

S: This is Jim Sleeper and I am having a conversation with Arthur J. McFadden on November 1, 1967. We are talking about the old hotels and the boom days of the 1880s.

You know they had a newspaper there. That old Fairview Register. That went for about a year and they had a guy there, some boxer that used to work out at Fairview. Battling Nelson or something like that.

M: I don't remember that name. Of course, I was only seven years old in 1888, but I can remember this damn boom pretty plain. I can remember them running an excursion train down to Los Angeles and selling lots about a mile this side of Main Street and south of McFadden Street for \$1,000 apiece. That's as much as they'd bring there right now, I guess. They didn't have any hot springs, but they had artesian wells. There was a place right this side of Fairview, just east of Fairview that had a blue gum grove along the main Newport Road in front of it. It had an artesian well in it that was warm water. We used to stop and water our horses when we'd be going back and forth to Newport.

S: Oh, is that right?

M: It had been there many years before the boom. Must have been started in the early 1870s.

S: Yes. I'll be darned. Now, which one of your uncles was it that was in the lumber business?

M: Uncle James. He and my father were the two brothers that were in the lumber business.

S: Right.

M: My father's name was Robert.

S: I imagine there were a lot of unpaid lumber bills.

M: You bet! They built those hotels and couldn't help themselves.

S: Yes. I have a picture of the old Tustin Hotel over here. I'll show it to you.

M: I can shut my eyes and see a picture of it.

- S: Is that right? Well, these are kind of old drawings, but let's see. Here is one hotel. That's old Goff's down there at Arch Beach.
- M: Yes.
- S: Here's the old Rossmoor down there. It started out as the Brunswick [Hotel], you know, on Sycamore [in Santa Ana].
- M: I raided a bar in there when I was practicing law in Santa Ana. Confiscated a whole saloon full of booze. (laughter)
- S: Oh, for gosh sakes. How about that. Well, I had some other pictures around here. Oh, that's the Tustin Hotel.
- M: That's it all right. See, it was a fancy baby, wasn't it?
- S: Yes. It was a flop, though. I don't imagine it made any money. I don't know why anybody would come to Tustin.
- M: Oh, no. I don't know that they ever ran the damn thing as a hotel after they got it built.
- S: Yes, and this is the old Brunswick when it was first built. Before it became the Rossmoor.
- M: Yes. Too bad they don't show Sycamore Street with the sycamore trees. It would have been just right about where my thumb is.
- S: Yes, that's right. Here's a real old one here. This is the old Santa Ana Hotel. This is when they were paving Fourth Street here and this would be--I don't know what corner.
- M: They moved that up onto Depot Street.
- S: Right, up around Fruit Street out there.
- M: Yes, well, that was Depot Street.
- S: Yes, that was Depot.
- M: Yes, when the SP [Southern Pacific] depot was up there. They didn't change it to Fruit Street until they moved the SP depot down on Fourth.

S: Oh, is that so?

M: French Street was originally Fruit Street. [Charles E.] French's house was up on Fruit Street. Old man French was a first class son of a bitch and there were a whole lot of people who weren't particularly happy over changing the street's name to his name. (laughter)

S: Oh, yes? Someday I'd like to do a story on French's Opera House. Did you ever attend anything there?

M: I graduated from Santa Ana High School in it.

S: Oh, is that right? They used it as an auditorium for graduation.

M: That's right. [In] 1898.

S: Is that right? Did you ever see any shows there?

M: Yes, one or two, but I don't remember much about them.

S: They said that Madame [Helena] Modjeska acted there a couple of times.

M: I saw one of those.

S: Did you?

M: Yes.

S: How about that. What was that man's name who used to teach speech and dramatics there at the high school? He went over to Santa Ana Junior College. Oh, what the heck was that . . . Ernest Cosher Phillips. Have you heard of him?

M: Yes, he was long after my time.

S: Oh, was he?

M: Yes.

S: Well, his chief claim to fame was that he had trod the boards with Madame Modjeska. I remember hearing him tell about that.

M: Yes, yes. (laughter)

S: What did you think of this fire, anyway? It was a real corker, wasn't it? Burnt out the whole Loma de Santiago [Irvine Park area of the Santiago Canyon].

M: I was down in Baja California when this [happened]. I guess it was still going Monday when I came back. There were three pretty good fires going southwest of Julian when I came through there, San Diego County. After it's all settled down, I'm going to drive up through that district and see what it looks like.

S: See what's left, yes.

M: Well, I only stopped in to talk to you.

S: OK, Mr. McFadden, come in anytime.