

Interview with

Dolly Daley

October 5, 2004

by Kristi Hawthorne

for the

Highway 101 Association

Interview with Dolly Daley, October 5, 2004

Interview with Dolly Daley on October 5, 2004 at her home, Valley Glen, Oceanside CA 92054. Interviewer and transcriber: Kristi Hawthorne.

Kristi: My name is Kristi Hawthorne and I'm here at the home Dolly Daley and it's October 5, 2004. Dolly, I just need your full name and when you were born.

Dolly: Dolly Louise Lawrence Daley. June 20, 1925.

Kristi: Where were you born?

Dolly: In Oceanside. The hospital then was where the freeway is on Mission Avenue, the bridge over the Freeway, there, that used to be a hospital. There was a hospital down there on that road, Mission Avenue. It wasn't really a road much because it didn't go beyond the top of the hill.

Kristi: Was that the Fisher Hospital?

Dolly: Yes, I was born there. I think it's now down on Broadway. Of course, I knew the little lady, Mrs. Fisher, I knew her as I got older.

Kristi: What were your parents' names?

Dolly: My father's name was James Evans Lawrence and my mother's name was Thelma Martha Davis Hughes.

Kristi: Where did you grow up, what was your home address?

Dolly: Oceanside. I lived in several houses. I lived on Pacific Street when I was probably seven, on both sides of the street, actually. I think it was about the 200 block of North Pacific. That one house is still there. They're both still there but the one house is exactly like it was when I grew up, a great big tree in the front yard. Then I lived in San Onofre when I was very little, which I do not remember, just stories of having lived there. My parents lived there and my Auntie Bert (Bertha). She was my grandmother's sister. She and her husband lived there, she and Grandpa Frank.

Kristi: Is that Frank Eaton?

Dolly: Yes. I always called him "grandpa" and I don't know why. He died of consumption, which in those days, it was called consumption but it was TB. I remember living there and I remember I lived there long enough that I remember it had a bluff and we played on the bluff with the railroad tracks above and when I was a little girl I found a man on the railroad tracks that had been run over.

Kristi: Was this in San Onofre?

Dolly: Yes. He wasn't dead. We were all playing. There was a bunch of us little kids. Probably my Aunt Betty and my Aunt Bertie. I don't think my Aunt Vera, but she might have

Interview with Dolly Daley, October 5, 2004

been playing with us. But anyway, I came to the top of the hill first and saw him and then went home and told my mother. So I was probably five by then, to remember that, or four. I remember that happening, but that's all I remember.

Kristi: Do you remember what happened to him then?

Dolly: No, I really don't. Just being a kid, we found him and that was terrible, but he was gone in a few minutes. They told a story about my father being a rumrunner, during the days of Prohibition. He always had a boat and fished, you know, caught fish and sold it. Anyway, in San Onofre he went through the breakers in his little rowboat and he was out and he was going to meet a boat and picking up the stuff and there was a guy on the beach was going to flash a light and let him know if there was revenueurs, or whatever they were, on the beach. And there were, so he dumped it in the ocean. So that was the end of his job, he never did that again. There was an accident out off the pier in Oceanside. He ran a taxi, a water taxi, out to the barge and it caught fire and he had a bunch of people on it and he got out all the life preservers and helped him into the ocean and nobody was hurt. But the boat burned. I don't remember how old I was then, I was probably ten. I had a woman tell me at the picnic one day that my daddy had saved her life. I think her name was Demotte.

Kristi: You lived fairly close to Hill Street, which was the 101; do you remember taking any trips on the 101 to San Diego or San Onofre?

Dolly: That I hardly remember. But I remember going with my parents and at that time the highway was up against the hills in Camp Pendleton. It's still there. But that was the highway, a two lane road and very dangerous.

Kristi: What made it dangerous?

Dolly: Because it was this way (gestures with hands) and it was only two lanes.

Kristi: It was really swervy?

Dolly: Yes. One lane went each way. Then when they built the other one it was just as bad because there were three lanes but they had the one for passing but it killed a lot of people with the middle lane like that.

Kristi: Do you remember trips down to San Diego?

Dolly: Not really. More north, because my mother's mother lived in El Monte and I remember going up to see her, but not really until later. I can't remember where Grandma lived before that. Of course my grandmother, when my mother was young, my grandmother was married to Grandpa Frank (Babby) who I never had met until I was about twelve. And they lived in Oceanside and they lived in the old Top Gun House. Mother lived in that house and Aunt Georgia and Harold, their brother. He was a half brother. He was good friends with David Rorick. They were kids about the same age. So they lived here and I really don't know ... then they were divorced and mother and Aunt Georgia went to live with Aunt Fluff who lived in San Gabriel. Flavia Clapp, that was her married name. Her maiden name was Hughes. So they lived

Interview with Dolly Daley, October 5, 2004

up there with her, I guess they lived there before Grandma's divorce. When Grandma came to Oceanside, then they came and lived with her and that's how Mother met my father.

Kristi: What do you remember driving north from Oceanside? What was the last business out of town.

Dolly: Carpenters, it was there then. There was a restaurant further up the road. You know, where they electric thing (Nuclear Power Plant) it was further up, about half way between there and San Clemente, the first off ramp to the beach, actually, that goes to San Onfore. There was a restaurant. I can't remember the name of it.

Kristi: Was it on the beach side?

Dolly: No, no. It was on the other side. Going north, it was on the right. It was quite busy as I recall, but we never went that much. To go to LA was a big deal. When I was a young girl, probably 11 or 12, I used to go stay with Aunt Georgia and Uncle William (Couts) because they lived in Los Angeles. I'd go up there and stay with them in the summer and me and my aunt would go to the matinees downtown because they had shows on the stage. That was about the only time I really ever went up there.

Kristi: What kind of car did your dad have?

Dolly: He always drove a Ford. He used to argue with my uncle about the best car. Daddy could work on cars so he liked the Ford because he could work on them the best. He always had a Ford. He had a Model A when I was little, when I was about seven. In those days they had thing up behind the seat. Well, we went to San Francisco to live for a while and I slept up there, so it wasn't very big but I was probably five or six. We lived up there for a little while.

Kristi: Did your mother drive?

Dolly: Daddy drove all the time. She could drive because when we lived in town, because when he used to go fishing he would live the car at the pier. So one day she told the man that Daddy forget to leave her the keys and he helped her get it started and she took it! Because he deliberately forget to leave it. She drove but most people only had one car. When you went to the beach there was only one place to go to the beach and that was the pier and if there was a drowning, the fire station blew a whistle. It wasn't the whistle for like a fire, it was just a whistle. I can't remember what it sounded like. We had one drowning that ever remember and he was a boy I went to school with and he drowned down at Wisconsin Street.

Kristi: What was his name?

Dolly: Campbell.

Kristi: What grade were you in?

Dolly: Probably third grade. We weren't very old. We weren't with him. Nobody swam down there. We swam at the pier. We only had one lifeguard. Everybody swam at the pier.

Interview with Dolly Daley, October 5, 2004

Kristi: So why do you suppose he was down there?

Dolly: I don't know. He was being a boy. When they rang the fire thing, then all the mothers came to the beach and most of them came walking because most of them didn't have cars at home. Then when I was about twelve, my father built me an aqua plane. It was a board that you stand up on and so I rode that. I used to go underneath the pilings of the pier.

Kristi: Do you remember any of the parades on the 101?

Dolly: When I was a little girl, the only parade I remember having was the Halloween Parade and all it was, was the kids, all dressed up in uniforms. We went by the old, where they city hall was, or used to be. That was the only parade I remember when I was little.

Kristi: Do you remember the Palomar Telescope?

Dolly: Oh yeah, I remember that coming through town.

Kristi: Did you witness that?

Dolly: Coming through Oceanside, yes.

Kristi: That came down the 101?

Dolly: Oh yes, that was a big deal.

Kristi: How old were you then?

Dolly: I was in grammar school, I'm not sure. I can't remember for sure how old I was.

Kristi: When did you learn how to drive?

Dolly: I was probably fifteen. You could drive then. My daddy let me drive the beer truck and I went down to the post office to get the mail, because we didn't have a box. I didn't know how to put it in reverse. Some man found me and he said, "you don't know how to put that in reverse, do you?" And I said, "no." He came and showed me, because it went way over here and I thought it was way up there.

Kristi: Did you get a license?

Dolly: Yes, but I can't remember how old I was getting it, because it wasn't a big deal, because you drove. We didn't go anywhere. Oceanside didn't really even have a decent road to Vista. It was mostly dirt.

Kristi: Do you remember the first time you drove on the 101?

Dolly: I went with Gene. I was fifteen.

Interview with Dolly Daley, October 5, 2004

Kristi: Where did you go?

Dolly: We went to the old San Clemente, I don't know what they called it then. It was a dance place. It's a dinner theater now. This man was playing, and his band, and Gene and a bunch of boys ran a dance up over Huckabay's and he was looking to hire somebody. So before I went my grandmother told me he was my cousin. I didn't know anything about him, evidently his mother was Jemmie Hayes who lived here and she was relation to my grandmother. Gene was talking to him and I told Gene what my grandmother said to me. And he said, "This young woman says she's your cousin." I was embarrassed to tears, I thought I was going to die, because I thought, "oh god, he probably thinks I'm some jerk." He got to talking to me and he didn't talk to Gene anymore! So it wasn't so bad! But I really was embarrassed. You know, when you're fifteen, and that was unusual for my mother to even let me go, at fifteen, because I never really went out with anybody.

Kristi: Especially all the way up to San Clemente.

Dolly: Yes, it was a big deal.

Kristi: Did they have a highway patrol up there?

Dolly: Oh yes. The Highway Patrol was very active. I can't think of the guys' names, but I remember one of them was married to a gal that worked for Aunt Marie in the beauty shop.

Kristi: Did you ever get a traffic ticket?

Dolly: No. Not when I was growing up.

Kristi: What about Gene?

Dolly: No.

Kristi: Your parents or friends?

Dolly: No, not really. The only thing they ever got stopped was for pipes, they were so noisy. They'd stick things in the pipes and the police would stop them and make them throw them out. That's the only thing I remember. You could buy gas for a dime, a dime's worth of gas.

Kristi: Do you remember the summer months if the traffic was heavier?

Dolly: No. A lot of people came from inland to camp at the beach, below the pier. Not where the bandstand is, but the parking lot, that used to be camping, all camping. Actually there was camping all the way because that road wasn't there, going down.

Kristi: Do you go down to Carlsbad to the Twin Inns?

Dolly: I ate at the Twin Inns a couple of times that I remember but not really very much. We never went to Carlsbad much, until I got in high school. There wasn't anything there.

Interview with Dolly Daley, October 5, 2004

Kristi: Do you remember any traffic accidents?

Dolly: Our fire chief, he was hit broadside. Oceanside was little then so that was a big deal. I must have been probably in the 7th or 8th grade. Walt Johnson. It was on Hill Street, right in the middle of town, where the Palomar Theater used to be over there, on the next corner. But he wasn't hurt seriously but his wife was following him. He was answering a fire and he was in his car. He had a red car and he had the light on and all that but somebody hit him. It even happened in those days that people didn't get out of the way like they should, you know. But Walt's is the only I can remember really bad in town, when we were growing up. A friend of Gene's was killed, this was when we were in high school and he was killed in Leucadia. He hit one of the trees, the trees were in the middle road. And he was one of the ones that had the dances that we used to have. It was the only school night we were ever allowed out, was that Wednesday nights dances up there. It was really great. It was before the war. Then when the war came we had a few marines that came and then we had big fights.

Kristi: Why would they fight?

Dolly: Jealousy. The marines were as young as most of the boys. Most of the boys, by the time I was a senior, all the boys I went to school with were gone. I hated the Marines. They came when I was in the 8th grade. Up to that point we could walk to the show and walk home. Of course, it wasn't so much them either, it was the people that built Camp Pendleton. There were a lot of people that lived here. My uncle moved in with us. He and my Aunt Georgia lived with us during that period because he was with the outfit that was building it. So it just changed our lives. Oceanside was little and you knew everybody. It was the stranger factor. It was not nice.

Kristi: Do you remember the patrolmen in town?

Dolly: Harold Davis. Everybody knew Harold Davis and he was always really nice to us kids. Like the kids were going get in the church and ring the bell and he was standing at the bottom and we knew it because we were across the street hiding while they did it! He took them off to jail. I took my cousin's car because when they took it them back to the police station, he left the keys in it so we just took his car!

Kristi: Was there a motorcycle officer, too?

Dolly: Well, he was a motorcycle at one time himself, I think probably when I was younger. He was a nice man and he had a nice wife. His girls were a lot younger than me so I really didn't know them until years later. I knew them, but they wouldn't have known me, I just knew who they were. My father played on the firemen's baseball team. Everybody played ball when I was growing. Everybody, including myself.

Kristi: Where was the ball field?

Dolly: You know where the library was, behind the fire department? It was there. Everybody played baseball. We always went to ball games. There was a pool hall in town called Allie

Interview with Dolly Daley, October 5, 2004

Thill's and everybody went there. My mother would go down to pick Daddy up and sit in front of the pool hall and wait for him to come.

Kristi: Where was that located?

Dolly: Right in the middle of town. You know where the Margo theater is? Right next door. The Margo wasn't there then, just the pool hall when I was a little girl. People would drive by and park and visit.

Kristi: At that time, could your park on Hill Street?

Dolly: Yes, straight ahead parking. I liked to go there because Mother would send me in after Daddy and I'd get some ice cream and candy!

Kristi: People did all their shopping downtown?

Dolly: Oh yes. Penney's was right in the middle of town at that time. Huckabay's was on the corner and Penney's was in the middle of the block. Down on the other corner was Howe Hardware and on the corner was Exton and Nichols. Across from Huckabay's was Mission Drug. Mom for a woman at a little restaurant called Ollie Watson. Mom used to work there. I think she only served lunch. I'd go there after school because she'd not be quite through with work and then we'd walk home. That's the only thing she did, she worked there. She became a beauty operator because when Daddy was killed she had no skills other than a waitress and she hadn't worked that in years. Aunt Marie told her if she'd go back to school and become a beauty operator, she'd give her a job so that's what made her decide.

Kristi: Do you remember the first traffic light?

Dolly: I don't know if it was really a traffic light, but a stop sign at the corner of Mission and Hill.

Kristi: Where were the service stations in town?

Dolly: Well, there was a place right downtown, on the street above Mission. I'm terrible about street names ... First Street. Right on the corner of Hill and First, the service station was there. Down below, between that corner and the next corner, there was a garage underneath called Joe Giro's and a lot of people went there. That's the only place that I really knew of. My father usually fixed his own car so we never really went to a place like that. Tires, I don't have any idea where he would have bought them. You could buy enough gas for a dime that would keep us kids going around town. There was a service station on the corner, where the Buick place used to be, they sold Buicks, across the street was a little service station called Cregars. We always went there to get the cheapest gas, whatever it was in those days, and we'd buy ten cents worth, I remember that. There was another service station near where Vaughn's grocery store is, that little grocery store, there was a service station there and it was a 76, I think. There was a guy that worked that used to embarrass me. My grandmother lived up there on that street, Michigan, in the alley way, she lived there. I'd go get whatever they wanted. I lived up on Nevada Street so I'd go from both places. When I was a little girl, they had tennis courts down by the railroad

Interview with Dolly Daley, October 5, 2004

tracks and Mrs. Christian, she lived across the alley from my grandmother, and I used to go over there and make the bed for the husband. I was about five, I think, and he'd always leave me a nickel under the pillow. But she played tennis and she wore a long dress. That always intrigued me when I was little to think that she played down there. It was very popular then so I was very little, about 74 years ago. There used to be a factory where they bottled Delaware Punch. That was my all time favorite drink. I never liked soda.

Kristi: Was Delaware Punch a brand of drink like Coca-cola?

Dolly: Yes. Delaware Punch and I think it was on Third Street on the way to the beach.

Kristi: Who ran that, do you know?

Dolly: No, but the little girl, whoever that was, she was my age and her parents owned it. They bottled it there and it was very good. I always thought it was delicious.

Kristi: How long were they there?

Dolly: It had to have been a couple of years at least. Then there was a packing plant down on the railroad tracks down on Sixth and Tremont. My Aunt Georgia worked there, tomato packing. So that was down there, right by the railroad tracks. I hardly remember the little girl, except that I liked that, it was my favorite. I think that was the only one they bottled, but I'm not sure. Then the lumberyard was across the railroad track.

Kristi: Do you remember the bowling alley on Hill Street?

Dolly: It was down underneath. Oh sure, we bowled there.

Kristi: Who operated that?

Dolly: When I remember it was Grosse. Mr. Grosse, Rusty Grosse, it was his father. When one of the kids was home from the Navy and we'd go bowling and Kenny was a great big kid, tall. He had a tremendous back swing, he hit the roof and fell. I thought we were all going to die. We laughed, it was awful because we laughed so hard. It could have killed him but we thought it was funny.

Kristi: Do you remember how much it was to bowl?

Dolly: No.

Kristi: How many lanes did they have?

Dolly: About six or eight. Gene used to set pins there because they didn't have an automatic thing. He set pins.

Kristi: What else was along there?

Interview with Dolly Daley, October 5, 2004

Dolly: Ranson's Bakery. That's the only thing I really remember because I remember going in there, you know.

Kristi: Ranson's was next door?

Dolly: Yes.

Kristi: Did you go to the Palomar Theater?

Dolly: Yes, it was ten cents for a Saturday afternoon. It had serials, cowboy serials and that sort of thing.

Kristi: Was Sweetwood's there?

Dolly: Yes, I worked there when I was in high school, the Sweet Shop. The Sweetwood's owned it.

Kristi: During the summer, with the people coming from inland, was there a lot more people at the beach?

Dolly: A lot more people at the beach, that's why they were there. I don't remember them in town so much, but it was at the beach. They might have eaten here for dinner but it seems to me they were more campers and were at the beach. It was a nice place to camp. They wouldn't stay in town.

Kristi: What about the Dolphin Hotel?

Dolly: It was the DeWitt Hotel. A little old man sat in the window and he used to wave at you and anybody that went by.

Kristi: Was that Mr. DeWitt?

Dolly: He sat right in the window. If there was a Mrs. DeWitt, I don't remember seeing her. But everybody went by there and waved at Mr. DeWitt.

Kristi: At the time was the phone company still—

Dolly: I didn't even have a phone until I got in high school, so I don't even remember the phone company.

Kristi: If you ever needed to call somebody—

Dolly: We never thought about calling anybody. We just went there. We didn't have a phone and I don't remember ever thinking I needed a phone. Most of my friends were around. When we were kids we hiked a lot, usually every Saturday.

Kristi: Who were your friends you hung around?

Interview with Dolly Daley, October 5, 2004

Dolly: Evelyn Ortega, she was one of them. Helen Tucker, Helen Frizzel, Margaret King, Jackie Harmon, Laura Elston.

Kristi: Did they live close by?

Dolly: We all lived basically not too far from each other. I lived on Nevada Street. Another friend was Tom Stephensen. Her name was Marilyn but we always called her Tom. She lived behind me on Clementine. I lived on Nevada and she lived on Clementine. We all lived up by the high school. Evelyn lived in Carlsbad. I don't know how she got over here. She didn't really go hiking with us much. Marianne Arbogast, her parents owned all of the little bungalows in Oceanside on the beach there, where Maureen owns one. They owned them all. Their name was Arbogast.

Kristi: Did you have a curfew?

Dolly: I don't think kids were out much at night. Like I told you, Wednesday night was the only night most of us were allowed out during the week because of the dance above Huckabay's. It was a neat place.

Kristi: Did you go with a bunch of girlfriends?

Dolly: Oh yeah. We never paired up, we just danced and then everybody went home.

Kristi: Who operated that?

Dolly: Gene and his friend, the one that was killed. Wally maybe, but I don't remember.

Kristi: Would you dance to live music?

Dolly: No, no. It was records. It was really neat.

Kristi: So you pretty much walked everywhere? Did you ever ride a bike?

Dolly: I didn't get a bike until I was about twelve. One of the neighbors took me for a ride on my bike and I stuck my foot in the spokes. So you can see, I was really used to riding a bike. I worked at Mission Drug, that was one of my first jobs. They furnished your uniforms and one week my uniform would be up to here and the next week it would be down to here. I never did get one that ever fit. Gene used to come in. He worked at a place on Hill Street that was called, Ed Pogue's. It was a men's store. And he'd come in for lunch. He'd always be talking to me and I used to not want to turn around or bend down. When the boss would come he was always after me because I was the youngest one. So the little cook, his name was Bandy, when he would see him coming, he'd send me back in the kitchen and tell me not to come back until he was gone!

Kristi: Here's a picture of you down at Horton Plaza.

Interview with Dolly Daley, October 5, 2004

Dolly: Gene went down, he was signed up to go in the Air Force and he left us with his camera! We took all those pictures! We were terrible! None of us had cameras in those days, so we all took those pictures.

Kristi: What do you remember about the new freeway? What were the feelings about it around town?

Dolly: I think everybody was apprehensive. But it didn't avoid the town, it came through so it didn't avoid us. If it would have bypassed us it probably would have hurt terrible. But what happened was, when they opened the highway, they shipped the Marines out at the same time so it was kind of devastating to the city. It was more the Marines being gone.

Kristi: Where did they send the Marines?

Dolly: It was Korea. A friend of ours was there. Gene was going to join the Marines, just as a reserve, to give us some extra money. But they wouldn't give him back his rank, so he said to hell with the Marines. Thank goodness, because his friend, Slick, was at the H? reservoir. They really had a terrible time.

Kristi: Up north, through Camp Pendleton, they referred to that stretch of highway as Slaughter Alley?

Dolly: That was terrible. That's what they called it because it killed a lot of people, but I really don't remember people from town getting killed. One thing I remember that was terrible, I was probably in the 7th grade, I was down visiting my friend that lived down on Myers Street. She and I were the same age. We heard this terrible crash. A train had hit these kids and killed them both. They were older than we were. We didn't know them, they were in junior college. But it was a horrible thing. They were probably kissing or something and just ran right in front of it. That was really horrible. Then a kid Johnny's age, in fact it was the printer...

Kristi: Dave Kiss's brother?

Dolly: Yes, he was such a darling young man. Maureen took tennis lessons from him and he was working for the city up at the high school. Maureen was taking lessons and I went up to visit one day and God, they had such terrible screaming matches, hollering at each other. He was killed on Oceanside Boulevard ... it sounded like he came off ... he was going to miss the turn off and he turned too soon and it was gravel or something. He was a nice boy.

Kristi: Did you go to the other schools?

Dolly: All of our footballs were in the daytime because there were no lights. We went to Escondido, we went to Coronado, Point Loma, La Jolla.

Kristi: Did you go on school buses?

Dolly: We didn't take buses. You'd have to find somebody to take you. I was a cheerleader so we always tried to find a way to get there. One time we went to La Jolla with our English teacher, Mr. Nelson. I don't think he was too happy to take us. But we played Grossmont. A lot

Interview with Dolly Daley, October 5, 2004

of it was down there and that was a big deal.

Kristi: So you were driving the 101 to get to the games.

Dolly: Yes, and we used Texas Street a lot. For some reason Texas Street sticks out in my mind. We went to Coronado and all of them, but they didn't take buses. They should have but they didn't in those days. They took the football team. In fact, Dean Howe had a darling Model A and he was going to play football, I think it was JV, it might have been Varsity, over in Escondido and he had told me I could take the car. So anyway, he didn't give me the keys. In those days you could hot wire them and this friend of ours knew how. So she hot wired it and we all went! It was a little convertible and we bound over to the football game and we were on the sidelines and Dean came out of the huddle and said, "How did you get here?" "Your car!" I thought he was going to die. Dean was in the Coast Guard but do you know where he spent all his time? In Cuba. Guantanamo Bay. The whole war he just got lucky.

Kristi: During World War II was there a curfew?

Dolly: We had the dim out. Blondie and I were going to college. We were up in LA. Getting gas was tough. But this one girl said she knew how to get it so we'd let her take the car and she'd fill it up. One day someone said they knew where she got it so we all decided we'd go do it ourselves. The police were there. They said, "What are you doing?" We said, "Well, we just came to get gas." "How come you came here?" "Well, we just thought we'd come by and get some gas." We didn't want them to think we were trying to buy it black market, which we were! But anyway, Daddy used to get us gas because he fished so he got the ration things for that.

Kristi: What about the dim out?

Dolly: Going up that slaughter alley in the dim out...we were at Queen of Angels in Los Angeles, which is quite away into the city. They closed the college where I went, Immaculate Heart College. It was on a road that went this way, it was right here. But it was a nice little school and it had a beautiful little park we used to go eat lunch there. It was very nice. Mom and I went to go look at it one day and it was gone. That's how we found out it was gone. We went up there, I always tried to go somewhere with my mother on Mother's Day and I had gotten tickets to the Hollywood Squares. It was on Mother's Day so we went up early in the morning and we went up there to take a look around and it was gone. We had a really good day, it was when Paul Lynd was in the middle and I just loved him. We had a really good time. Once we went to San Diego and saw "The King and I" with Yul Brenner, at the Fox Theater, I think it was. I always tried to go somewhere with her. The kids would say, "Well, you're our mother." And I said, "Well, I'll be here later. My mother won't be here later." Anyway, we had a good time. But it was a wonderful place to grow up. It truly was. We had so much freedom. Like even for my kids, it was a wonderful place, because of the beach. It's such a feeling of freedom when you're at the beach. In fact, one kid one day, I took him to the beach and he disappeared. Oh god, I was so upset. I looked everywhere for that child. He went to the trailer park. At that time there were trailers over and he went over to the trailer park to see somebody. I wanted to kill him! I never minded taking any of them. I used to take all of my nieces and nephews, they always talk about me taking them to the beach. But they just couldn't do that to me, because that really upset me.

Interview with Dolly Daley, October 5, 2004

Kristi: Even in the later years, you stayed by the pier?

Dolly: Oh yeah. We lived on Tyson Street, right south of Tyson Street, with the kids, until I had Joseph. There was a dirt path down, now it's all steps, but in those days it was dirt and we'd go down there and we had a bunch of people that went. Betty Gabriel, she's now gone. She had a little boy named Gordon who was mentally handicapped. He was darling. He was always talking to me and Betty would say, "Leave Dolly alone." I hadn't seen that young man for twenty years and I saw Betty down at the grocery store down at Food Mart one day and I said, "How's Gordon?" And she said, "He's fine, Dolly. Go say hello to him." I said, "He won't even remember." And she said, "He'll remember you." And he did. He was a mongoloid and they aren't retarded and they are able to remember things and he was living in a home then with all boys. Betty died and he didn't live much longer. He was very close to his mother. He had a brother who was a Rhodes Scholar. He was very smart and he went to England and went to Oxford. He was the youngest. His father was a dentist, Herbie. I don't know where the oldest boy is, they had another son who was retarded and he was in a home. He was too bad. I don't know if he is still alive. But Gordon didn't live too long after his mother died. They don't always live a long time. There was a man who used to work for the WPA, the program and his name was Frank, I can't think of his last name, but he had a son that was a mongoloid and he used to him with him everywhere when he worked. The city would let him. He worked for the city and they let him. I don't know what ever happened to him. Their father lived a long time and so did the mother, Marie. They lived behind the Nadons. The Nadons lived on Sixth and Nevada and they lived on Sixth and Ditmar and she was real sweet.

Kristi: Let me ask you about Halloween. Did everyone dress up?

Dolly: Everybody did. We had parades.

Kristi: Did kids go trick or treating at night?

Dolly: No, they gave prizes.

Kristi: You didn't go door to door.

Dolly: No, they gave you prizes and I'm sure everybody got something.

Kristi: At the parade they gave out prizes.

Dolly: There was good participation.

Kristi: It was sponsored by the city?

Dolly: I'm sure it was.

Kristi: What about Halloween pranks?

Dolly: We didn't pull any until we got older. We did it to this one guy, they owned a hardware

Interview with Dolly Daley, October 5, 2004

store, Boe's Hardware on Freeman and Mission. He was kind of an ornery kid anyway. A great big kid. We did something, I can't remember what we did to his truck, soaped his windows and we soaped the windows of the store and he chased us. Oh god, he chased us all over! I thought we were all going to die if he caught us!

Kristi: So, just soaping windows?

Dolly: Yeah, nothing bad.

Kristi: Did you ever toilet paper anybody's house?

Dolly: I didn't, my kids did. That wasn't in my repertoire! What we did once, we were going to Escondido to mess up the football field, a bunch of us from high school. The car we were in broke down and my father told me not to leave town. So I was very late getting home because we had to wait until they were on the way back before they picked us up. I always got caught doing something I wasn't supposed to.

Kristi: Did you get punished?

Dolly: I really didn't get any punishment. I never did anything really bad. I felt like I should have been punished most like when I started smoking. I was going to LA with my father. He was going to pick up some beer for my aunt or something. So we were in the car and we stopped to see Aunt Bert, she was working in San Clemente at a restaurant so we stopped to see her. She offered me a cigarette and I said, "Oh no, thank you." And Daddy said, "Well she smokes, but she won't smoke in front of anybody." Of course, my poor mother, she knew I smoked. She didn't smoke so I must have smelled terrible.

Kristi: How old were you?

Dolly: I was 17, not quite 18. Afterwards I thought, well I'll smoke. So I smoked after that. But my mother never smoked.

Kristi: Did your friends smoke?

Dolly: Helen smoked. Helen and I smoked but I don't really remember anybody else smoking besides us two. I remember once we were in a car and Helen was lighting a cigarette and Dottie Bressi said "here light mine" ---- it's a wonder we didn't burn your nose. I enjoyed smoking, I truly did. My sister still smokes, I wish she didn't. When I decided to quit, Helen was having trouble. She had been to the doctor and she coughed up some blood and scared her to death so she kept telling me, "If you're going to quit Dolly, quit while you're busy." So I thought about it and thought about it, so I gave it up for a month. So I went to the doctor because I had this cough and he x-rayed my chest and he said, "Well, it's clear." I said, "Good, because I'm going to quit smoking tomorrow." He delivered all of my kids. He said, "Oh that's nice, Dolly."

Kristi: Who was your doctor?

Dolly: Dr. Thatcher.

Interview with Dolly Daley, October 5, 2004

Kristi: Where was his office?

Dolly: On Cassidy. He was with Dr. Pace. Dr. Pace has Alzheimer's. Anyway, I smoked a lot. I smoked two packs a day. I couldn't do anything without a cigarette. Everything I did, I had to have a cigarette. Thank god I quit when I did, the cost of them now, I couldn't afford them. When I was quitting my mother said, "I never heard you use language like that! Quitting smoking is getting to you." "I think it probably is, Mom, but I'm not going to smoke anymore." She never said much to be about it, but my kids sure did. Nobody smoke except my oldest and he said he'd quit too if I hadn't let him out of the bathroom. I let him smoke in the bathroom. My other kids didn't have a desire. I said, "I saved all of you, see." It was my good deed. I smoked so you wouldn't smoke. What a good mother I am! Here's all this terrible stuff that smoking does and I thought, wow, I have a bunch of healthy kids. I was lucky because I still play tennis. I was outdoors a lot and so I think that helped my lungs get well, or better. It wasn't because I felt bad, I just thought it was time.