

[Interviewer]--You were sixteen, and you were the champion lady rider in the whole state. Where did you ride when you won the championship? Was that in Los Angeles?

[Irene Savage King]--Well, we had some friends here in Los Angeles, but my father and brother got in a little head of us, 'cause Father would never let us come into a new place or anything till he saw... bring my mother and I in, see, so we got in on the night that they executed all those Chinese. [Laughter] They didn't let us get off – we had a Pullman car and they didn't let us get off, they ran it back off the main track – the depot used to come right in by the Plaza, you know – so they ran it back and let us sit on the spur for two hours and we wondered what was the matter. The conductor knew, of course, but he didn't tell us; so my father came down – he had arranged a room for us in the hotel. There was only one hotel in Los Angeles that was open. There was another one but there wasn't enough traffic to be open and the Natter [?] House was on the road out – they were building that but they didn't need it, though, for what we had then. And so we sat there in the car for two hours, didn't have our dinner or anything like that. There wasn't a dining car put on that – I don't think they had them at that time as I remember.

[I]--Was that when you came from Pennsylvania?

[ISK]--Yes, from Philadelphia.

[I]--You were just a little girl then, weren't you?

[ISK]--Yes, I was just a little bit of a girl.

[I]--Did you learn to ride back there?

[ISK]--And I was just at the age that wanted to see everything and do everything.

[I]--Didn't you tell me that you learned to ride about as soon as you learned to walk?

[ISK]--Yes, I had a pony in Philadelphia. I had pneumonia there a couple of times and Father and Mother got the pony, thinking it would do me good to get plenty of air in my lungs and they were very much upset about me because the first two children they lost, see, and so they always watched over me very closely. So when we got in there, as I say, they ran the cars back and it just set there and so, anyway, why, then when my father came in he took us up to the hotel and we found that the trouble of it was there that one of the sheriffs there had gone into a gambling house that was Chinese, see, and the Chinese killed him – they shot him. He had gone in to arrest one, so they sent, I think, four other sheriffs in, and he asked them who was the one who did the shooting, and they wouldn't tell him, so they just took the whole of them out and hung the whole bunch of 'em. They hadn't taken 'em down and they didn't want the car to come through so it would shock us ladies.

[I]--You told me that you came to the Savage Canyon Ranch in 1882, and your father, Judge Savage, had gotten the ranch there. Was it at that time that you won the riding championship?

[ISK]--No, we didn't live on the ranch all the time. We came out at times to enjoy it. We had a place in Los Angeles, up there on Figueroa Street. I don't know what it looks like now – I haven't seen it in a long time. It was a very pretty street at that time.

[I]--Do you remember whether you were out at the ranch when you won the riding championship when you were sixteen? Did you come out here? You came here before you were sixteen, didn't you?

[ISK]--Oh yes, I think I was about fifteen then – I'm not real sure about it.

[I]--And you told me you rode with the Lugos and the Waltskills and the Bixbys and the Workmans – you rode down here at Los Nietos.

[ISK]--Yes, they were neighbors to us in Los Angeles and I don't know anything about them anymore; I've lost all track of the old-timers in there. The Waltskills were great friends of my father.

[I]--Your father was Judge Savage. What was his first name? Was it William?

[ISK]--Yes, William H. King.

[I]--No, that was your husband.

[ISK]--Oh, yes, I was thinking of my husband. My father's was William A. King.

[I]--And didn't you ride all over this area before there was any Whittier?

[ISK]--Oh yes, they kept me on a horse all the time so's I could ride and I loved riding – father used to say I was his wild girl.

[I]--Were there flowers on these hills and in the canyons?

[ISK]--Yes, sometimes they were covered with yellow poppies and white mariposas.

[I]--And did you have the California holly, the toyon, on the hills?

[ISK]--Oh yes, and we still have that canyon there, we still own that, and it was just full of the holly. We had it in the canyon where the home was, too. Though we didn't live out here in the country. For one thing, I went to school in the city.

[I]--But you were out here for four years and didn't you tell me that your father started the Evergreen School, circulated the petition?

[ISK]--We did... that year when they started for quite a while. They had a school at Los Nietos – I never went there at all – and then some of them wanted... it was quite a ways and most of the girls and boys didn't seem to have their own horses to ride. I don't know why – there were plenty of horses. The King boys always had their horses and rode to school, but they didn't seem to, and so there were some of 'em that were quite a little distance and they wanted another school near and so they asked my father – he was practicing law at the time – if he would try to get them a piece of land that they wanted to put it on. And it was this Whittier land –

on the corner of Painter Avenue – course it wasn't there at that time – and it was Thomas Ranch called then at that time. So he went in to see about it and he succeeded in getting that corner cut out of the land. Thomas was heavily mortgaged, anyway, and he succeeded in getting that to put the school on.

[I]--On County Road, was it not – Whittier Boulevard?

[ISK]--Yes, that's what they called it then.

[I]--It was on the north side, wasn't it?

[ISK]--Yes, so he got that school there. Well, to get the school you had to have twelve scholars, and so he put my brother's and my name to make up – they just had enough to. And then he had my brother ride across the hills there over to the Pellissier's – they lived over on the hills – they were sheep men then and they got them to put their names down but they never got across.

[I]--The hill was in the way! [Laughter]

[ISK]--Old-timers were resourceful, you know, and they'd help one another.

[I]--Well, I think you showed me the paper that your father signed to get the school started and while the building was being built they had a little class on the Cooper Ranch down on Santa Fe Springs Road. When you went to school did you go to the Evergreen School? Or did you go to the Cooper Ranch?

[ISK]--Well, while the school was being built there I was sent down to the little house on the Cooper place and I went to school there but I didn't learn anything because I was ready for the normal school by that time. But it gave 'em enough that they could hold onto the land and put a school on it.

[I]--Your father's request, I remember, was in 1884, so I suppose the Evergreen School was open in '85. Did you ever go to the one on County Road? Did you go up to the Evergreen Building when they got it built?

[ISK]--Well, it was the Evergreen building where the school was, you know.

[I]--You went to that after you went to the Cooper place?

[ISK]--Well, I only went very little time to Evergreen at all. I went right back to Los Angeles and went on there.

[I]--And that was before there was any Whittier, wasn't it? That would have been a year or more before Whittier was down there.

[ISK]--Yes, I remember when I came out from the city and was surprised to see they were plowing it all up for roads. You younger people don't realize what a good time we had.

[I]--Oh. Nice! Well, several old-timers have said there was an adobe building on what's now Painter. Do you remember any adobe there?

[ISK]--No, there was never an adobe, unless it was down there where the Pio Pico home—

[I]--Oh, the Pio Pico's still there but it was thought there was some little old adobe up in the area of Painter – you don't remember any?

[ISK]--Nor in my time, there wasn't, anyway.

[I]--Well, Oz Burt thought he remembered one there.

[ISK]--Oz Burt – yes, I knew them very well. Laurel was my maid of honor when I was married.

[I]--Oh, you were married in 1893 to William H. King. Were you married in Los Angeles or out here?

[ISK]--We were married here, in a church here. My people wanted me married in there, at the church, at the cathedral there, but they wanted me so badly – they

knew a great many people – to be married out here, so we weren't Friends, we didn't belong to that, we were Episcopalians, and so we decided that we'd have the wedding out here. They wanted it so bad and they were very nice and they decorated the church as fine as I've ever seen any in the city. You know those big white roses, those running roses that we used to have so many – well, I think everyone in the county, they got big crooks and put them on rail that ran in front of the altar – don't have an altar in that church, but it ran along and they got those from a grocery store – borrowed them – and they filled those and the flowers all fell down, you know those big, long runners to the floor. And then they had a big arch at the front there by the – I say the altar because we're used to the altar in my church. I can't get away from that, that's British entirely – I was of British descent.

[I]--So you were married in the little Quaker meeting house.

[ISK]--No, they had built a new church then, but not this church. They had a big church built, a wooden church, and it looked very nice—

[I]--Well, they had enlarged it, they hadn't built the other church in 1893. They had put an addition on their first little meeting house, down at the corner—

[ISK]--I know, but that wasn't anything, it was just thrown up in a hurry, just rough seats. We didn't go there at all. I know about that. Some of those Friends were very nice people, too. Of course, we were of a different denomination and they didn't feel very good toward us when the wedding was in town, our people didn't, but it saved us a lot of trouble. They put those roses all over the tops of the windows – I think they must have taken everything in town.

[I]--Your husband was born in 1866 down here. Didn't you tell me that his mother, Mary Jan King, was the first woman among the settlers?

[ISK]--She was the first American born this side of the river. My husband was born in '55, I think. Do you have that?

[I]--Well, I have that your husband was born in '66. Is that right? He told me that he was a year old at the time of the big flood.

[ISK]--Yes, that might have been what it was.

[I]--And his father was James, and the street was named for the family. Is that right? King's Lane?

[ISK]--Yes, he bought the Santa Gertrudes Ranch from Pio Pico and it became known and they used to call the road down there King's Lane. It led into the ranch is the reason they called it that. My children were born down there, on that—

[I]--Is that right? Your husband told me that your husband's father and his brothers, Eli and John, came out here with their widowed mother before 1860. So they were very, very early.

[ISK]--Yes, they were very, very old. Mother King was a widow, you know. She was married twice and there's the two different classes of children there.

[I]--Your husband's father died in Texas on the way out – is that right? I believe I was told that by your husband.

[ISK]--I didn't know about that, except that I know she was a widow when she got here.

[I]--And the Kings bought about 150 acres of the Santa Gertrudes Ranch. The Santa Gertrudes Ranch was more than 17,000.

[ISK]--Yes, they had a good deal more. I have to keep track of my land thing. I always have to go over the delinquent tax list in the paper and I was looking at one of the pages in the *Times* – I guess it was a couple of years ago – and I didn't realize the ranch down there... it had never been surveyed at all. The Spanish didn't survey there and he bought it from the Spanish. They were very careless in their surveys – it was so many leagues to this place and they had so much – to another tree, or something. [Laughter] And so anyway, I saw that place after place – that was a couple years ago, I think – did we have a depression of some sort at that time?

[I]--A little longer ago than that.

[ISK]--Well, there was so many that were delinquent in their taxes and it gave me a lot of familiar names too, and then it would say 'The James M. King – Father King's name was James Madison – Subdivision.' Just any amount of those was that way.

[I]--Well, I believe that your husband told me that the original 150 acres, of the Kings', was in the corner between Norwalk Boulevard and coming up to the Whittier Boulevard or County Road, they called it then. And Norwalk Boulevard – didn't you say that was Old Mill Road when you were a little girl?

[ISK]--Oh, if you want to know where I rode, I began riding when I was in Philadelphia. As far as that's concerned, I was only five years old and they got me one of those little Shetland ponies to ride but here I rode all the time. I liked to ride. Father used to say I was his wild daughter.

[I]--Yes, and you'd ride on Norwalk Boulevard – and what did they call Norwalk Boulevard when you came?

[ISK]--We didn't call 'em boulevards at that time.

[I]--Didn't some people call it Mill Road? Didn't it go to the mill?

[ISK]--Well, there was a mill but we didn't often go round about there or anything like that.

[I]--And then later they called it Judson Road. Were you there when they c called it Judson Road?

[ISK]--Yes, that's right back of the King Road.

[I]--Yes, Norwalk.

[ISK]--I think Father King sold that portion of land, then.

[I]--Is that old house your husband's father's house – at 11415 E. Washington Boulevard – I mean it's Washington Boulevard now – do you know whether the house is still there?

[ISK]--No, I don't. I haven't been down there for years. I hate to go by it. I'm like Al Downey. She said she hated to go by the place. It used to be a very lovely road. I used to ride down through there before I was married a lot because they had such nice trees over it and in summer it was hot, you know, and you could ride right down through there and those big poplars and things that shaded the road. In winter it wasn't so good because while they'd graveled it a little, it was kind of sticky.

[I]--Was there a tule swamp down south of you? People said there was a tule swamp where Norwalk is. And the geese and the ducks came to the swamp.

[ISK]--There were quite a number of us Kings – there's John King –

[I]--You didn't understand me. I'm talking about there being a swamp, a wet place, where the ducks and geese came.

[ISK]--Oh, that's up on the mesa up there.

[I]--Down near Norwalk or Los Nietos?

[ISK]--There was a road that went along there that went through to the river, see, up on the Mesa there –

[I]--Telegraph Road?

[ISK]--Yes, I guess that's what it was. No, I think Telegraph Road was more over at Fulton Wells.

[I]--Yes.

[ISK]--But it was this side of that.

[I]--Dunlap Crossing –

[ISK]--There was a hollow place in the mesa up there and the water in a heavy winter would fill that up and stay for... there's another one up on the hills there. I don't know whether it's still there or not.

[I]--And did you ever see deer when you were a little girl out here? Did the deer come into the canyons?

[ISK]--Oh yes, they used to come up and we had the top of one of the hills there in barley – we didn't raise much, we weren't farming people. Yes, they would come down in hard winters and get in and eat up your barley and things like that. We had plenty for what horses we had – we kept five horses just for buggy horses and riding around there for ourselves. We didn't do any farming at all on the ranch. Finally we leased it to the Standard Oil. Father was their attorney. They came to him and wanted to lease it and so he let 'em have it and we got quite a good deal of oil from it. There weren't any rushes – well, one did blow in, but most of them were... and I fell heir to those when my father and mother died.

[I]--That was in Savage Canyon?

[ISK]--Yes.

[I]--And then your husband came from the King Family that grew grain and then planted walnuts, didn't they.

[ISK]--They came from the south, you know, from – let's see, where was that in the south? They came away from the south when the war was about to break. A lot of the southerners did at that time, you know, because they had so many Negroes and the field hands were dangerous, really. I guess they've given them a lot of trouble from the newspapers I see new, and they knew the men would have to go into the war and so they didn't want to leave the women alone on the plantations; so they sold out everything and there was a boom, you know, for California, a lot

of land at that time, and they came out here, that's how they came out. Course it was kind of hard on Mother King and all of those – they didn't have any darkies, they didn't bring a one with 'em.

[I]--What did they grow on the ranch?

[ISK]--What did they grow?

[I]--On King Ranch.

[ISK]--Oh, they grew about everything. They had walnut orchards and orange orchards and they – there were three King brothers, you know, and it was all one ranch and they – oh, I don't know what they didn't have; they hardly had to buy anything because they had so many things there. We'd buy sugar and flour and things like that, that was all we had and at that time, too, talking about horses, in California, at the time I was riding, they had the best records for all over the country – our horses – and it would make some of us mad because just as soon as they'd win a race, they'd make a record, they'd come out from the east and buy the horse. They gave as much as \$8,000 for some of those horses. California – they don't have any more. I don't think k they can beat a record now, they've probably reached the limit of what a horse could do. Now I haven't been to the races for years at all.

[I]--Didn't you tell me that you rode on of the champion horses of the Lugos when you were in that big contest? You remember the name of your horse?

[ISK]--Well oh yes. My own horse was named Filante [?], the horse that I used myself, but I used the Lugo horse, that was a thoroughbred Arabian horse and it was vicious, too – and Lugo, why he was always scared to death for fear he'd kill me but he never got away with it quite.

[I]--Was he the same horse that the Lugos matched against Governor Pio Pico?

[ISK]--Yes, I rode him a great deal. I used to go down to the ranch there and ride him and they would never let me ride him by myself. He could be, but they didn't

know how to handle him – now that sounds awful but the horse liked me and he didn't give me much trouble. He misbehaved sometimes but I could manage him. Some of 'em used to say they thought I was born on a horse's back.

[I]--Did you ride side-saddle?

[ISK]--I rode side-saddle always – I had a British hunting saddle. And it's so much more comfortable than any other saddle; you see, you had your knee over one horn there. You sit perfectly straight that way with it. But he used to take a fancy for bucking sometimes, that horse that I rode. I didn't intend to ride, my people didn't intend me to ride – I'm afraid I'm taking a lot of you people's time –

[I]--This is fun.

[ISK]--We were down to the Downey Fair one day, my mother and I, and I don't know whether you've heard of the Kendricks or not, or those. No? Well, one of the King girls married – not one of the Kings, one of the Cole girls married them, one of their daughters is in Los Angeles, too, married there, and so Callie Henderson and I were looking through the pavilion there, looking at the embroidery work and things like that – it was just about the same as they have over here – and Mother had gotten tired and she went up on the grandstand with Dorrie and sat down, waiting, they hadn't started the races yet, and all of a sudden Callie's husband came running into where we were and said, 'They're all hollering for Irene to ride,' and he had wanted me and they had gone in to see my father but my father said I couldn't ride and my mother said – they said they wasn't going to have me killed there – you'll think I was an awful girl. I guess I was, I guess I gave 'em an awful lot of trouble, so they came to me right away and I said well I couldn't ride because I didn't have my riding habit down there and I didn't have a riding cap and I said if I get on a horse without that cap, why my hair was sure to come down. I can laugh at it now, but they all got around it. There was a dressmaker down there at Downey that used to make our everyday dresses and she happened to be right back of us with her daughter and she came right up and she said to Callie, she said, and her husband, she said, 'Well, my daughter has a side saddle and she has a riding habit that I think will just about fit Miss Savage.' And she said, 'Now I'm

pretty sure that'll pretty nearly fit you. I think she's a little bit larger than you,' but she said, 'Come over to my house and I'll take it in.'

[I]--So you rode in her habit!

[ISK]--That's the first time I rode... They took me over to the dressmaker's and I could get into that riding habit. It was very nice, she had a good riding habit but she had a poor saddle – it wasn't so good, and one of the cinches was pretty well worn and I remember they didn't like me to ride that and then too that horse, the thoroughbred Arabian horse, he was really pretty vicious. He was a bolter, too – do you know what that is?

[I]--No, not exactly.

[ISK]--Well, if he couldn't take advantage of you he'd bolt for the barn and you'd get your head knocked off if you hit the top of the barn so that came up and they talked about that for a while and Pedro Lugo said, 'Well...' They were all wanting me to ride then, they'd seen me ride around the country. Two ladies had come on the track and they were going around but they hadn't been called to do anything yet and they'd seen them and they said they couldn't ride like I could. I didn't see them so I didn't know and I didn't bother. So anyway, they studied that over awhile about the horse bolting and they didn't think I'd be able to hold him and I probably wouldn't – I wasn't strong enough to do that. So then they decided that they'd have the gates shut tight and that they'd put someone at the gate with a blanket to throw up. You can stop a horse that way, you know, throw it up in front of him. They had some Navajo blankets. We always had lots of those and they put them at each gate so as to keep the horse – but he never left the track with me, I never had any trouble with him that way at all. So then they got me all fixed up with this saddle and then... said that brother would let me have his silver-mounted bridle. I expect you've seen that in parades.

[I]--In pictures.

[ISK]--Yes, and the saddle. They were given to them by the Spanish king, his father, see.

[I]--The Lugos?

[ISK]--Yes. And so then they called for me to come on the track and I rode out and Alma Raine was in charge, the judges' stand, he was a great horseman and he came before the judges' stand and they hollered for me and then he told me what he wanted me to do – he wanted me to show – he'd seen me ride – he was the trouble – if he'd never seen me ride anyplace why I wouldn't have been called and gotten myself in so much trouble. So then anyway I took Dude around the track – it was only a half-mile track down there. He got away with a jump which I was used to and didn't mind at all – anyway, he got away with a jump and he broke the cinch to the saddle, but fortunately it was that over-cinch and it held and I sat right up straight and I didn't try to stop him, cause I knew I might have the saddle slide off – I knew when he broke it, so I just let him run the full length of the track and brought him in. So then they fixed that up and I went on again and yes, I got the first prize there. They were very nice about it.

[I]--You were just sixteen and according to your picture at that time you were a very pretty girl.

[ISK]--Well, somewhere along there, yes.

[I]--Did you ride after you were married?

[ISK]--No, married women didn't ride here.

[I]--Oh, is that right? It wasn't the thing?

[ISK]--Sometimes around the ranch I'd ride some but we didn't ride at that time.

[I]--Tell us about your children.

[ISK]--My children? Well, I just have two of them. I have my son and that little girl over there. She's awful bad too – she gives me an awful lot of trouble.

[I]--Now we won't believe that. Miss Francis King is too well known in this town for being good for you to tell us that.

[ISK]--I'm trying to get her out of school but I'm not making the grades very good.

[I]--Maybe she likes to teach. I know the high school would miss her.

[ISK]--I was going to tell you something else about that. When Mother was up on the stand with Dora Ginther – that was one of the Cole girls – why she was sitting there calmly and when I came on the stand Dora said to her – this is when I got Dora's own description of it, she said, to my mother, 'Why I thought Irene wasn't going to ride.' People around had been wanting me to ride because those two other women that came in didn't belong to this district and they wanted me to get the prize – and she said Mother straightened up and said, 'Irene is not going to ride,' and she said Mother started to get up and she said, 'I just put my hand across the chair and said, 'Now it's too late for you to do anything.'

[I]--You were already in the ring.

[ISK]--And so she wouldn't let Mother get up. She said, 'It's too late, you can't go down on the track and raise – make a show.' So Mother had to take it.

[I]--Now you've told us your daughter's name – tell us your son's name.

[ISK]--Oh, Raymond.

[I]--He lives here?

[ISK]--Yes.

[I]--Have you always lived here?

[ISK]--Since I was married, yes, I did live here since I was married. I lived here.

[I]--You lived on King's Lane at first?

[ISK]--I lived on King's Lane at first. The two children were born on the ranch.

[I]--And where did you live then?

[ISK]--Frances was at school up at Berkeley when we moved up here.

[I]--You moved to this house from another place in Whittier, didn't you tell me?
Did you live on Pickering?

[ISK]--Oh, we had that big house down here – I've forgotten – it's so long.

[I]--And you had a ranch?

[ISK]--No. Oh, we have – let's see, I'll have to think of the numbers – the land I did have. I had over in the other valley 180 acres in grapes, there towards – do you know where that big grape vineyard was – well, it's over – we had there – and I sold that after Mr. King died.

[I]--Where was your home before you moved to this house?

[ISK]--Why, I lived in that big house down there.

[I]--On Pickering, was it?

[ISK]--No, it was on this same street.

[I]--Washington Avenue?

[ISK]--Yes.

[I]--I had thought you said you had a ranch on Pickering.

[ISK]--Well, it's a very large house – the largest house along there. At that time I needed a large house because we had so many relations in the east that lived there and they'd come out and stay with us a while. We always kind of kept our house then and so I lived down there; and then I wanted the children to have a good time and they could dance in it and everything.

[I]--Did you have dances when you were a little girl?

[ISK]--Oh yes, that was the chief amusement.

[I]--Did you have dances out in Savage Canyon at the ranch?

[ISK]--Oh yes, they always let us have them. They had waxed floors and they could put down a rug or something like that when there weren't dances we were dancing all the time. I laughed not long ago. We used to could have the Masonic Hall over there at Rivera to dance in and I laughed at a cousin over there that we had. When we went to a dance there always used to be that married women didn't dance very often there at that time and there used to be about seven of them that sat in a corner and they stayed there and they talked and played cards and things like that – they were all young women. I never thought about it – I was just a helter skelter girl and didn't think anything about it and I got to thinking about it one day. Their husbands were there and they'd get off in another corner and some of them danced and I said to this – she isn't really a relation, but it was one of the Tritten – Mother King's youngest sister was a Tritten, too, but they were related. People said we had such a lot of relations. I guess we do – I can't keep track of them myself. So I said to this cousin, I said, I just woke up to what those ladies were that sat off in the corner that way, and she said, You have? And I said, Yes. Well, she said, What is it? And I said, Why they were chaperoning us. And she said, Yes, don't you know you're never allowed to go to a dance without that? And I said, Well, I always wondered. Oh, you think I'm awful don't you?

[I]--Oh no, I think you were a very normal girl.

[ISK]--Yes, we used to go over to Rivera – we could get the Masonic Lodge's hall to dance in. I don't think they were more than two weeks apart that we didn't have a big dance – they'd come from all around.

[I]--Did you ever go to any dances at the Playarina Adobe?

[ISK]--No, I didn't know them at all.

[I]--Well, of course they sold in 1892 and that would have been soon after you came.

[I]--Mr. Perry, did you think of some questions you want to ask her?

[ISK]--I knew all the Nogas. I used to go down to that ranch to ride their horse and... used to ride, I thought, too close up against my horse. I was afraid the horse would kick my horse. The horse that he was riding was a brother to the one I was riding and I found out his object. Dude was so vicious with some people and he was afraid that he'd have a tantrum and he thought when he was riding close that he could reach over – I was so little and so light – and just take me out of the saddle and put me in front on his saddle and let the horse have his temper out. And that's the way we went that way. The young people have missed a great deal that didn't come in that generation.

[I]--Who were your neighbors when you came to the ranch before Whittier was founded?

[ISK]--We didn't have any neighbors. This was a great ranch that wasn't cut up even – there wasn't a house on it.

[I]--Was Mrs. Worsham up in Worsham Canyon yet?

[ISK]--Yes, but they were hardly ever out of there. They were kind of crooked, those people. I hate to say it about them but they were. They took that land up and then they never stayed there to get it – my father, how he came to take that, why, he didn't need to take it or anything, but one time when he and a friend from the

east were going hunting they came through the valley here and went through Brea Canyon to go up to the mountains to hunt deer. This friend of his, my father's – the man that had – well, he was a Rockefeller, to tell the truth, they had big oil interests, see, so he said to – this friend had been in the army with my father during the Civil War and she said to my father, 'If you ever get a chance to get any of this land up here, take it while you can get it because you'll probably get oil there.' He said, 'They've got oil, we know, over on the other side of the hills there at Puente; it isn't big wells, but it is...' And Father, he didn't have to – you know under his papers, he was a colonel in the army and under his papers he didn't have to live any more than six months – and then –

[I]--To homestead.

[ISK]--Yes, and prove it up, so he had to do that and also cultivate about five acres of land – they put that in barley and the horses could use it, and so that's what we did, but us children liked it so much out there that they came out and – we didn't stay there in winter, though.

[I]--And your house was where the pepper trees are, is that right?

[ISK]--Yes, it burned down. It was just an up-and-down house, you know—

[I]--Board and batten.

[ISK]--I see they're making those kind of houses again.

[I]--Yes.

[ISK]--Ranch houses, they called 'em. Now about the Worshams, the other old-timers seem to have thought highly of Mrs. Worsham. I don't know what happened to Mr. Worsham, but after he was out of the picture she ran the dairy by herself.

[I]--Yes.

[ISK]--And old Mr. Brain and Mrs. Brain lived there and he worked for her.

[I]--Yes.

[ISK]--And he spoke highly of her, but he didn't know what had happened to Mr. Worsham. Well, they came out and just stayed two or three days but they would have had to stay a long time to prove it up but some way or another they did prove it up but there wasn't anyone around to tell how long they stayed.

[I]--Was the Ramirez family still living in East Whittier when you came?

[ISK]--Yes, they lived in that house that was cut in two after they subdivided and they cut it in two and made it into two small houses. Yes, they still lived there.

[I]--Was there anybody over toward La Habra? Had the Scotts come, or the Leffingwells? Do you remember the Scotts' coming? They had the Leffingwell Ranch before the Leffingwells got it.

[ISK]--Yes, but I didn't know them, that was quite a little distance from here.

[I]--Did you know the Sansinenas that were over at La Habra?

[ISK]--No, I didn't know those, either. We were kind of a close clique here – the King family and the Tritty family over there and the Burke family and ourselves, and let's see – one of – Mother King's youngest sister married Wash Tritty, see. That was a big ranch over there.

[I]--Are there any other stories you think of about happenings in early days? Did you have any close call in a flood or anything like that or did you ever get thrown from a horse?

[ISK]--No, no horse has ever thrown me.

[I]--Good!

[ISK]--I began riding too young and I got too well acquainted with – I rode at Santa Ana once and I was trying to think of the name of that big ranch down there – I knew those people and they had asked me to come down and –

[I]--The Yorbas?

[ISK]--Yes. They had asked me to come down and ride there and tried to get me to come down and ride and I thought it was a little too far to go and bother about anything like that. Of course, since I rode out here I had to ride in Los Angeles then – they were just bound and determined. They went to see my father and Father was practicing law and he was busy and he didn't want me to go anyway – he was always afraid that I'd get killed or anything and so – but they were determined and so I got Dude and the Lugos took me in and Father – they finally coaxed him into it and then they said – some of the men that came in, they said, I hope you'll come out and see her ride, you've never been out to see her ride. No, he said, I don't want to see her break her neck!

[I]--Was that racetrack where Exposition Park is now?

[ISK]--No, it was in Los Angeles.

[I]--No, I mean, they tell me that in Los Angeles there was a racetrack where Exposition Park is now.

[ISK]--Yes, way out—

[I]--West side.

[ISK]--Yes, it was a very good one, too. That's the track that we made all our great records on, and they come out here and the minute they – I used to have pictures of those racehorses that were so fine – and they came out here from the east, those great horsemen, and the minute they'd make a record why they'd buy the horse up. And we didn't like that very much.

[I]--Did either of your children take to riding? Your son or your daughter?

[ISK]--No, she's no rider.

[I]--Did Raymond like to ride?

[ISK]--No, I tried to get her to ride but I guess she don't think that's ladylike.

[I]--Well, the old California days are gone. Things are different now.

[ISK]--Well, there were very few women ride at that time. Even then they seemed to be kinda – I don't know – they seemed to be afraid of horses. I guess it was cause I started riding so young that I wasn't afraid of 'em. But I do know – now that Dude – he was vicious, as I just said, and he – I could ride him. I told 'em that I thought one reason that horses, when I went down there at Santa Ana to ride that time, they brought me a me horse they was afraid I couldn't ride. I went up to him and talked to him and patted him a little and everything and he rubbed his head against me and we seemed to get real well acquainted. That gentleman down there said, 'That's the first time I ever saw him let anyone touch him,' and I said, 'The trouble with you people – men – you just pick up a blanket and put it across the horse and pick up a saddle and slam it down on his back and I've seen many a horse just kinda wince. You're too hard on 'em.

[I]--Do you remember Pio Pico coming to any of the races?

[ISK]--No, I don't think he ever came to any of the races.

[I]--He was an old man when you came, wasn't he?

[ISK]--Yes, he was an old man, he was there, and we knew him, we used to pass on the road, my father sometimes talked – he spoke Spanish – he'd sometimes stop and talk to him. We all knew him but he was old and he didn't – there were only a few families, that is, Spanish, that the Americans had anything to do with. Most of the families were part Mexican and they wouldn't accept them. The Lugo family were always accepted.

[I]--The Lugos and the Yorbas were always accepted?

[ISK]--The Yorbas are relations to the Lugos too, yes, and...

[I]--Did you come to Whittier and trade in the time that you were on the ranch?

[ISK]--We did some here, but Father used to have a lot sent out from the city.

[I]--Can you remember what store you came to the first time you ever came to Whittier?

[ISK]--Well, when I came to Whittier there weren't any stores here – it wasn't laid out or anything.

[I]--After it was founded – the first time you saw it.

[ISK]--Well, there was Gwenn's Store.

[I]--Gwenn. Can you remember Dody's? Dody's was the first store.

[ISK]--Yes, that was here first. Yes, we used to – but Father used to have a great deal sent out from the city for us.

[I]--Did you get your mail in Whittier?

[ISK]--No, Father got it in the city. There wasn't any post office here when we first came out here, at all, and he'd bring it out with him. We were real pioneers.

[I]--Did you ever go to Fulton Wells, that became Santa Fe Springs?

[ISK]--Yes, we went over to Fulton? We used to go over there for the sulfur baths.

[I]--Oh, that was a resort, and you went for sulfur baths?

[ISK]--Yes, that's why it was called Fulton Wells – there were sulfur wells that came up there.

[I]--Was there a hotel?

[ISK]--Yes, there was a hotel there. It wasn't a very large one and yet it was quite good – the Santa Fe Railroad when it came through it put that hotel up and intended it for a tourist resort, see, and it didn't go very well, though. They used to bring them out in a stagecoach there.

[I]--Well, did Dr. Fulton have a little resort before the railroad came?

[ISK]--Well, I think he did but I don't think I was over there at that time.

[I]--I was wondering how it got its name from Fulton Wells – because the Santa Fe Railroad called it Santa Fe Springs.

[ISK]--Well, there were sulfur wells there – that was the railroad laid that out and I remember now, just thinking about it – they had a lot of cottages around the hotel and the other side of the road from them and I think there were about two rooms in each of those.

[I]--Did they ever try to get oil on your father's ranch?

[ISK]--They got oil.

[I]--Oh, you did get oil?

[ISK]--Yes, we did get oil. I was left half of the ranch and my brother the other half. Yes, we got oil, though, and they weren't awful big wells – there was one that blew in, but – and then Standard Oil bought that portion of the ranch and then when they had that last war, or excitement, they came to me again and had a good house out there and so I wouldn't let them have it. He wouldn't want an oil well on his place.

[I]--Well, the Standard bought from Murphy. Was the Murphy the one that started leasing your place? Did the Murphy drill on your ranch?

[ISK]--Oh, no, our ranch was originally a government ranch, see.

[I]--I know but you said they brought oil in on your ranch and the first companies were the Home and the Sentinel and the Colorado and the Murphy.

[ISK]--They didn't drill on our land at all.

[I]--Yours was the Standard lease, is that right?

[ISK]--Yes, it was all the Standard. It's never been leased to anything but the Standard Oil Company. My father, you know, he was their lawyer, yes, they come to me every once in a while when there's oil excitement. Last time they came they couldn't persuade me and they left a deed here – lease, rather, it was – for me and they left a check in the hopes –

[I]--They were trying to tempt you!

[ISK]--Yes, that way. I thought I wouldn't like to have the – I knew they wouldn't get a big amount of oil there, they never had, but it paid quite well, that way. The big vineyard. I sold that after Mr. King died because I couldn't take care of that and I got quite a good income from that. I got \$14,000 the first year it began bearing out of that.

[I]--Is your son's home on part of the original homestead?

[ISK]--Yes, it's on part of the original – he has ten acres there.

[I]--I was trying to think of the name of his street. Oh, it's on Summit Drive.

[ISK]--That Summit Drive – well, the summit there belongs to me and that's going to her [Francis], I willed that to her, that and another five acres this side of it. I

provided for everything so's I wouldn't have to be worrying about it when I got sick.

[ISK]--This outfit that you have in the city – I want to tell you that the city – the mayor and all of those are rotten. They tried to go in there...