both in exactly the same situation. We felt very alone.

RL: Was she a local girl also?

LB: No, Jackie came from Tucson, I think, and thought every once in a while about transferring elsewhere but did graduate. She graduated the top of our class. She was the smartest by far of anybody here.

RL: And now she?

LB: She's married to Paul Horton. She went to work for Price Club, out of law school. Not anything that a dummy would have done.

RL: Right. And who else was in your class?

LB: Judy Basham. I was parried up with her a lot. I think just because of our last names. She was an older woman at the time but for me, at the time, could have meant 30.

RL: Laughs.

LB: I don't know. She had a family and she didn't survive. She just deteriorated through the year and didn't make it to the second year. She was a very difficult partner. We were paired up for Moot Court exercise in the first year and some other teamed up exercises. It was extremely difficult for her.

RL: Mostly because of what you are describing towards women. Now you talked about Jackie Horton thinking of not staying at USD so can I refer from that that you had a sense that maybe women were better received on other campuses?

LB: Oh no, her grades were so good that she was encouraged to transfer to a more highly rated school.

RL: I see.

LB: It didn't have anything to do with attitude.

RL: I see. Okay. Any other names come to mind?

LB: Well of the night students, Susan Stanford, I think was second in the class. She was first in the night division. Susan Stanford and Kathy Rosenberry were night students who survived all the way through. They probably had a different experience, just because they were night students, but maybe not.

RL: Well, they would have had many of the same professors, I would think. Do you know what they are doing now?

LB: Susan, I saw her name on a dinner that's coming up. She's being honored for something. She became a partner of Luce Forward. First female partner they ever had, I think and the first person in that law firm to do family law. She has broken down many barriers over time and done very well. Kathy Rosenberry taught at Cal Western. She was in practice for a while doing civil work but I know in recent years she's taught at Cal Western. I don't know if she is still there.

RL: And what about some of the male classmates you talked about? Bill Fletcher, who else comes to mind?

LB: Harry Elias, who is a judge in North County. He was wonderful, sort of the class clown. Thank God. Steve Denton was, with Jackie, Steve and I, sort of a trio in terms of studying. He is a judge as well. He did civil work, I think family law, if I remember, at first, and did quite well. John Little, another class clown. John Henkel, who is on our alumni board. Mike Mimi. Nothing else is coming to mind.

RL: So what do you think the size of the entering class was?

LB: Today we have over three hundred in our freshman classes. Well, we had 80 a section or so, and there were three of them. Plus the night division.

RL: So it was still pretty large, even at that time.

LB: Yes.

RL: What year did you enter?

LB: I started in 1972, in fact.

RL: So you have this feeling of it being a painful time, and does that carry over throughout the three years?

LB: Yes. Very alienating.

RL: What kept you going was?

LB: Determination.

RL: So by that time, you knew you really wanted this?

LB: I went to law school to be a criminal defense lawyer and that's what I was going to do.

RL: How about in terms of your own personal relationships? Without getting too nosy, there you are, you're part of this primary women, who are going to law school and not being welcomed. So how did people react to that?

LB: Here, at USD?

RL: Just you know, I'm talking more about family, friends?

LB: My parents were supportive. They lived in Los Angeles at the time. They had moved. My in-laws were in complete opposition, as was my husband, at the time. They did not want me to go to school.

RL: Pretty much for the standard reasons?

LB: You are supposed to stay home and have babies.

RL: So here you are doing this, and the women's movement is sort of contemporaneously. A little bit before getting under way and how did you feel in terms of connection to that? What was going on in the outside world with women entering careers?

LB: I didn't think it was helping me much. That's for sure. I think I had more trouble with day to day stuff. I remember not be able to get a credit card. I remember not being able to make a withdrawal from our joint account without my husband's signature. The big issue was a student loan. I applied for student loans every year, because I wanted to finance my own way and I couldn't do that without his signature. Even though, it was my responsibility. So the women's movement hadn't matured to the point where it was helping me any.

RL: Did you buy a house as a couple?

LB: We did.

RL: And was that a similar experience?

LB: My father-in-law chose the house we were going to buy. I didn't want to. So yes, we bought a house with a vacant lot next to it. My last two years of law school we built a duplex. And I was told that that came first, over law school.

RL: In other words, meaning the builders and...

LB: We were the builders.

RL: Oh, okay.

LB: So serving meals took priority over the law school.

RL: And what about, again, certainly you can decline to answer these, but I am interested from a social science point of view, in ownership and things like that. Was California a community property state? Were you able to have joint ownership of these?

LB: Yes, California was a community property state, although that certainly didn't mean that we had equal control.

RL: No.

LB: That's a different part of social science.

RL: Right.

LB: Yes, it was jointly owned.

RL: And I remember myself, and I am more interested in what you thought, and this is kind of a way of bouncing off that, really, if this kind of thing bothered me, I almost felt that...

LB: Society would say that there was something un-feminine or un-gentle about you. In other words, these things weren't supposed to bother me.

RL: How did you experience that?

LB: Correct. The same, I wasn't supposed to be going to school anyway, so the problem was mine.

RL: Did you feel like you were aggressive? Your femininity was in question?

LB: No.



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TAPE 1a: SIDE B

LB: I think what made me the angriest, I remember going to a savings account that had nothing to do with law school that was joint. I bought a couch and I needed \$1500.00 that was hard earned money and I needed a withdrawal on a Saturday morning, when the bank was open. I was there in person, had the passbook, and they wouldn't give it to me. It was a joint account and it was a woman teller that wouldn't give it to me. And I had to go home and get my husband.

RL: Um hum.

LB: I think that made me angrier than anything. I remember not being able to get a credit card in my name. I remember in the divorce not being able to transfer the credit cards that I had used to keep the house running to my name.

RL: I know, you had to start over.

LB: I had to start over and he got the credit rating. So that's what made me mad.

RL: Right. Right. And as all of this was going on, and you say the women's movement, therefor; wasn't doing a lot for you, but were you worried about these kinds of things that you feel had a philosophy of it swirling around, or did you just feel isolated in all of this?

LB: No, No. I remember getting married in 1968. Moving to the desert in June. Reading the "Feminine Mystique" that summer and realizing what a colossal mistake I had made. No, no. That was very present in my head. I think the one thing women's movement did for me and others like me, was at to make birth control available. So it wasn't a question of starting a family too early. There was at least a choice. That's one concrete piece that came out early on. Of course, the Supreme Court did that for us. Well no, the pill came out in the late sixties. Long before Roe.

RL: That's true. That's true. You are right. Well back to the law school, let's let women's rights simmer down for a little while, and think about other aspects of the law school. What did it look like at the time that you came?

LB: Warren Hall was, I think it was Moor Hall. There was a different name. I think it was Moor Hall. It had the three stories. The top story was the Law Library. There were two skylights. One of which must have been covered up somehow, because there were two. The library was very tiny. In comparison to the way it is today. The first floor, where the classrooms 131 and 133 are was an enormous Writs, where they made hamburgers. There wasn't the University Center so that was the only place to eat. It had a grill. I'm sure it was terrible food but it kept us alive. Where my office is now and the one o nine area was a classroom I think. For some reason I remember a class room on the first floor. Faculty offices were in completely different places then they are now.

RL: Then they are now.

LB: Yes, for the most part, then they are now. Legal Clinic had just started. So physically the same building, different configuration.

RL: And how, what were the classrooms like in student terms of physical comfort or not? Religious insignia on the walls, things like that?

LB: I think there was a cross in every classroom. I think that was an ongoing issue. Classrooms had a raised area with a podium. I remember on the second floor, they were configured differently. They faced to Marion Way. The professors stood at the Marion Way side in the classrooms in the back. There weren't any more uncomfortable than anything else at the time. They were just long tables with chairs. We were seated in alphabetical order for the most part and questions progressed in alphabetical order. So you had a pretty good idea of when you were going to be called on.

RL: I see. What about, aside from the issues that we already discussed, what about the relationship between professors and students. If it can be separated, and I don't know if it can? How approachable, I guess I'm asking were the faculty?

LB: I think, just like today, it depends on who the faculty person was. I remember going in to speak to various professors only when I had to. Which was more my problem than anything else. Given the hostile environment, I was very shy at the time. Still am. So I didn't initiate conversations if I didn't have to. But I was able to speak to people during office hours and ask whatever question. I don't remember, certainly the women didn't go in and have casual conversations with anybody that I remember. The people were approachable. I remember one member of my class going in to talk to a professor, who is still here, and coming out in tears and that certainly discouraged the rest of us.

RL: So that was a woman who went in? Do you know what transpired that caused that?

LB: No, I'm not sure. I did at the time and I remember being outraged but I don't remember.

RL: So who were your first year teachers?

LB: Bert Lazerow for Property. We spent six weeks on Pearson vs. Post, the Fox case. Frank Engfelt taught Contracts in his ice cream suit. He had a Seersucker suit.

RL: Sort of like Matlock?

LB: I think it was blue and white. I know it was the ice cream suit. I think he had a white suit too. John Roche taught Torts. Joe Darby taught Criminal Law. What else is there?

RL: Civil Procedure?

LB: Simmons. He was wonderful.

RL: Say a little bit about Professor Simmons.

LB: He still had his fight when he taught us. He was a gracious, eloquent, articulate gentleman. He was a breath of fresh air.

RL: Would you say that he was the only one that you felt that way about in the first year?

LB: He did not humiliate any of us. He treated the students with respect. He genuinely wanted us to learn. He didn't believe he had to terrify people to do that. So I remember him as the gentleman.

RL: Did you say Torts? Who taught Torts?

LB: John Roche.

RL: John Roche, uh huh.

LB: I think that was his first year of teaching Torts. If I'm not correctly. That wasn't his usual subject.

RL: I see. I see. What about later on. Which professors do you remember having classes with?

LB: I remember Queger taught Com Law. Harvey Levine taught Sentencing and Corrections. Still practicing. One of the better known practitioners in town. Lou Carreck taught Evidence. He was a fabulous teacher. I think he was my favorite. Bill Wong taught Corporations.

RL: He was a funny guy, wasn't he?

LB: He was hysterically funny and extremely knowledgeable. I don't think we realized how much we were learning.

RL: You say that Lou Carreck was your favorite.

LB: Absolutely.

RL: What was it that was so appealing about him?

LB: He was passionate. He made his subject crystal clear. He cared about the subject matter along with the students. It was clear he very much cared about us. I think he coached sports, something sports, but I'm not sure what. Very accessible to the students. So I think he wore his heart on his sleeve.

RL: Do you think that there were, as you continued beyond your first year, were there more people that were open to all the students? Did things relax a little?

LB: Yes, I think so. I think so. I remember. Yes. There was not so much a reign of terror.

RL: I've seen all kind of stories about Professor Wong. Do you remember anything of the things he used to do in class?

LB: Yes, one of his bywords was piercing the corporate veil.

RL: Oh Yes.

LB: I have never forgotten that. He would always shout that when he got to that part of his lecture. He also had his sideline, he would recommend. He had Bill Wong's list that he prepared all the time of good deals. So we didn't have computers, obviously. He would give us lists of books to read, the best ice cream. There weren't many travel options at the time, as opposed to today when his list is huge. Good deals in shopping. Sales of the week. Good clothes deals. He was always looking for deals. I remember he told us all we needed a million dollars liability insurance on our course, because we were going to be lawyers. So we needed it, I have it today, umbrella coverage. We all needed umbrella coverage and I went out and got it because he said so.

RL: And he's at Davis now?

LB: He's at Hastings.

RL: Hastings and you talked about it, today he has a blog, right?

LB: He probably has a blog. I know he had an e-mail for years that I used to get. It was just incredibly long. So yeah, he still does that. He was wonderful.

RL: Uh huh. When you came as a student, were there any women teaching?

LB: Yes, there was Sara Bellman. I don't know if Doris was teaching then, she must have, but I didn't take her. And I don't remember having Sara as a teacher either, but I remember she was here.

RL: Well she taught Tax and that wasn't your area of concentration or interest.

LB: No, I took Tax during the summer.

RL: Who taught during the summer, do you remember?

LB: It was a visitor. I don't remember. So no, I don't remember any other women.

RL: Would you say that any of these teachers were impressive enough to you or pierced the gender veil enough for you to look at them as models or mentors later on?

LB: No, I can't say that anybody did. I think I enjoyed many of them, including Bill Wong and Lou Carrick but I think the general hostility of the place compared to UCSD didn't make mentoring a possibility. I do remember the dean at the time, who was an inspiration, and that was Don Weckstein. He was wonderful. Not I didn't think he was approachable but that was probably more me than him. He was wonderful.

RL: In what way? What impressed you about him?

LB: It was clear that he cared about the students. He wanted us to have a good education and to feel good about the school. He cared that we were getting a good experience.

RL: Now, talking about women in law school, what about students who we now call of diversity and whom we used to call minority students?

LB: I don't remember anybody.

RL: So that would mean that you don't remember, not necessarily that there weren't any African American, Mexican American, Asian American?

LB: Mary Franklin is African American. I think she was in my class.

RL: No others?

LB: No, nobody else comes to mind.

RL: At some point, according to interviews with some of the older professors, the school became openly interested in increasing the diversity of the student body. And I don't remember when they said that was, but were you aware of any such program or push in any of the activities that went on?

LB: Not while I was in school. No.

RL: Then so later, when you taught, then we'll talk about that later. Did the same hold true when you were a student for the faculty? You mentioned Bill Wong, he was Asian American. Do you remember any other people of ethnic background that you could tell?

LB: No. Nobody is coming to mind.

RL: No. Okay, now, you talked about the difficulty for women and yet two women in your class graduated at the top of the class. So that leads me to believe, and it may be a non sequitur, that grading was anonymous.

LB: Absolutely. Absolutely.

RL: Laughs. Tell me a little bit about that, what the grading was like?

LB: I think it was like it is now. It was blue books. You either wrote or you brought your manual typewriter.

RL: You could bring a typewriter?

LB: Manual typewriter. Absolutely.

RL: But you had to bring your own?

LB: Yes.

RL: And did you have to go to separate rooms?

LB: I don't remember that, but we must of, those things made a huge racket.

RL: Did you need a special reason to have a typewriter?

LB: No, I brought mine.

RL: Oh, you did bring yours.

LB: Yeah. So yes it was anonymous grading. We all got a number, an exam number.

RL: Was that part of your idea on typing? That you didn't want them to see a feminine handwriting?

LB: Nope, I typed one hundred and twenty words per minute.

RL: That's right, you had been a secretary.

LB: Absolutely.

RL: And how did that go for you? How was the grading for you? Did you feel that it was fair? Did you find that your grades made sense in terms of what you felt you had learned in a particular class? I remember classes where I thought I knew a lot and the grade didn't always reflect that and vice a versa.

LB: I learned very quickly, I had to reorganize the way I thought. Having been a Philosophy major. At least at UCSD, that didn't lend itself to outlines. It let itself to schools of thought. Not the same kind of thinking that was expected here. So I had a disastrous first semester because I didn't understand the value of outlines and organization. Then my grades continuously went up until I graduated. So it was my problem. I noticed the people who came from a business

or science background, who had that structure in their heads already, were more consistent than I was. For good or bad.

RL: There was a time here where classes were supposed to start with a prayer. Was that before your time?

LB: Yes. I don't remember a prayer. I remember being taught prayer by a Priest. I'd forgotten all about that.

RL: Oh Really.

LB: I'd forgotten all about that. I think it was Father Quinn and I don't even know why I remember that. He taught prayer, which I don't think had anything to do with any code of ethics.

RL: Do you think he had a law back then?

LB: I don't know.

RL: Did you learn it, you're saying you didn't learn it in terms of a code of ethics?

LB: Not that I remember. I remember virtually nothing about that class.

RL: So you think it was perhaps moral choices? What would you do in this situation?

LB: That could be. I think it was a priest.

RL: Where was the graduation held?

LB: I didn't go. It was held here.

RL: Is that a result of just a feeling of disconnection at that time?

LB: Absolutely.

RL: What about the other women? Do you know?

LB: Jackie was here. And I don't know about the others. I don't know how many women graduated, compared to the ones who started.

RL: What was, I mean, you were a married woman so that's different, what was the social life like among the students?

LB: I'm not sure. The men certainly had their own thing. I think there were sports teams. I remember in one Property class Russ Blevins, and I don't know why I remember that name, and some of his buddies came to Property with a stripper from Pacers. That livened things up.

RL: And they got away with it?

LB: No but it was not happy.

RL: She started to do her act?

LB: No but she certainly wasn't dressed for law school class.

RL: Oh, for Heaven's sakes. Was she dressed at all?

LB: Yes. Minimally.

RL: And he threw her out?

LB: I don't know what happened. It was chaos for a while that's for sure. So I know the single men especially had their own thing.

RL: Yeah, uh huh.

LB: I don't remember socializing very much. I had a duplex to build.

RL: Yes, I understand that. I understand that. I've noticed now, in the years that I've been here, that the big social event of the year seems to be the Halloween party and there's even a rumor that, you know that there are many drinking establishments in town where USD Law School is banned because of the behavior. Was there anything like that? That you were aware of?

LB: Not that I remember. I don't think there were as many organized social events as there are now. Or if there were, I'm not aware of that. I think the focus was on studying. It was a pretty serious time.

RL: It was, uh huh.

LB: I think just, we were getting out of Vietnam so there was still a very serious political overlay.

RL: How did that, did that come up in the classrooms, or in discussions?

LB: I don't remember that it did. It was very different from UCSD. There certainly wasn't open discussion, political heat, that there was at the other campus.

RL: How much awareness did you have of the campus outside of the Law School?

LB: None. Absolutely zero.

RL: You weren't on the benefits committee then.

LB: Oh no. Oh no. I think the big deal first here was Law Review was the question and the Moot Court competitions, were the question. I think we had Legal Research and writing programs and that.

RL: I see. I see. Did you participate in either of those?

LB: We had to do Moot Court argument to get through the first year. So I had to do that. And thanks to my ex-husband I turned down Law Review because I was told I didn't have time. And that was correct. I had a duplex to build. So no, I didn't do that.

RL: I think, but you had the opportunity, you were.

LB: I did.

RL: So that's an honor, in and of itself.

LB: I suppose now it is.

RL: Well you said that the Clinic was just starting. Did the Clinic have a director yet, when you were a student? Do you know?

LB: Yes, Charlie Lynch was here. I think Alice Landon's class, I think Alice graduated in 1971, started the Legal Clinic. So Charlie Lynch was here and Rod Jones was here. If we had some more Adjuncts, I don't remember them.

RL: Did you participate as a student in the Clinic program?

LB: I did. I think I signed up for the Criminal Clinic but I don't have a memory of that. I don't know what we were doing. I know I signed up for the Civil Clinic because I was in the courthouse in Escondido for something, under Charlie's supervision.

RL: So remembering what it was that you did, you knew that had to have been a civil?

LB: It was definitely civil.

RL: Tell me, you know what, I didn't meet Charlie and I didn't know him, so what can you tell me about him?

LB: Very much a quiet, soft spoken gentleman. Gracious. He cared that we learned. He was not a firebrand by any means. Sort of the opposite of Lou Carreck. Approachable. Friendly. Knowledgeable. My sense was, I don't know if he was well known in the legal community but he was a least known enough in the areas that we were involved in as students so we were welcome in the court house.

RL: I see. So in the local legal community he was well known.

LB: Whatever it is, we were specializing in. Yes.

RL: Did you know anything about his background?

LB: No. I don't remember anything.

RL: You said that you had already made up your mind before you came to law school to focus on Criminal Law.

LB: Right.

RL: First of all, did that, obviously that is what you did focus on, but did that waver in any way? Did anyone try to discourage you from that?

LB: No, but my Labor Law teacher, I remember, tried to encourage me to do Labor Law.

RL: Who was that?

LB: He was an adjunct. His last name was Prochazka. I think he is still practicing. He has a really good class. Those were in the days when you could get more than 93 as the high grade.

RL: What was the highest grade you could get?

LB: You could get 100. There were number grades.

RL: So he must have thought that you were a good student. And I can see the connection because you're still talking about the rights of the under-served, and civil rights issues and the like.

LB: There was a connection and I did interview with a Labor Law firm as I was graduating.

RL: Were you tempted at all?

LB: I don't think it was a question of whether I was tempted, they asked if I was married and I said I was. And they asked when I planned to have children and what kind of birth control I was using. So I wasn't made an offer.

RL: There you go. Do you think, based on the answers that you gave? Or that there wouldn't have been a right answer?

LB: I think that they were clearly concerned about hiring a woman.

RL: So that would have been around what year?

LB: 1975 is when I graduated so the interviews would have been that spring or fall before then. 1974 or 1975. And I heard that comment and those questions from other places too.

RL: And I know that these are painful memories, but I want to say on the record, that I think it is important that we make a record for future generations that this was a reality.

LB: I agree with you.

RL: Because I think it gives perspective to our history. So although I know it hasn't been pleasant to recall all of this experiences. Now they are a part of something. They are officially part of something larger, so thank you for doing that. What classes would you say that you enjoyed the most in law school?

LB: Well, my two favorites, as I said, were Corporations and Evidence. I thought Corrections and Sentencing was extremely interesting and necessary, given what I wanted to do. Harley Levine taught that one. I actually liked Agency and Partnership quite a bit.

RL: Who taught that?

LB: Uh, Navine. Mike Navine. That was very interesting.

RL: What class, would you say, was the most difficult?

LB: Oh, UCC with Fellman. To this day I have no idea what that was about. My brain doesn't work that way. Something about trucking.

RL: Yes, I do believe there's trucking in there somewhere.

LB: Not a clue. Bills of lading.

RL: How competitive were the students with each other?

LB: I don't think so competitive that people weren't helping each other. I know there were shared outlines. I guess I remember some of the things I hear today about cases missing from the

books in the library. Stuff being misfiled. I don't think it was a huge deal. I think those were aberrations. I think everybody felt that it was hard work. It's hard enough.

RL: Where would you describe yourself as a student?

LB: Trying to be part of the wood work. I was painfully shy and didn't want anybody to talk to me unless it was absolutely necessary.

RL: Did you see a conflict between that and your career aspirations?

LB: It didn't occur to me. It should have but it didn't.

RL: That's not unusual. Well tell me a little bit more about the experience of being a student in the Clinic. What did it involve? What kinds of courses? What kinds of experiences? What did you do? For someone who doesn't have a clue about what students do in Clinic, what was it like then?

LB: I don't remember any classes necessarily. We certainly didn't have trial practice classes that I remember. We talked about our cases. We had round tables with our cases and they involved real people so there was a connection. Everything that I had learned up to that point didn't connect to a human being and there were finally people.



University of San Diego

Legal Research Center

CONVERSATIONS IN LEGAL EDUCATION:

ORAL HISTORIES OF THE FIRST HALF-CENTURY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO SCHOOL OF LAW

Narrator: Professor Laura Berend

Interviewer: Ruth Levor

Recorder: Ruth Levor

Date: April 19, 2006

Accession No.: OH-LRC-Berend-1B

TAPE 1B: SIDE A

RL: So, in the Clinic, as a group experience, it was a discussion of cases, feedback, critique, that kind of thing.

LB: Absolutely and it was a joint enterprise. So it was very clear that we were all part of a team. And I couldn't tell you who else took the Clinic with me, in terms of students. I just remembered Charlie and Rod Jones.

RL: So they probably, one or both of them, were your actual advisors?

LB: Right.

RL: Who you worked alongside of.

LB: Right.

RL: What cases do you remember?

LB: None. I just remember being in Escondido, scared out of my wits that I was going to have to do something.

RL: Do you remember being in front of a judge?

LB: Nope. I remember living through it, but I don't remember being in front of a judge.

RL: Living through the entire experience or you think you were in front of a judge but you had blacked out?

LB: I had to be in front of a judge. I remember coming and going but nothing about what happened in there.

RL: Was there a lot of writing? Did you do a lot of writing?

LB: In the Clinic?

RL: Yeah. Okay.

LB: No.

RL: So the focus was more on the counseling aspect?

LB: Counseling and problem solving, figuring out, we didn't do appellate work for sure. So there wasn't that. We didn't file law suits so there weren't complaints and answers and interrogatories that I remember. There may have been some simple landlord tenant things. Looking back from this perspective but I couldn't tell you.

RL: Do you remember where you went to meet clients?

LB: I don't know if I'm mixing that up with what's going on since I started teaching, up the street, somewhere I think. Or maybe they came to the Legal Clinic, so now I'm not sure.

RL: For the Law students participating in the Clinic is pivotal. They really see that as their vocational training and I know we are not supposed to say that and that is purposefully why I do say it because the students have a different point of view than the Academy, as we call it, does. So did you feel that once you got out that the Clinic program had been pivotal in preparing you for what you were to do?

LB: Exactly. Absolutely. It put the subject matters together so it was a way of getting Evidence connected to Civil Procedure. Along with whatever the Substantive Law was at the time through Charlie and Rod, so it did put things together.

RL: And Rod was different than Charlie.

LB: Absolutely the opposite. He was a firecracker. Volatile, explosive, funny. Very rarely sat down. Gestured a lot. Nothing passive about him.

RL: And you were comfortable with both?

LB: Absolutely. I thought they were both wonderful.

RL: That's great. So you graduated and tell us how you got involved in your first job and what it was.

LB: Oh, my third year I volunteered at Defender's Incorporated. It's the equivalent of the Public Defender's work here at the time. It's a private, non-profit corporation and that's where I wanted to work. Afterwards although, as I said, I was interested in enough in Labor Law to at least do an interview and I'm not exactly sure why, oh I know why, I interviewed with the city attorney because Defender's Inc. only hired one woman at a time.

RL: That was stated overtly.

LB: Oh, the boss said so. He would only hire one woman at a time and the woman slot was already occupied by Carol Fresco, who graduated a year ahead of me. She was the third woman at Defender's. Judy Keep vacated her spot for Carol and Arty Henderson vacated her spot for Judy and Arty was the first. So I didn't know if there'd be a woman spot so I ended up with the labor law firm and I ended up at the city attorney's office. I don't know why but I knew I had had some contact with the city attorney's office. Maybe a criminal case, or something but I knew who to talk to and I was told that under no circumstances were they going to hire a woman and they weren't starting with me.

RL: Who was in charge at Defender's Inc. at the time?

LB: Dan Connate, who turned out to be a wonderful man. Total chauvinist but a wonderful man.

RL: How much older do you think he was than you?

LB: He was Judy Keep's step-dad so he had to be at least in his 50's by then. He'd been a criminal defense lawyer doing homicide cases for years. Took over Defender's just shortly before I came. Fortunately for me, Carol Fresco moved to San Francisco with her then husband and opened up the woman's seat.

RL: What's the woman's seat?

LB: The woman's position at Defender's.

RL: Oh, opened up the woman's seat there. I see.

LB: So I got it.

RL: Yes you did. Yeah.

LB: Norbert Delanson was elevated to the bench and I was given his position at Defender's because Carol had left a little bit earlier so Norbert opened the staff position and because Carol was gone Stan could comfortably hire another woman. That was me.

RL: I see. I see. That was you as a staff attorney?

LB: As a staff attorney.

RL: About how many staff attorneys did they have?

LB: A dozen probably.

RL: Hmm. Where was the office located?

LB: Umm, it was probably in the old San Diego hotel that was just demolished. We moved at some point to Union Street over Stallman Bail Bonds. Where it was for a long time. So somewhere between those two.

RL: And the intake was walk-in clients?

LB: No, we were appointed to about twenty-five percent of the appointed cases in San Diego. So it was all court appointments.

RL: I see and so was the funding from the court?

LB: The funding was from the county. Part of the county bar budget.

RL: All of the defendants that you represented were indigent?

LB: Yes.

RL: Okay. And defenders so it was all criminal.

LB: It was all criminal defense and my first position was in Oceanside with Tom Hempfield, who is one of our adjuncts, and Stan Eller. We were a three person office and Tom was head of the office because he had three more months experience than either Stan or me. So Stan Conan put Tom in charge of the two of us and he gave him ten dollars in petty cash, gave him a current penal code and an out of date Martin Dale Hubble and that was our library.

RL: Ha, ha. So this office ended up, you were up in Oceanside.

LB: We were up in Oceanside.

RL: And you had to commute to Oceanside.

LB: We did. We carpoled every day.

RL: Ah huh.

LB: Traded a car every week.

RL: Um and was this kind of work looked on as low pay, high motivation type of work?

LB: Oh my God, it was a job.

RL: I understand that. I understand that.

LB: My salary was \$12,500.

RL: That wasn't bad.

LB: I got a \$500 raise over what Carol had made.

RL: Uh huh. Wow.

LB: We all made the same amount of money.

RL: Ah, you did. Okay.

LB: Starting out. \$12,500. I thought it was an incredible amount of money.

RL: Ha, ha. So what do you remember about the work there? About the cases? What kinds of things did you start doing?

LB: Oh, we did misdemeanors since none of us had a clue. Um, we couldn't do any felony work but we did a lot of misdemeanors to start out with. A lot of drunk driving because of the Marine Corp, there were lots of drunk driving, lots of drunken brawls. I remember a Samoan community up there so there were Marines versus Samoans on a regular basis. I was the only woman up there and I remember taking clothing advice from my male colleagues because there were no suits, there wasn't a professional dress standard for women back then.

RL: So what did you wear?

LB: Miniskirts. Are you kidding?

RL: You did wear miniskirts?

LB: Oh, absolutely. There were no, you couldn't buy a suit that I remember. You could buy a pant suit. Skirt and pants and many of the judges didn't allow pants in their courtrooms. So

RL: Okay. But the miniskirts wasn't looked on as being too provocative?

LB: The men thought it was great.

RL: Well, they were smart to look at your legs. Ha-ha.

LB: I did better plea bargaining than anybody else. I'll tell you that.

RL: Ha-ha. This was in the Vista court?

LB: I didn't know why for a long time. This was in Oceanside. They had a municipal court at the time.

RL: I see.

LB: Two judges.

RL: I see. Do you remember their names?

LB: Martinson was one and Charlie Stevenson was the other. I don't remember Martinson's first name. And they were right out of the old West. There were virtually no rules.

RL: Ha. It sounds like you did well.

LB: Don Martinson.

RL: So did you think that the decisions...

LB: Don. Don.

RL: Did you think that the decisions were evenly handed out?

LB: The judges?

RL: From the point of view, of your being a woman, as to compare to what a man handling the same case might have had?

LB: Well actually the three of us talked about who was going to handle what case, taking into a consideration putting me on some of the ones that needed more negotiation so we skewed the case load according to what gender was most appropriate to handle it.

RL: And they would figure in the negotiation more with regard to opposing counsel or with regard to the judge?

LB: Well the judges, the two judges, yelled at all three of us because they regarded us as obstructionists and would routinely call Stan Conan to get us the hell out of Oceanside. They wanted to shut down Defender's desperately.

RL: Uh huh. Well who would have defended these people?

LB: Private law got 75%, the other 75% of appointed cases but the judges would routinely bounce the lawyers off the appointed list if they didn't like the motions that were being brought or the result. If there was an acquittal they thought was wrong the lawyer would be off the appointed list for a while. Whatever, so it was a transitory time.

RL: And you were obstructionists from the point of view that you were strong advocates?

LB: Yes, we brought motions to suppress, we brought bail motions that were serious. We wanted people out. We wanted our clients out. We wanted evidence suppressed.

RL: And these kind of things, when you are talking about the Old West, these were just too technical?

LB: Oh my God, here we have some drugs, why shouldn't we be able to use them? What does probable cause have to do with this anyway?

RL: Did you get a lot of the well we don't do it that way here?

LB: Yes, of course.

RL: How about how you were dressed by the court?

LB: I don't remember. It was less of a problem than being in law school. I do not remember being ridiculed or harassed, even by the clients. Although that was an undercurrent, depending on the client.

RL: But you don't remember being called "honey" or anything like that?

LB: Not in Oceanside so much. Downtown that was certainly, there were some judges where that was a huge issue and I was deliberately sent into some courtrooms for exactly that reason.

RL: With the idea that ...

LB: That "honey" would work and get a good result.

RL: Oh, okay. So it was actually a ploy on the part of you and the party you were representing, that if the judges was going to be a sucker for you...

LB: Oh no. Stan Conan would do that every now and then. Or bail me out if things went haywire. He'd come help. Actually, that came up at a defense meeting last week, where Bill had a, Bill Fletcher, had a memorial service. Talking about those old days. So gender came up occasionally in a useful way for the first time.

RL: How about with the clients? Did you ever feel in personal danger?

LB: Only once and that was many years later and that was with the homicide client.

RL: Were you alone in the room with the client at the time?

LB: He was in jail the whole time. He's still in prison and he made it crystal clear that I was going to be in danger if he is ever released. And the DA's office knows that. That had nothing to do with the case. Actually that had everything to do with being a woman. He wouldn't talk to me throughout the case. And throughout the trial. I had to take a male lawyer in with me to talk to him.

RL: I see, so he was just furious that he had to accept you as his attorney?

LB: Correct.

RL: I see. Some of those things die very hard. Umm. How long were you up in Oceanside?

LB: A year.

RL: Then what?

LB: We were each transferred downtown.

RL: Were you all in the same location downtown?

LB: Um hum. Yup. So I did my year up there. I had to adjust my miniskirts and lengthen them a bit downtown. Which had a few women and the women's criminal defense bar formed because there was more than one of us so we sort of banded together in self-defense to some degree.

RL: Who were some of other members of that group?

LB: Mary Hardin, who has been honored here several times, last I heard she was in a nursing home.

RL: Oh Yes. Wasn't she the first woman graduate?

LB: I think so.

RL: Of USD Law school. I remember attending an event of the Lawyer's Club, where she was honored. When I first came here.

LB: She earned her stripes. She was a tough old lady.

RL: Do you know any of her stories?

LB: Oh I probably did back then. She just loved barking at the rest of us. She had an imperious demeanor and a harsh voice and she used it.

RL: Do you think then that she was of a type that was just less intimidated by all of this nonsense?

LB: She wasn't intimidated by anything as far as I could tell, but she had been single her entire life. I don't think she ever married. And I think there were some sacrifices that she may not have made at a different time.

RL: So she was part of this group and ...

LB: Geraldine Russell who is still doing appellate work. Glory Franco who is retired. Joey Braydon still does adoptions. Liz Meyer who has since moved to Israel. I think Terry Player came along at some point when she was doing welfare fraud cases, but she really wasn't part of the criminal bar.

RL: How did you first meet Professor Player?

LB: She came to talk to Defenders Lawyers about doing welfare fraud, because we didn't have a clue. All of a sudden there were a whole bunch of welfare fraud cases and they are all paper. They are all paper and regulations and we had nothing to do with street crimes. We didn't know what to do and she could make sense of it in short order.

RL: Was she new to the community?

LB: No. She'd worked for Legal Aid. She was there. She was the welfare fraud queen for the county.

RL: Now I know she is not a USD grad but some of these others Russell, Franco, Graden, Meyer, and Harvey. We talked about Harvey. Do you know if any of the others were USD alumni?

LB: Rose Meyer was not. Julie Graden I'm not sure. Glory Franco I think with Cal Western. Jerry Russell may have been Cal Western or Thomas Jefferson. I don't think so.

RL: Did most of them have, had they been practicing longer than you?

LB: Glory was around my time. Liz had been practicing as long as me. Jerry Russell was a year or two behind me. Contemporaries usually, I think.

RL: Well I hate to stop, but I see from the time that we will take a break.

