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Guadalupe Speaks Oral History Project

Title: An Interview with Shirley Boydstun

Interview with: Shirley Boydstun

With comments by: Marion Perales and Tom Neuman

Interviewed by: Lucia Stone, Cal Poly Student

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About the Guadalupe Speaks Project

Guadalupe Speaks is an oral history project that is part of California Stories, a multiyear initiative designed to strengthen communities and connect Californians by uncovering personal and community stories that help document multicultural communities in present day California. California Stories is funded by the California Council for the Humanities.

In 2003, the Guadalupe Speaks project began recording and transcribing oral histories of the residents of Guadalupe. The stories reflect the history and culture of the town, capturing the residents' impressions of their community. The stories represent the multicultural backgrounds of the residents including Swiss-Italian, Portuguese, Filipino, Chumash, Mexican, Chinese, and Japanese ancestry.

Situated approximately ten miles west of Santa Maria on historic Highway 1 on the border of Santa Barbara & San Luis Obispo counties, the City of Guadalupe was founded in 1843 as one of the earliest communities on the Central Coast. In 2003, the city has a population of 5,700, mixed with long-time and native residents, recent retirees from outside the county, and a large Latino population.

Guadalupe was once the principal agricultural center of northern Santa Barbara County, at one time providing one-third of all lettuce grown in California. Although it is still primarily an agricultural community, the crops have changed to include broccoli, cauliflower, carrots and other vegetables. However, Guadalupe is no longer the central distribution point for the area, and communities such as Santa Maria have surpassed it in growth by almost 2,000 percent. Guadalupe has remained at a standstill, much as it was 50 years ago, while the rest of the Central Coast has grown at an astounding pace.

Today, Guadalupe is a town poised between its past and its future. In 2003, the inaugural year of the Guadalupe Speaks project the small town is on the cusp of modernization and large-scale development. Through the Guadalupe Speaks project, the community will be able to document its history and unique, multicultural way of life.

Using the Guadalupe Speaks Oral Histories

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Guadalupe Speaks

Narrator: Shirley Boydstun

Interviewer: Lucia Stone

With Comments by: Marion Perales

Date: 05/26/03

Location: Historical Museum of Guadalupe

Stone: Tell me a little bit about what life was like growing up in Guadalupe.

Boydstun: Life growing up in Guadalupe was great fun for me. This was in the thirties and forties and all of us kids played together and did our own thing. There wasn't a lot of organized sports. We just got together and played hide and seek and kick the can. We played with all races. Nobody thought who was Japanese or Hispanic or Filipino, kids were just kids and got out and had a good time.

Stone: What was your family life like?

Boydstun: Being an only child I looked to the neighborhood for playmates. There were two cousins here and two good friends living close by. Family life was pretty quiet. My dad worked five or six days a week so that Sundays were our day to do something. It was a big event. Go to San Luis. Or a major event and go to Santa Barbara. Even Santa Maria got to be quite an event. If there was a Shirley Temple movie playing that was a big thing. Everybody got dressed up to go to the theatre.

Stone: What types of responsibilities or chores did you have?

Boydstun: Not much. Setting the table, helping with cleanup. There was the keeping of my room. There was...oh sorry. We had a dog and I was to feed the dog.

Stone: What was your house like on the inside? Your bedroom or...

Boydstun: The house - it is now seventy-eight years old - was the standard one bathroom, two bedroom, living room, kitchen - and we were unique in that we had a little built in breakfast nook.

Stone: What about your bedroom?

Boydstun: Oh, yes. A typical bedroom I'm sure ...a mess. But it was mine.

Stone: Did you have any hobbies or collections?

Boydstun: I was given piano lessons early on and I kept up with that, and hobbies? Not really.

Stone: Where was your home located in town and what was the neighborhood like?

Boydstun: My home was located right across the street from what was in my day the Guadalupe Joint Union grammar school. It's now the City Hall. With one exception, all the homes on the block have changed from my day growing up.

Stone: Why?

Boydstun: Because they were older homes, wooden homes, that were torn down and built into more modern homes.

Stone: And yours managed to stay up?

Boydstun: Yes, yes.

Stone: Where did you attend school and what was the name of your favorite subject, extra curricular activities?

Boydstun: I attended school right across the street. In fact a couple of times I was almost late since I was so close. I put it off till the last minute. In those days they actually rang the bell in the belfry, so when the first bell rang that was my clue to better get organized and get across the street. You weren't supposed to run across the street, you were supposed to go down to the corner crossing area. Favorite classes I think were history. Math was not a strong point. But history classes, I think at that time the fourth graders, I think they still do, do California history. And I remember making a wildflower book and going to the local missions and reading about the missions.

Stone: During that time, what were the primary ethnicities of the students at your school and were there any reasons for bigger numbers or smaller numbers?

Boydstun: No, we never really paid attention to that. I think that's something adults instill in kids. Kids are just kids, somebody to play with. We had all kinds of names. There was even, how it happened I don't know, an Eskimo family that lived here for a while.

Stone: What were some of the other nationalities?

Boydstun: Oh gosh, I don't know. I didn't pay attention. I guess they were Italian. I guess they were Portuguese, some Mexican names.

Stone: What was - I know you had two cousins in the area - what was your primary circle of friends growing up? Especially since you're an only child.

Boydstun: Just whomever, you know. All ages. Oh well the [inaudible], the older kids didn't want us little ones. But a combining, if you will, or a focus group was the Catholic Youth Club (CYO). And then when the nuns and Mary Knowles' sisters were brought here in the early forties they formed the Catholic Youth Club. That was a group that met together and did things. We went caroling at Christmas time. They had a little pump organ and we'd put that in the back of a truck and we went out caroling. Tried to do community projects, whatever were available.

Stone: What were some of the projects that you would do?

Boydstun: Other than the caroling we would perhaps gather canned goods for families, do projects at the church, help out in any ways the nuns could direct us.

Stone: The families that you donated the cans to - who were they?

Boydstun: I can't remember. Whoever needed something at the time?

Stone: Describe what you would consider one of your happiest childhood memories.

Boydstun: I had a horse. My uncle bought a little Indian pony that had been mistreated. It was a little Palomino. He bought that for me and I had fun riding "Papoose."

Stone: How were old when you got him and how long did you have him?

Boydstun: Oh dear. I must have been eleven or twelve probably, until I left high school.

Stone: Where did "Papoose" go?

Boydstun: I don't really know. I believe he was sold.

Stone: Describe what you would have to say is your saddest childhood memory.

Boydstun: Well I remember being devastated when my little dog died. It was a little Boston terrier with the name "Diamond" cause he had a little white diamond patch on his forehead.

Stone: How did he die?

Boydstun: I believe he was overfed. He was kind of plump.

Stone: What was your very first job ever and what were some of the duties that were entailed in your job? And if you remember, how much did you make?

Boydstun: I don't know if you could call it a job but my piano teacher suggested that, as a way for me to learn more, was to teach. So, I had, oh I don't know, three or four younger kids to whom I taught

piano lessons. And I think it was something like maybe twenty-five cents. And at the end of the prescribed time, we would hold a little recital and my mom would make cookies and punch. I think it was all girls, I don't remember any boys. But for a real paying job, I worked the candy counter at the theatre here. In forty-two or forty-three. And I have no idea what the pay was; I'm sure it wasn't great. But I thought I was really something to have a job.

Stone: I guess we'll move onto parents, we might come back to childhood later.

Boydstun: Okay.

Stone: Who was your mother and when and why did she first come to Guadalupe?

Boydstun: My mother's parents were living here, although it's a village that she was born in – Surf [?]. Which was just a stopping point for the railroad, down near Lompoc. But the family was in the valley I believe. Grandpa had a dairy at that time and they were out there. That was perhaps why she was born there. But I consider them as being Guadalupites. And my mother anyway.

Stone: So she grew up in Guadalupe?

Boydstun: Yes.

Stone: What's her name?

Boydstun: Her name is, she was, Virginia Acquistipace and became Juarez.

Stone: What type of schooling did your mom have? And where did she go to school?

Boydstun: Here in the old grammar school. I have her some of her report cards and they were quite different than what you see now. Penmanship was a subject you got a grade for, your deportment you got a grade for. Spelling, geography - she was quite proud of the fact that she a got a little inkwell because she could name more of the United States, forty-eight then, than any body else could in her class.

Stone: Who's your father and when did he first come to Guadalupe?

Boydstun: My father was George Juarez. He was born up in Pozo. I don't know when they came into Guadalupe area. Probably when he was ten or twelve. He helped his family who were doing dry ranching up in the Pozo/Santa Margarita area. He became a butcher and was well known in town here at the Pioneer Meat Company.

Stone: So, where did he go to school?

Boydstun: I really don't know. I'm guessing up in the Pozo area. None of them went beyond the eighth grade because it just wasn't feasible then.

Stone: How did your parents meet?

Boydstun: They met locally here, socially. They dated for a long time. They did not marry until my dad was back from World War I and had saved up some money. That was the thing in those days.

Stone: Your dad, you said, was a dry rancher and then became a butcher in Guadalupe, was that common for the time? Are those [inaudible] professions?

Boydstun: People did many things. They did whatever they could find work and remuneration at. Yes, I would gather that that would be an ordinary thing. Many were farmers. Some became mechanics. Many worked in the packing sheds, in agriculture. They call it agriculture now, but it was working in the fields and working in the packing sheds.

Stone: How long were your parents together before they had you? And at this time was it common to have kids?

Boydstun: Oh yes. Families, huge families, were quite common. My dad was thirty-seven, my mother was thirty-five. And I guess I was almost a surprise after those years. That's probably why also I was only one.

Stone: Because you were born in...

Boydstun: Twenty-eight.

Stone: Twenty-eight, so during that time they just kept it to one.

Boydstun: No, they weren't married until twenty-two. And you know, I have no idea. I got the impression I was rather unexpected. Or a last hope or something.

Stone: Now earlier you mentioned something about when your family got a first car. I wanted you to describe that experience again. When it was.

Boydstun: Oh golly, I can't remember. I have seen the photo albums. My mother loved to take pictures with the old brownie camera and then the bellows one. She was very good. They had a little old Model A, I guess. Or Model T. They liked to go camping quite a bit. That was the thing to do in the twenties. As far as Yosemite, mom had friends in Santa Cruz, so they may have been up in that area too.

Stone: Jumping back for a second, did your mom ever have any job or jobs that she did outside of raising you?

Boydstun: Housewife. She was an accomplished seamstress and so she sewed at home. That was a way to make a little more money in addition to raising chickens and selling eggs. She also raised canaries for a while. It was everything you could do to make a little money. Remember the era we're talking about was right about the middle of the Depression, and just barely getting out of it by thirty-five, thirty-six.

Stone: Did your parents participate in any community or religious affairs?

Boydstun: Oh my goodness, they were involved very heavily in the community. One of the major organizations then was the American Legion, and the American Legion Auxiliary, because they were rather new organizations at that time. They supported it, my dad being a Veteran. They had a great deal of activities here: fundraisers, dinners, barbeques, card parties were big.... people's birthdays and anniversaries were remembered. Always with

parties. And a great deal of it was here in this building. They were also members of the Odd Fellows and Rebeccas, that is a fraternal organization. Similar to the Masonic Lodge or the Elks now.

Stone: What about any religious affairs?

Boydstun: No, I was the one that went to church.

Stone: Did your parents ever separate?

Boydstun: No.

Stone: In that case, when did or are they both...

Boydstun: They're both deceased. Yes, yes. My dad died in 1970 at age seventy-nine. My mother died almost ten years later to the day, at age eighty-seven.

Stone: Where did they, before they passed away, where did they live and what did they...?

Boydstun: They lived in the same house that I have come back to.

Stone: Oh wow. What did they pass away from?

Boydstun: I think my dad's was heart condition. He had had a massive stroke in 1950 from which he recovered but it left him weakened. As far as I know, I was not here when my mom died; I was living in Los Angeles. She just went to bed one night and did not wake up the next morning.

Stone: She had a long life. You said your dad was a veteran. Do you know any of the details of when he served?

Boydstun: Yes, he was in World War I. He was called up in 1917. He was one of approximately twenty-two who were called out of Guadalupe. We have a record of that here. My dad was in the Quartermaster Corps. The military took advantage of his meat cutting abilities and put him in the Quartermaster Corps. He served in France. We have a wonderful diary of his band activities. They formed a band. And after the war they made tours around France. And so it's fun to read about that when you consider how many years ago that was.

Stone: How long was he gone for?

Boydstun: I guess it was two, two and a half, three years, certainly home by 1920.

Stone: Do you know where that is now? The diary.

Boydstun: Yes. I have it here on display.

Stone: Oh awesome.

[Perales and Stone talk for a moment]

Boydstun: Oh yes. I have cards and letters that he wrote to his Virgie.

Stone: What was life like when he was away? For your mom.

Boydstun: I have no idea because I wasn't here. [Laughs] They weren't even married. That was a whole different era. Yes.

[Perales and Stone talk for a moment]

Perales: The Odd Fellows and the Rebeccas, it was kind of like the Masonic...

Boydstun: It's a fraternal organization.

Perales: And the Rebeccas were the...

Boydstun: The Rebeccas were the auxiliary. That is correct. Right. Many people were in that because Catholic people could not join the Masons. This was a similar organization that also provided charity and good work to the community.

Stone: So I understand, neither of the parents were Catholic though?

Boydstun: Yes.

Stone: Only you were.

Boydstun: No, they were. Just not practicing.

Stone: Okay.

[Perales and Stone talk for a moment]

Stone: Now we'll go onto your grandparents. Who was your mother's mother? And where did she originate from?

Boydstun: My mother's mother was Carlotta Campodonico, who became Carlotta Acquistapace in the eighteen seventies. She was actually born in San Francisco where the first opera house was located. Grandpa Campodonico came down to the Guadalupe area in the 1880s I think.

Stone: So she came down to Guadalupe...

Boydstun: With the family. With her family, yes.

Stone: What language did your grandma speak?

Boydstun: English.

Stone: Did she know any other languages?

Boydstun: No, she never learned Italian. A few words, but no.

Stone: What was your grandma's professional and educational background?

Boydstun: I have no idea, I'm sure it was eighth grade and homemaker. Although she did run the early switchboard here in town. It was installed in her home. I believe it was the Home Telephone Company. Unfortunately I don't have them, but there are early records, predating Bell system. It was the "hello central give me a line" calling, where you put the plugs in the, hopefully correct, holes. To connect people.

Stone: So if they traveled down from San Francisco, where and when did your grandma Campodonico meet your grandpa Aquistapace.

Boydstun: I suppose here in town. I don't have any history of that. He was here as the dairy farmer. People had dances and socials. People paired up.

Stone: Then why did she ever leave San Francisco and come to Guadalupe?

Boydstun: Because her family brought her. She was young. Steven Campodonico's oldest daughter.

Stone: So Campodonico came down for the Mercantile,

Perales: Yes.

Stone: She met your grandfather in Guadalupe?

Perales: She was the child, right, that was her father, right.

Stone: Okay.

[Perales and Stone talk for a moment]

Stone: When did your, you said they were eighteen...

Boydstun: Eighteen eighties, yes.

Stone: He started the store, I guess?

Boydstun: Yes, my great grandfather. Actually, he was sent down from San Francisco to see why the store here was not doing so well. He eventually bought it and then after it was burned in a disastrous fire that also took the other house behind it, then it was rebuilt of brick. As were many of the stores along Guadalupe street. Then it became the Campodonico Mercantile. It was dated 1894.

Stone: What type of things did they have?

Boydstun: Oh everything. My mother worked, I forgot she did all sorts of impressed labor. As a granddaughter she was expected to work there. They had, she would say, they had everything from kid gloves to coal. And bulk goods, yardage, dry goods you name it. That's the typical mercantile for early on in the century. Sorry I had forgotten about that.

Stone: Who was your mother's father?

Boydstun: That would be John Acquistapace.

Stone: Where did he originate from and why did he [unclear]?

Boydstun: He came from Pedacina, Italy. Which was northern Italy, but not at the Swiss border. And I have no idea why he came. I guess its just "land of opportunity." He just came here.

Stone: So you're not sure why he came since the [unclear] to Guadalupe?

Boydstun: There were a great number of Italians that came to this area. We are told that this area resembled Italy a great deal and that they felt comfortable here and it's just like any immigrant group. They tend

to cluster a bit for moral and financial support, and then they branched out in their own livelihoods.

Stone: What language did your grandpa speak and did this cause him any difficulties?

Boydstun: As far as I know, he did know some Italian. Like all of them, there were a few words and when they didn't want the kids to know they would use a few of the Italian words.

Stone: What was your grandpa's professional and educational background?

Boydstun: I have no idea of the educational. As far as I know he had a dairy farm. Also ran a little store. We were very fortunate to find an old photo that shows the store. Which was where the parking lot of the Midstate Bank is now.

Stone: What was the name of it?

Boydstun: Oh the store name - J.B. Acquistapace.

Stone: What does that stand for?

Boydstun: It's John. Now we have two versions. One said it was John Bautista and one said it was John Bartolamayo. So, I'm not sure what the B is for. My cousin has his Ellis Island records, I do not.

Stone: What specific stories come to mind when you think about spending time with them?

Boydstun: Oh I loved spending time at my grandmother's. Not only did she have the switchboard, I can just vaguely remember she had a green panama parrot named Peter. And he was always great fun to talk to and listen to. She got him young enough so he would mimic voices. And she kept him in the room where she had the switchboard, so Peter would go "Hello." And there would be a pause. And then he'd jabber a bit and then there'd be another pause. And he could laugh just like her. And Peter was fun. He would also reach out and grab any clothing or cat's tails that got too close to the cage.

Stone: Are there any fond memories of when you spent time with your grandpa?

Boydstun: I didn't know my grandpa very long. It's very sad. I found him deceased in 1935. We had had our big Christmas dinner and grandpa, as was the Italian custom, wanted warm milk and bread before he went to bed. Grandma sent me in to get his dish and he was just sitting in the chair with the dish. So then I figured out that he was dead.

Stone: How old were you?

Boydstun: I was seven. So I never knew him very well. I did not know my paternal side grandfather either.

Stone: Did either your grandma Campodonico or grandpa Acquistapace play significant roles in the community here in Guadalupe?

Boydstun: Grandma Campodonico would be grandma Acquistapace because she would have been married by then. They were active. My

grandmother, on the strength of her brothers who served in World War I, became an American Legion Auxiliary member. Went through the chairs, as did my mother. Supported everything in the community. Anything that was going on that you could cook for, or bake for, or sew for.

Stone: Were either of your grandparents religious?

Boydstun: I believe they were both baptized, but did not attend any church.

[Perales and Stone talk for a moment]

Perales: What about Acquistapace, you said that he had the dairy?

Boydstun: Yes.

Perales: Do you know anything about the history? If he worked for another dairy and then was able to accumulate enough funds to...

Boydstun: I have no idea because he died so young in my life. We just never talked about it. There was apparently enough financial substance there that they could build a home and that my grandmother did not have to work. Of course she raised chickens, grew vegetables, had apple trees and that kind of stuff.

Stone: On to the other side of the family, who was your father's father, your grandpa? What was his name and where did he come from?

Boydstun: His name was Albert Juarez. And he came from what is called the Uvis area, east of Morgan Hill area. I am not sure what he did. There is a cousin on that side who has some information; she will

eventually get it to me. He somehow ended up in Pozo to do the dry farming, dry ranching. He met a lovely lady called Clara Bee who had an Englishman for a father. Her maiden name was Montoalla. I mean her families came from the Montoallas and she was a product of a Montoalla and a Bee. She was called Clara Bee and then she became Clara Juarez. Tiny little woman of about four foot eleven. With ten children. My dad's oldest sister died early on and then there were seven sisters and twin boys besides him.

Stone: Albert Juarez: what was grandpa's profession and educational background?

Boydstun: I have no idea. Probably minimal education. That was all they could do at that time. He was in later years, before he died in nineteen twenty-six, which is why I never knew him, Constable here. That would be sort of like the Sheriff. The law in town.

Stone: Why did he come to Guadalupe?

Boydstun: That's a good question. I don't have an answer for you.

Stone: I also noticed in the picture on the wall, he was working in the mercantile store? The Campodonico one?

Boydstun: Not my grandfather.

Stone: He was just there.

Perales: Yes.

Stone: As a Constable?

Perales: I think so. He was in the picture; there was a Campodonico behind the counter I think. If he was standing right where the couple other men in the middle were maybe...

Stone: Oh, I thought he worked there.

Perales: No. I think in one of the photos over there, there's an Albert Juarez.

Stone: Could be.

Perales: Yes.

Stone: Must have missed that. (To Boydstun) When and where did your grandpa meet your grandma?

Boydstun: I have no idea.

Stone: Where did your father's mother originate from?

Boydstun: I'm not sure, but somewhere up in the San Jose area.

Stone: Oh I forgot to ask, did your grandpa speak English?

Boydstun: Yes. All my family spoke English.

Stone: Did he know Spanish as well?

Boydstun: I suppose so.

Stone: Okay. Do you know why your father's mother came to the area?
Do you know what language she spoke?

Boydstun: She spoke English. Why she came to the area, I have no idea.
Perhaps there was an opportunity. Maybe the Constablenesship. I
have no idea why they came into the Guadalupe area.

Stone: What was your grandma's professional or educational background?

Boydstun: Housewife and raising kids.

Stone: Do any specific stories come to mind when spending time with her?

Boydstun: She was busy with all the kids but there were a bunch of cousins.
And we always got together with the cousins. Somewhere I have a
lovely picture of us all surrounding her.

Stone: What would be like your favorite memory of your grandma?

Boydstun: Just picnics with the cousins. Being such a large family, you know,
we just didn't always mix a lot.

Stone: Did either of your grandparents - I know you might not know your
grandpa's side. Did they play a significant role in the community?

Boydstun: Well if he were Constable, I would have to say yes I guess so. And
grandma of course, was of the era of women who stayed home and
took care of the kids and weren't out in the community. But I
remember her also being active in the American Legion Auxiliary
through my dad's service. People just always worked out. There
was no class distinction. There was really no one wealthy, if you

will. People just all worked together. Whatever was needed, whatever you could do, or whatever you could provide.

Stone: What religious affiliation did your grandparents, I guess on every side but I think you said the last ones were Catholic, but on the Juarez side?

Boydstun: I'm sure Catholic.

Stone: As well as for your grandma?

Boydstun: Yes.

Stone: And where are each, where is every grandparent buried?

Boydstun: Okay. They're all buried in the Guadalupe Cemetery. Including the great grandparents.

Stone: All together or how..?

Boydstun: No, no, in their different plots. The Campodonicos are in the huge Campodonico plot. My mother and dad are one grave away from my Acquistapace grandparents. And the spot in between is for me. And grandma and grandpa Juarez are in another plot.

Stone: How are they, so they're just separated by last name or a...

Boydstun: Well, it says "Albert Juarez" and "Clara Juarez," and "John Acquistapace," "Carlotta Acquistapace," "Virginia Juarez," "George Juarez."

[Perales and Stone talk momentarily]

Stone: Now we're going go back to you. When and why did you leave Guadalupe?

Boydstun: I left in 1945 to go to Stanford University to enter their nursing program. At that time, it was two years on the campus in Palo Alto and then three years at the hospital in San Francisco.

Stone: And, so after doing the five years of training, where did you have your profession and why did you choose nursing?

Boydstun: Why did I choose nursing? I was always interested in that. I cannot tell you why. One factor was probably Catherine Graves Cantor, who was our school nurse here. And I thought that was pretty cool. And she was a Stanford grad. And I thought her cap was pretty neat. About that was it. Stanford was one of the best baccalaureate schools, which were kind of unique at the time. Most of them were hospital schools where you only got your diploma, but the baccalaureate programs were rather unique at the time.

Stone: Did World War II influence you choosing to be a nurse at all?

Boydstun: No, but I had hoped to enter the Cadets Nursing Program because that would have been paid. And that would have made a nice break for my parents who had to pay. Many of the hospital schools, there were no charges. In fact, the students usually got a stipend. But in the baccalaureate program, you paid the university and there was no stipend. But I missed it by six months. They stopped the program before I was quite eligible.

Stone: Where did you first start practicing nursing as a profession?

Boydstun: I stayed in San Francisco at the Stanford Hospital on their psychiatric ward for a year.

Stone: And what'd you do?

Boydstun: Then I had the audacity to get married.

Stone: So when and where did you meet your husband? Where did you choose to get married?

Boydstun: I had known him in high school. He went into the Navy and I went into the nursing program. When he got out of service, or maybe one time he was stationed [in] or came to San Francisco anyhow, he looked me up and just kind of renewed friendship. And then in, let's see I graduated in fifty, and we were married in fifty-one here at the old church.

[Perales and Stone talk momentarily]

Stone: Yes, describe your wedding day here in Guadalupe. The date and also his [unclear].

Boydstun: The date was June second. We got as close as we could to my birthday. It was a bit frustrating because it was also Elks Rodeo time and some people had a commitment and could not attend. We couldn't get a photographer. We were married in the church and had a little reception at the house. It was low key. There wasn't a lot of money for fancy stuff.

Stone: I am going to jump back for a second and then come back. What was life like at Stanford being a female in college during that time? Was it common and how fun was it?

Boydstun: It was wonderful. There were very few women and a lot of men. Especially those returning from the service, taking advantage of the GI bill. It was great fun on campus then.

Stone: Was it a challenge? Or did you come across any..?

Boydstun: Yes, it was a challenge. Especially in chemistry because I had very poor instruction in high school. Our instructor was called into the service and our substitute was two pages ahead of us. It made for a really rough time. And I simply had to pass chemistry to go on.

Stone: About, if you took a wild guess, how many women were in the nursing program?

Boydstun: There were twenty-eight of us in my class.

Stone: Is that a large number?

Boydstun: Not in today's times.

Stone: For then.

Boydstun: For then? No, most of the classes stayed around that area. When we have reunions, we find that most of the classes were in that size. It was a manageable size. And we weren't expected to be staffing the hospital, which so often happened in the hospital

nursing programs. We were there to learn. I think the ultimate role was to prepare administrative people.

[Perales and Stone talk momentarily]

Perales: And you said after you finished you worked in San Francisco...

Boydstun: Yes, stayed in the hospital where I had finished, completed training.

Perales: What was the hospital like? And, I guess, describe the your situation or experience?

Boydstun: It was the old hospital. It was Cooper Union. I lived in the nurses' dorm, which was neat. And had the same room after I had graduated. We could live there for I think thirty dollars a month. And my pay, because I worked the night shift, I think it was two hundred and fifty dollars a month. We could buy meals in the cafeteria or cook in the little kitchen they had.

Stone: Okay, now back to married. You got married June second 1951. You were living in San Francisco at the time.

Boydstun: No, down here.

Stone: You moved down here after that?

Boydstun: Yes. Ah, no, we moved to Los Angeles.

Stone: Okay, so from the time of San Francisco when you met him.

Boydstun: Actually I met him in high school, so that was here.

Stone: You met him in high school and he returned and found you in San Francisco.

Boydstun: Well, then we would meet here because I would come home frequently. And...

Stone: So he didn't locate you in San Francisco?

Boydstun: Yes, but that was just perhaps on weekend leave or if he was up in there.

Stone: What made you go to, I guess the next stop was LA?

Boydstun: Oh, then he got a job in electronics, which was the budding industry of the time. And he had been in radar and submarines, radar and sonar, so it was ideal to go into that field. And he had also used his GI Bill for television and more electronic training.

Stone: Did you continue nursing there or ..?

Boydstun: Yes, I did.

Stone: When and where did you decide to have kids, or have kids?

Boydstun: They just appeared. [Laughs] 1953, 1955, 1956.

Stone: What inspired you to start a family? And to make it be not one child?

Boydstun: That's just what families were. He had three, two brothers and we just wanted a family.

Stone: How long had you already been in the LA area before you started a family?

Boydstun: I guess it was a couple of years. Fifty-one, fifty. Our oldest one was born in fifty-three, so that would have been down there a couple years.

Stone: How long did you stay in Los Angeles with your children until coming back to Guadalupe?

Boydstun: I came back to Guadalupe in 1993. So that was [pause] forty-two years, I told you math wasn't my strong point.

Stone: Why did you come back to Guadalupe and where was your husband at this time?

Boydstun: We were divorced in 1974. The kids were all finishing college or on their own, and so I had a wonderful job but when sixty-five came, I was ready to get out of the Los Angeles area and the home was here. I had kept it when my mother died. And this is a wonderful little community. So, I said "I'm going to try back here." Could always move on if I didn't like it. But it's been ten years now, or will be very shortly.

Stone: What was the good job you had in LA? And what year was it you said [unclear]?

Boydstun: I came back in 1993. In 1979 I joined Warsaw Insurance Company as their health consultant. The position required a baccalaureate in nursing with probably five years at least of experience. And in the interim before joining them, I had the opportunity to get my Masters at New York University in the field of safety and health. So it was an ideal job.

Stone: So I know that you went to Los Angeles in 1951. You started a family. You got a divorce in 1974. By this time your kids were grown and out of the house. So, from there, I guess as a single parent, you got a job with...

Boydstun: Actually I had been working since the youngest one was nine. There was a bad recession time in there and my husband lost his job. So, I was working.

Perales: So was it in the nineteen sixties about?

[Boydstun: [Pause] Yes, somewhere in there. I started part-time or weekends.

Stone: Doing what?

Boydstun: I went back in a convalescent home setting. I figured I couldn't do too much damage there. It wouldn't be like ICU or something. In fact, I hated the hospital. I always wanted to do home visiting and home care, semi-teaching. I mean not formal teaching but sort of one-on-one teaching.

Stone: And at what point did you decide to go back to school and get your Master's? And what was that like?

Boydston: It was interesting. It was the OSH Act, or the Occupational Safety and Health Act, was passed in 1970, to be implemented by 1972. And all of the sudden they discover they had nobody to administer, well not administer, but to enforce it. And so the government created programs...They discovered they did not have people with background to implement that. It was to work in industry, looking to protect the safety and health of workers. So, they recruited physicians, industrial hygienists and nurses to enter a Master's program to focus on this. The first program was at Chapel Hill North Carolina in 1973 or 4. And I was not ready to do anything then. It was later brought into New York University. And I was, you know, looking for something to do and my kids supported me. And so I went to New York for the year. That was a concentrated Master's program with a thesis. And so that was a great year. I told them I would not be coming home at Christmas time because I might not go back. That was kind of a shock when you're, fifty... almost fifty, forty-nine, to go back to school and to suddenly have a roommate. And you know studying again. Oh, I brought a sieve for a brain. It was very hard to get back in that mode, but it was great fun. It was an evening program basically, because we had people who were working and could only come to evening classes. And so if you concentrated on getting your work done, you had either the morning or afternoon to tour New York and do fun things. Which I did. I walked a great deal because there was no extra money. It was great fun. Learned to ride the subway. Saw my first real snow. And after a week, I was sick of it.

Stone: What would be your happiest memory while in New York?

Boydstun: Meeting some really neat people. A couple of whom I am still in touch with. And just the opportunity. I mean, you're talking Guadalupe girl living in New York for a year. Well it was great fun.

Stone: How did this make your children feel?

Boydstun: They were supportive. That was a chance for mom to go do something. And they were all quite able to manage themselves. It was only for a year. Can handle most anything for a year.

Stone: So when did you graduate and what did you do following that?

Boydstun: I graduated in 1977 and came back, just knew that every industry would be knocking at my door. Well, I sent out some [pause] twenty or more resumes. The program was still pretty new and there weren't a lot of job openings in the LA area. But eventually I got on with a company in Burbank, where I was living. And it just went from there. I was very active in the professional organization for occupational health nurses and that opened many doors too. To travel and presenting to even international travel. That was a good time.

Stone: What did you do between the period of working at Warsaw Insurance Company, 1979 up until the point of deciding to come back to Guadalupe in 1992? What went on up until the point you decided to leave?

Boydstun: Doing my job and getting more education and getting increasing responsibilities. Doing the best I could for them. That was almost fifteen years. And then when sixty-five was on the horizon, I knew I wanted to get out of driving so much. My territory was anywhere

from Bakersfield through the state of Arizona. Just driving daily in Los Angeles was terrible then, think what it is now. More than happy to leave the area.

Stone: So when you came back after so many years gone from Guadalupe, what was like the biggest change that you noticed from before till present 1993?

Boydstun: It was not knowing very many people because in that forty year time some had died, some had moved, my memory had gotten dim. Any time anybody said anything, I'd have to say, "Remember I have been gone forty years, bring me up to date." Of course the town had changed quite a bit. It wasn't the nice little tight knit community that I remember. There were so many new people that it took awhile getting acquainted. I joined the American Association of University Women because they seem to have good outreach programs and educational programs. It was a chance to get integrated back into the community through the various organizations that were represented within the group.

Stone: How did you notice or what changes did you see amongst the minority make-up of the town in Guadalupe?

Boydstun: No, because those in my era and those a little bit older had died off. People were not terribly conscious of what their ethnic background was, they were just Americans living in Guadalupe.

Stone: So, was there much if a change or...

Boydstun: There were more people, Hispanic names. And in my time, you didn't have so many of the Italian people or the Swiss-Italian.

Some of the names of course stayed because of the male name line. There had been intermarriages. But basically that was it.

Stone: Were there any changes in the Japanese population or Asian population?

Boydstun: There were less Japanese because quite a number of them either died or went in camp or when they were released, decided not to come back. It's sad to say but many of the townspeople took advantage of their being moved away here. There was nothing too much for them to come back to. The stronger ones could fight for their lands, such as Mr. Aratani. He had the contacts and eventually the money, the government finally released his money, so that he could come back and get his lands. But then the conditions were not right and he went on to become the developer of Mikasa china and Kenwood electronics. Which served him very well. He still retains ties with the Japanese community and some of the Caucasian community here.

Stone: Did you notice any changes between the crime rate of Guadalupe when you left to when you returned? I didn't know because you also said you were on the police...

Boydstun: Oh that's also volunteer with the police department, yes. That's going on ten years too. I suppose there was crime. I didn't pay attention to it. The biggest thing was a Saturday night drunk. They ended up in our little jail, which the historical society has restored or refurbished – no, restored. The right term. We have it open for visitors now so they can see what an old jail was. I am sure there were things. Occasionally, there would be a stabbing. That was probably some of the Hispanic and/or Filipino, they seem to resort

to knives for settling arguments. The Zoot Suiters were around. I mean you heard about it. Didn't pay much attention to it.

Stone: Did you ever see Zoot Suiters in Guadalupe?

Boydstun: Actually we equated them with Santa Maria, the so-called "Tagger Town."

Stone: "Tagger town?"

Boydstun: Oh, around the depot area, West Main, yes.

Stone: Coming back did you notice any big changes in the economy of Guadalupe?

Boydstun: Probably people had more money than when I left in the forties because things were just starting to perk up again after the war. With the influx of military who had been stationed at Camp Cook, which is now Vandenberg, or Camp San Luis, who liked the area or married local ladies. They brought different skills. Of course industry changed. Ag is still big but then there was some industry. People were more mobile. If you had a car back pre-war or in the very early forties, you were kind of unique. Not everybody had cars. But with the greater mobility afforded after the war, the town changed as I guess every community in the state or in the nation for that matter.

Stone: Did you notice any difference in, now I know Guadalupe has had brothels, but when did those brothels end or stop running?

Boydstun: I have no idea.

Stone: Were they there when you grew up?

Boydstun: I have no idea. And I, you know, have always heard this said. I have no knowledge of it and I am sure prostitution, being the oldest profession, was in every town, every community.

Stone: In your opinion, historically for the town of Guadalupe what event or time period has had the greatest impact on the town itself?

Boydstun: Probably when there were more people willing to be involved in the town and entrepreneurship. In the forties we had two or three dress shops, beauty salons, automobile agency, two or three gas stations, several grocery stores some of which were ethnic either Filipino or Japanese. That is the area I remember. Coming back it seems to be more and more Ag dependent, which provides work, but not, how can I phrase it, not entrepreneurship and the cohesiveness of the town. I don't see the field people being involved in many things in town or in the community or in politics.

Stone: Why do you think that is?

Boydstun: I don't know. I don't know whether it's what they have been exposed to in the country they came from, that they perhaps do not trust people who are involved in the city. I'm sure the language has a great deal to do with it. But several organizations and Hancock have been very involved in trying to offer programs to learn the language so that they can be more involved in the town and feel more ownership and perhaps even some pride in the town.

Stone: Do you think that maybe the conditions of the job itself, like the time constraints, the pay and so on, influence the participation in the community? I mean the minimal pay, so maybe they can't afford to go on as many vacations or what not, plus the long hours so that maybe less time is spent at home with the family.

Boydstun: I don't know how vacations fit in there. Almost everything comes to a halt at Christmas and they used to all go back to Mexico in Christmas time. So there is the opportunity for travel. I don't follow your question on vacations.

Stone: I was saying that I know that labor in the fields has long hours during the day and you were saying earlier in the pre-interview that there's a small bunch of fifty or so people that are communally involved – or have the time to. I know you were saying one of the reasons that some people don't participate as much is because few free hours of the day are with the family versus the community.

Boydstun: Well, try to put on evening programs too and Sundays, but it's just maybe something they're not as used to as perhaps other groups are. But it would be nice to see more involvement.

Stone: What would you say influenced the change from entrepreneurship to Guadalupe being agriculturally dependant?

Boydstun: Perhaps the old story "How can you keep em down in the farm after they have seen Paris?" I believe that the second world war and the people who had opportunity, [laughs] people who had opportunity, who were directed to go to different areas in different countries, gave them a chance to see how other people lived. And the scramble for money to be able to do these things, along with our

intense industrializations; the greater ability to have cars to be mobile; women getting into the work force which was a little bit unheard of in my day except occasionally for some woman who had no other means of support than to work either in the fields or the packing sheds. I think that enticed many out of the area and so then field work agriculture was the mainstay of the town. So many businesses moved to Santa Maria. They pulled ahead with industry, with job opportunities. Many people who were able to get a little nest egg here moved on either to Santa Maria or other areas. Then it was basically your farming operations and the support operations here with the focus on meeting bare needs. You know a barbershop, a few restaurants, a couple of little stores, had a dress shop and that finally fizzled. There's just the incentive to, now that they're able to, shop elsewhere. That has hurt the town badly. We do not have the sales tax income or the industry for a tax base. There is just very little that the town can really offer to entice industry to come into the area. It's solely lacking. We need jobs for the people here. They're looking to the city council... the movers and shakers, are looking for industry, tourism, rather not industry tourism but Ag tourism to entice people into the area here. It's going to be difficult because we don't offer any kind of overnight accommodations. We don't even have an RV park, which many of us have been touting for a long time. Get people to stay. They come through, spend a couple of hours, eat somewhere and move on. There's a lot that they could see in the city, and many of them expressed that, coming here after the Dunes Center, gone out on the walks, come in here and looked around the town. But if they don't stay we're not capturing those dollars, which are sorely needed to help this town build again.

Stone: Moving back a little on the transition from entrepreneurship to Ag dependency, you mentioned that the second world war effected the community a lot, so I was wondering if I could ask you some questions revolving around that time period and some of that [unclear]?

Boydstun: I'll give you what I can. You know the war started in forty-one. The Japanese people were moved out in forty-two and that's when they started bringing in the Mexican farm workers under an organized program. You know after that I was gone and didn't pay that much attention to the town.

Stone: Prior to the war, how did the Depression affect you and your family? Did you ration or...

Boydstun: I never knew there was a problem. My folks did not dwell on that. I thought everybody had soup twice a day. My dad was the butcher and he was allowed to bring home bones and luckily hamburger, which they thought was scrap to throw away. But you know, we paid dearly for it. Always everybody had vegetable gardens, everybody shared. You could actually go out into the vegetable fields and if you took a head of lettuce from the edge row, nobody said a word. Many times after a first picking, they would open the field and people were allowed to go and take the vegetables. I didn't know we were poor. My mother being a seamstress would make all of our clothing.

Stone: How did the Depression affect Guadalupe as a whole? [unclear]

Boydstun: Well I can't say because I was growing up at that time. So it would not be a change for me, it would be ordinary. Like I said,

everybody pulled together. If somebody was really destitute, people gave what they could. I can remember going with the American Legion Auxiliary ladies, taking food stuff that they collected to families. It wasn't a government program, it was all private charity. And we would take things to the people that had very little.

[Perales and Stone talk momentarily]

Stone: Do you ever remember your parents or people in the community conserving either rubber or tin?

Boydstun: You didn't drive unnecessarily. Part of that was of course the gas rationing. And yes I think I can remember the foil for chewing gum wrappers. I think we saved grease. I don't know. To me it was just an ordinary way of life. I didn't equate with anything else; nothing to compare it to. We were of the era when you used everything three times until it thoroughly wore out.

Stone: What do you remember about Pearl Harbor? Where were you when it happened and how did it affect you?

Boydstun: It was a Sunday here and it was just an ordinary Sunday afternoon for me. We did have a radio, we didn't play it very much...in the evening I guess. My cousin had heard it on the radio and she came pedaling over on her bicycle. And I don't know if we turned on the radio or just more word of mouth as people got the news. It was quite startling. I didn't know what to make of it. It just seemed totally unexpected. It was unexpected for a great many people. At first, I guess there were some backlashes at the Japanese people here, but it was hard to equate something. Locally, nobody had

committed any acts of anything and indeed many of the Japanese were well thought of in the community. But I guess as the war went on then the feelings changed somewhat. Of course with the executive order to move them out, it was hard for some people. They had been good neighbors, good citizens for a long time and many people felt very badly they had to give up everything and move out.

Stone: What were feelings toward Japanese just after Pearl Harbor incident?

Boydstun: I could not equate them with the local people. These were the kids I grew up with, played with, went to school with, I just could not equate the local people with the Empire of Japan. Unfortunately many of them couldn't either.

Stone: What did you remember about the 1945 bomb drop on Hiroshima? When and where were you and how did it affect you?

Boydstun: I guess I was in San Francisco. By that time, I don't remember which month that was. But after June of forty-five I was in San Francisco, or actually in Palo Alto at the university.

Stone: How did you hear about it? And what was your reaction?

Boydstun: I guess I heard it either in the newspaper or the news. I didn't think any of us had any idea of the intensity of it. You think in terms of a bomb, and we'd seen bombs. You know, a crater but nothing of the intensity of the Hiroshima or Nagasaki devastation.

Stone: Where were you when the executive decision was made to go through with Japanese Internment Camps? And how did that affect you personally since it was people from Guadalupe that had to go?

Boydstun: Well, it was very sad to lose one's friends for what seemed like they had done nothing. Why move these people out? They were people we'd played with, worked with, interacted with. It just didn't seem to make a lot of sense.

Stone: Were there any friends or neighbors that remember that...

Boydstun: Yes. We used to write to many of them when they got settled and they were permitted to write. Oh, a couple of the families I remember writing to.

Stone: Where did they go? And what kinds of things did they describe to you in their letters?

Boydstun: Oh gosh, you're asking fifty-five year old questions, woman! They, the Japanese people, are not complainers. They made the best of what they could. And in fact, if one would read stories from the camps, they were in pretty sad conditions. I am ashamed of what the government put them through. They did the best they could with what they had. And in fact, as soon as they could, planted gardens. On one of the Huell Houser programs, he went up to Manzanar and some of the people who had been there, met him there. And they told how they made rock gardens, whatever they could for the natural beauty that was part of their lives. And they coped as best they could.

Stone: What was Guadalupe's communal response towards World War II, for example how did it treat the people who had to leave to go serve? And how did that make you feel? And did you have black-out drills?

Boydstun: Oh yes, yes. My dad and mother took turns being wardens watching for the enemy airplane that never came. Yes. And you had black-out lights on the cars. You were to draw your drapes at night, report anything suspicious, I had another part for your question there and I had forgotten now.

Stone: People who served.

Boydstun: Many of them were very eager to serve. Some tried to get in and were deferred because they were dairy farmers or ag, and it was important for them to feed the troops. So many of them were deferred. Few actively sought deferment. And sometimes they got razzing from the people. The ones that were legitimately classified to stay for deferment had nothing they could do about it. And they were to stay. And so I'm sure it made some hassle. I remember they organized dances and programs, trying to keep the soldiers from coming into town, and to the bars, into trouble. We would go to Camp Cook. I can remember playing the piano for some program out there. I also did a radio program out of KVEC in San Luis. Went sometimes to Camp San Luis for dances. Here the ladies in town, on Sunday afternoons, would bake cakes and cookies with what they could scrounge up from the ration items and the soldiers were free to use this as sort of a USO. It was just people doing what they could.

Perales: What was the radio program?

Boydstun: It was through the American Legion. And I am trying to remember when KSBY was talking about - they were originally KVEC TV and that brought that back to mind. We did a series of programs for the family oriented. I remember I was one of the children, or you had your script to read. And that was great fun. Perhaps it ended with buying war bonds.

Perales: I want to know, again back to the nineteen forties, we talked a little about just what the downtown looked like and how there was a dealership and different kinds of businesses. If you walked outside, we are not going to, and you looked down on the main street, could you describe kind of what it looked like in the forties? And where would you see the dealership and if you were walking?

Boydstun: Yes the sights are still there, they've changed. Many of the buildings at that time were wooden and they have been replaced. The original bank was the Bank of Guadalupe, which is across the street in the now Jalisco Pool Hall. Then the Security Pacific Bank is where the parking lot for Midstate Bank is now. Next to that was a drug store. Next was the men's clothing. Then there was a ladies dress shop, that was a wooden store, which would be I think where there's a little commercial business in there. I also remember the California Bakery. That was neat. It smelled (of) bread baking all around. In those days you got a large loaf for eleven cents or a small loaf for nine cents. Grandma would send me up with a dime to buy her a small loaf of bread and I could have the penny. I promptly went across the street to the variety store where they had penny candies. It would take at least ten minutes to decide which was my best bargain for the penny. Probably driving the store owner crazy. Things like that were fun. Can see

where the jobs were and that was probably the fallout of the depression - where people who had a talent, had an act, set up a store. The community was able to support them enough to keep them in business. But things did change. It would be interesting sometime if we could see how the town would be had there not been the disruption of the war. I have no idea to try and speculate, but you never know.

Stone: What aspects of Guadalupe, the community do you consider strong and what aspects do you consider weak?

Boydstun: Now you're speaking in terms of the economy of the town? The townspeople?

Stone: Whatever comes to mind. Kind of all encompassing. Whatever you feel, whether it be in the people, in the structure, the politics, the economy; whatever you feel, are Guadalupe's stronger points.

Boydstun: Stronger points are probably the binding of a core of people, a cadre of people, who do want to make this a better town. For example, the Historical Society struggled for a long time. A lot of fundraising, a lot of work to be able to place the museum here. And the reason this building became available was because there was another group of people who wanted the library to be more useful to the community. So by forming the Friends of the Library and getting some grants, we were able to move the library into larger quarters and add substantially to the reading material. There is a core of people that support any town efforts: the Christmas parade, the Fourth of July things, the organizations support in whatever ways they can. It's still going, it's tough going, but it's ongoing. Our downside is that we do not have an industry here.

We have nothing to alleviate our ten or eleven percent unemployment. And that does not auger well for the town, doesn't move the people into being stronger citizens. They've got to have jobs to feel some self-esteem so that they can move on, off their, be entrepreneurs themselves. Or be able to buy, to strengthen the community.

Stone: For what reasons are you so involved in Guadalupe? Aside from it being your hometown, why do you take part in the community as a whole?

Boydstun: It was my whole persona growing up. I was involved in everything in town, through my folks. Today I was selling poppies at the cemetery and I had done that since age seven. That was the thing to do. You were involved in everything. When they had dinners here, my cousins and I and everybody else able bodied, young people were expected to pitch in and serve, cleanup, be respectful but help in whichever way you were asked. It was all for the betterment of the community. It came naturally to me. More along the lines of that communal thinking rather than just individual.

Stone: Absolutely. In your lifetime, what would you say you're most proud of?

Boydstun: Oh, my family.

Stone: Why?

Boydstun: Why? Well, because they are all very good citizens. They are all substantial citizens and have done well in life.

Stone: Could you go through their names and marriage status and if they have kids? And what they do.

Boydstun: The oldest one does not have a family. Her first husband was in Vietnam and he decided he didn't want children after he was in Vietnam. I think that that helped in the break-up. She was single for quite awhile, and then she married a man who has three children. She has since become a step-grandma, if there is such a thing, so she's delighting in those, although they are not her biological children. The second daughter is the one that is out of the area here. She has been in banking for a long, long time, gosh I guess soon will have twenty years in banking. My son took a little time to find himself, but did, and found a very nice wife. The second daughter is also married. He is now working in - it's hard for me to describe it. They make parts to repair aircrafts. I'm not quite sure what all that means. They do have to market parts. The youngest daughter has my two grandchildren. She is also married and very active in PTA. She was [active] all through school, did some girl scout work too I guess. I did too when the girls were small. I just have the one that 's close, here.

Stone: The oldest?

Boydstun: The oldest, yes.

Stone: What would you like to see Guadalupe develop into?

Boydstun: I would like to see it develop into a thriving town with some industry, where people can be employed. That can participate more in the community. I dearly would like to see it more cohesive, like it once was. Maybe that's my pipe dream because people change, times

change, aspirations and what people think is the thing to do is different. Each one should do the best in what they can do, what they enjoy, and yet still give back to the community in some way. Because we are a community whether we like it or not.

Stone: I know you mentioned some things such as you didn't want to have to turn to the valley during the pre-interview? I was wondering what valley?

Boydstun: I don't know. I don't remember.

Stone: Okay. You also said you'd like to see the Old Central Hotel be rebuilt?

Boydstun: This one across the street, yes. That would be nice if it could be used. It's sad to see unused empty buildings sitting here. There have been two or three valuable plans for it, after the explosion damaged it. One was to be a senior citizens residence for older citizens, low-income. And that was a beautiful plan that the follow developed but could not get government funding for. A later plan was to make it a research laboratory for the Dunes Center, and use the hotel rooms for dormitories for their researchers. I don't know if any of that will come to fruition or if there would be a huge expense because of the damage done to it and because it's unreinforced masonry.

Stone: Do you think there's a possibility, or a realistic opportunity to improve the community participation and bring in the industry that employs those ten percent?

Boydstun: I would like to think so. Of course it would have to be clean industry. But there hasn't been the savvy help we need to bring in industry. Some people have come and looked and have been turned away from the community. Yes, you know, I don't know why we couldn't have a fulfillment house that would take moderately skilled people. One of those where you take catalog orders . Big warehousing where they pull orders. That would be clean industry. It would not take brain surgeons but people could be gainfully employed. There are more and more computer and technology skilled people. I don't know why something like that couldn't come in. One thing we need to do is spruce up the town more. Get overnight accommodations and I believe that would attract more or a company to start here. I think it would follow. It's getting that first foot in the door so that others would follow and bring industry into the town. We have just a little bit of space left in the downtown area. I understand that the two hundred and twelve acre annexation may be developed, but the plans I hear are going all towards homes. We don't need more bedroom communities. We need to be able to employ people. Because we know in bedroom communities people do not add to the community beyond the initial developer fees. It's all outgo because you've got to give them the services, at least fire and the utilities and other services.

Stone: Do you think that Guadalupe was a good place to grow up during those times?

Boydstun: Oh it was a wonderful place to grow up. You were free to go anywhere. Even, I can remember growing up people didn't even lock their doors. Well, unless you were gone for a while, then the neighbor looked after the place. If somebody needed to borrow something and you weren't home, they probably felt comfortable

getting it, using it and bringing back. It was great. We used to ride our bikes all over. Pack a little lunch and go riding out to the beach. or just riding around the area. People also took an interest. If something happened, God forbid you were hurt, they knew to call your parents right away. If you did something wrong, they also called your parents who knew it before your got home, and you felt the consequences. But that's what I meant by community. People weren't intrusive, but they were caring.

Stone: And do you feel that Guadalupe still is a good place to grow up? Why or why not?

Boydstun: Ah dear. There are rather limited opportunities here. There is no organized, other than basketball, sports. And I don't think that accommodates girls. I guess they do have a girls basketball group. The fact that they are bussed, of course we were too, into Santa Maria for high school. And that was something I remember now, bringing that up, because we were bussed in. It was during the war and when the bus left at three fifteen, you jolly-well better be on that bus, or you had to walk home or try to hitch a ride. So we didn't have the after high school stuff that later kids had, for the socialization. We were pretty much limited locally here. Maybe that's one reason that we did act in concert so much in town because we were what we had.

Stone: And so for today it's still a limited opportunity?

Boydstun: Yes, I guess it would be. It all focuses on getting adults involved in organizing things. We do finally have, I think, one or two girl scout troops. That's basically it for organized programs. The fact that so many woman are working outside the home, does limit that. In my

day the women were almost all home. There were some that felt the need to work and so they weren't at home but they perhaps helped out with other things where they could. If it was a bake sale, they could bake and the child could have it to bring it to whatever was needed. But it's a different era. I don't know.

Stone: I have some off-based questions. Do you still go by the full name Juarez-Boydstun?

Boydstun: No.

Stone: Because I was researching you and I saw in an article that that was the name they gave you. So I was wondering why you went from that to just Boydstun?

Boydstun: Well, Boydstun's my married name. Why would I change it back?

Stone: It just appeared that way in an article, like a hyphenated last name.

Boydstun: I don't hyphenate.

Stone: I think they just did it on their own.

Boydstun: Oh yes. They could have. I don't use Juarez. For the Guadalupe Speaks Project, I did put it in. I suppose if you asked Emily Post that's what a divorced woman was supposed to do; use her maiden name and her married name. But no, Shirley Boydstun is enough to write out.

Perales: Can I ask you a question about the school?

Boydstun: Sure.

Perales: You said that you were bussed out to Santa Maria high school from Guadalupe and now, what would your insight be to the students that go to Righetti? Does that make a difference you think? In terms of connecting to Santa Maria campus and community versus those that we leave here and go to the community of Orcutt and you know, become part of Righetti. Do you have any insight to that?

Boydstun: No, I don't. I believe they are still Guadalupians who just happen to go to school at Righetti. Some friendships may be formed. And of course they're more mobile now. Back in the forties, that was it. We could not really make much in the way of friendships. For my prom I had to stay with my piano teacher or just a friend of my mom's. I had to stay in town that afternoon and evening to be able to go to the prom, because the guys just didn't have cars and gas. Now they run around all over.