

Interview with Mary Facklan, March 13, 1984.

Annette: First, I want to make sure I get your name right. The way you would like it to appear?

Mary: I think Mary Facklan is fine.

Annette: A maiden name?

Mary: Hughes.

Annette: I don't really know when you got involved with the Ukiah Senior Center or what the circumstances were. Can you remember what your first experience with the Ukiah Senior Center was?

Mary: I volunteered when we were on North State Street. And I volunteered to work in the dining-room. Those were the days when you worked in the dining-room, you weren't just waiting tables like you are now, you know. You would pinch-hit making coffee, or washing dishes, or sweeping up after the meals, or--most of the waitresses down there, and even the cooks volunteered to help make desserts, because we were doing it on a very limited budget. We weren't funded by all these--Federal-wise, State-wise--Federally, state or county--we were not funded. That was 1972, or maybe a little before.

And then we had an election, and somebody asked--I can't remember, maybe it was Mr. Bartlett, who was on the Board--asked me if I would run. And I knew nothing about it whatsoever--or nothing about the Center except waiting tables. But I really enjoyed it, and I was on the Board until last June.

Annette: Oh--so you were on it a long time, then--over 10 years.

Mary: Uh-huh. But the reason for that was--now there is a clause in our by-laws that limits us to two consecutive terms. But at that time there wasn't any limit. So you could be re-elected term after term. We started in, we had--I think there were 2-year terms and 3-year terms--because we had a smaller Board. Like a 5-man or 6-man Board, or 7-person Board. And now it's 9. It's only been 9 for the last--4 years, or so. So I date back to this little time when we were--is it Norton and North State St. there? the brown house that they remodelled?--offices are in there now, but...

Annette: The one up here on Clara?

Mary: Yes, that was it. The people that were on the Board then were doing a lot of _____ and _____. They were going out into the community and getting donations and asking people for money and thinking about places to rent and getting help with the food. Everybody was just sort of--not just doing one thing there, but helping in other areas. And Mr. Bartlett and Mr. Burke were probably the main people who were going out and getting funding, asking for funding. People like Lois Anderson was quite active then, trying to

get things for us. AND, of course, we were able to lease that building down there on Perkins--the Senior Achievement Building? We bought the building, I believe it was, but the ground was leased, but the ground was leased from the railroad. And of course the railroad kept upping the rent whenever the lease expired, and that's when we thought about buying the place on Leslie. Because we knew it could become available on account of the Teen Center--or rather--well--I shouldn't say, not solvent. They were having a lot of problems with funding and they really needed something. So we had a mutual agreement with them, that we would buy the building at so much a year and give them the right to use the building. The money we would receive would go into--we were not actually out any out-of-pocket money; the money that we got on that lease agreement was to go toward the purchase of the building. It was a 10-year lease agreement, which I believe is still not final yet.

Annette: So you've been with the Center through--from the first building it was in until the present?

Mary: Right. I remember baking pies and getting donations from all my friends of food and things like hat, to help out with the salads. And we went from a--in the first Center, people went up to get the plates themselves, and we thought a family style would be better. So we were serving it more-or-less family style.

Annette: This was on...

Mary: This was on State Street. And of course when we went over to Perkins, then the waitresses would come in and set up the tables. It was so small, because our capacity in the dining-room then was for 48 people. So we would have to set for 2 settings. We would serve 48 people, and if we had a day when there was ham, beef or chicken we'd maybe have over a hundred, so we'd set it up again, and sometimes a little overflow for the third setting. But that was when we started having our funding, and we had a cook, and an assistant cook and some office help. But the mainstay that kept it going, I think, was the volunteers, in all the areas.

Annette: Most everything was done by volunteer help, then, was it?

Mary: Yes, it was. It was a very small paid help thing. Even when we went over to Perkins over there, we had a bookkeeper. Well, I guess I'm comparing it mentally with what we have today--cooks and assistant cooks and kitchen aides, and all kinds of things to do with--walk-in food service and a separate dining-room and--well, just everything, and lots of office help--auxiliary help in all different areas. But then, you know, it was just--couldn't have operated without volunteers. I've always been really grateful, because I don't think it would have gotten off the ground. Not just volunteers working in the Center, but volunteers from the community who would come in and see the needs and go out and see that the needs were met, so we would be able to continue this operation.

Annette: There's something about projects at a grass-roots level that people get excited about helping it get there. Once they attain a level where everything's paid for, it doesn't seem like get as en-

thusiastic about something.

Mary: No, they don't. They just--I don't know if they don't feel the need or they just don't--there's nothing personal about it.

Annette: They feel somebody else is making the decisions, maybe is part of it. I don't know.

Mary: And they are to some extent. Our menus, for instance, they are approved by NCO, but they go to Sacramento, and the nutritionist over there sets up the week and suggests, and in the summer like, when we have fresh things, we have some autonomy as far as our menus are concerned. But mostly they come from Sacramento, so--you're getting a centralized thing for all these different nutrition requirements...

Annette: It's not just like I can bring a pot of beans and you can bring a lemon pie, and we can all eat together.

Mary: That's right. Those days are gone. But I feel that those days were important too, because they were what got us started. And I feel like the new thing down there--oh, the new--I don't want to call it a soup kitchen, but...

Annette: Plowshares?

Mary: Plowshares. Those things start small that way, and everybody feels very involved in them--you know, everyone comes, and you know everyone you work with, and what the meals are served with--then, the first thing you know it gets big and ~~personalized~~ *impersonal*, and we probably don't have the same feeling.

Annette: And how do we avoid that, and still get ahead and grow?--I don't know.

Mary: It's very important, you know. Because at Plowshares they're talking about having enough funding for rent and utilities and a steam table--all these kind of things. And you need the money, and you can't just depend on volunteer contributions after awhile. You have to have something that's a real steady income, that you know; from whatever source, grants or.... But you can't just go out and do it with this person saying, "Well, we'll do it one month," or maybe they'll pledge so much a month for a year, and then maybe they're going to switch to another type of community service. You can't count on it.

Annette: No, you can't. Well, you were probably involved in a lot of fundraisings, if you were on the Board all those years?

Mary: Oh, yes, we just about did everything--I can't think of anything. And Mr. Bartlett was so--so good. I mean, he is so good with figures, e's so good with budget. He's so knowledgeable about--how to go and present something to the Board of Supervisors, or to go to Sacramento--you know, he's on that Council Area on Aging; Governor Brown appointed him. And he was able, I feel, to present a case in a very favorable way so that our funding was secure. And to back up all our--for instance, he always goes down to the outpatient's ward for the United Way, because,

you know United Way doesn't allocate quite a bit of money for us. And we've always, either been able to up our allocation from year to year, or at least--just like this year, we're just keeping it the same, where a lot of allocations have been cut. And I feel this is a lot due to Mr. Bartlett's expertise in that field. He could appear before an allocations committee or the Board of Supervisors or NCO and, not only present our case, but back it up with a lot of figures which maybe a lot of the rest of us couldn't do. We might be able to please the cause, but you know you have to have something to show people about how it's going to work.

Annette: Uh-huh. You and Mr. Bartlett came close to the same time-- I guess he was there a little before you were?

Mary: He was there earlier. When I went there, he was on the Board, but he was not President of the Board, and he was not Director or anything, until we went to Perkins.

Annette: What other people are still here that were there then?

Mary: I'm trying to think. I don't think there's anybody on the Board. I'm sure there isn't. Mr. Burke died, Claude Trimble died. Mr. Noble retired--his wife was very ill, and he came up-for reelection but he declined. So I can't think of anybody. Lois is new, and Joe Crowell.

Annette: Joe and Theus have been involved for--what?--quite a number of years.

Mary: Quite a number of years, since Perkins Street.

Annette: Were you there when Betty Cooper was managing it?

Mary: Yes, I was.

Annette: The people interest me. And one of the reasons, when George asked me to write this history--he said he wanted to see the history of the Center preserved, but the fact that I do human interest history--he kind of wanted that slant used on this, that angle. And so I'm trying to find out all I can, really, about the people involved. Oh, interesting people that maybe you remember through the years. That played a lot of different functions. You've mentioned George for the financial and organizational end. Are there other people who have played particular roles?

Mary: Why, yes--I think of Claude Trimble as being very influential in the early days of the Center. You know he died, but Alice Trimble, his widow, is still around.

Annette: Yeh--I've talked to her.

Mary: Have you talked to her? Then you know how much he did for the Center, and he did a tremendous amount for the Center.

Annette: It was more in the organizational end, wasn't it? That Claude worked.

Mary: Yes, it was in the organizational end, but you know he was great with the people. He was like Alice. He gave so much, to individuals, and all kind of help--those kinds of things that are behind the scenes, if people needed something or needed assistance--you didn't have to go through a channel, you could go to Claude or Alice, and if they couldn't find somebody, they'd provide the service themselves. I always thought that was wonderful.

Annette: It is. Because sometimes it gets very discouraging, if a person needs something and has to go through all these channels.

Mary: That's right. Now this is a controversial thing, so maybe you want to cut this out of your tape-recording thing--but I guess I always remember Jim Joneses' mother.

Annette: Oh, Lynetta. Yes, I've heard a lot of Lynetta.

Mary: I just loved Lynetta Jones, and I guess when people talked about Pastor Jones I always thought of his mother, and I guess I was defensive for that reason, because I always said, 'Well, I worked with Lynetta, and she was so nice at the Senior Center.' She would come down and she would do all kinds of things for us. And I thought, 'Well. She's such a lovely person it can't be all bad.' Maybe it's a little bit slanted, but I have always defended his mother at least.

Annette: A lot of people do.

Mary: And I'm only 2 blocks off the road from the old People's Temple. So I lived on Road B, right above their temple.

Annette: So it hit close to home.

Mary: Yes. This has nothing to do with the Center, but he was always alright with me. I have never asked him for a donation or asked him to do anything for us as a community, that he ever refused. So I guess you always judge people with our personal relationship with them.

Annette: Well, I don't know why Lynetta should be a controversial figure. The part she played in the Center, she played in it. Many people have told me that she should have recognition for that. That's something I would feel is important--to recognize people from the early days who are no longer here.

~~Someone~~ Someone else, that I've heard a little about, and don't feel I have a clear picture of yet, is Dr. Kroeger.

Mary: Oh, yes, Dr. Kroeger. I guess we just sort of think of him as part of the Center. He had such a good mind. When we were over here, he used to come everyday. Of course, I knew his wife, at St. Mary's, and worked with her everyday, till she died. He did so much for us.

And when he was still able to go around, he went to Sacramento and write things for us that we needed--legislation. And he was there every, single day, and everybody knew him and loved him--he was just a wonderful person.

Annette: Everyday--that's a lot.

Mary: Everyday. He always came and ate there everyday. He'd go in the hospital, then as soon as he'd get well, he'd come down there again. It sort of left a gap in the Center when he was gone. And he had a very sharp mind. When a petition came up, he would really talk to us about it--explain it from both sides and let us make a decision, let us decide what we wanted to do, but tell us how it would effect us if it went either way. I think we always appreciated him, because he was really a concerned person. And if he was wrong, he wasn't afraid to say so.

Annette: Uhuh--I talked to Jimmie Tilden some about him too. Mary Jennings? Did you know her?

Mary: The only thing I knew about Mary Jennings--I know that she was down here all the time, and she was always over at Perkins. And then, of course, when we went over to the Teen Center--we had the Blood Bank there on a steady basis, you know--the Blood Bank used to go from one hospital to another, and they would take turns around. And when they started taking blood every Thursday at the Senior Center, there was that one central place. I know the gal what's the head of it--I can't think of her name--but anyway, she said that we increased 40% on our blood donations by always having the same place. It's hard for people to remember if you're at Community Hospital one week, and Ukiah General the next week, or the next month or something. Unless they're reading the paper and keeping track, they forget unless it's always at the same place. And Mary Jennings was the one who did the Blood Bank for us. We had the orange juice and cookies and things like that. The orange juice always came from MacDonald's, and I don't know who donated cookies and things. But she always saw that people were signed in and refreshments were taken care of. That was just her thing. She'd been there for years.

Annette: I'm not sure if I know her. Was she quite a tall woman?

Mary: No. She was very small, grey-haired with glasses, and she lived in this grey apartment building, by the laundromat there. I think she lived there for years and years and years. She'd come down on the bus to the Center. And her eyes were so bad. Earlier, before she was in that stage physically, she did a lot of things, other than just the Blood Bank. She sewed.

Annette: You mentioned sewing with Lynetta, too. I haven't run into sewing much--what needed to be sewed?

Mary: Oh, we used to do all kinds of things. We used to get all kinds of mending and things like that, that we did to help out people. I remember her making things--quilts and layette blankets and robes.

Sock dolls, out of these brown and white socks, you know? Well, like the Community effort does now, for Christmas. Working on the layette blankets like the Community Effort does for the girls at Juvenile Hall--that kind of sewing. Or mending for people who didn't have a machine or couldn't see or something like that. I remember her coming and working every week.

Annette: You must have spent a lot of time there to see all these people. Outside of the Board meetings, it sounds like you were doing a lot of different things.

Mary: Well, it's really odd, because I had told my husband--I said, 'Well, I'm going to volunteer just one day a week in the dining-room.' I'm in town Tuesdays and Thursdays, so I thought, well, I could come in Thursdays. Then somebody said, "We need dessert." You can't do it now, but in those days, you could make pies and cobblers and things at home and bring them. Then somebody'd be sick and I'd be there. Or we'd have a meeting and be doing something to raise money in the afternoon, so...Then when I finally said I was going to be on the Board, I told my husband, 'Well, it's only 2 meetings--we had two meetings a month then. And he said, 'Oh, that's alright.' Well, you know how that goes. Two meetings a month, and then there's a committee meeting inbetween, then you go up to the Board of Supervisors inbetween, then you go over to Fort Bragg to see how that Center is and what you can learn. And that way, I guess, I became so involved that I do more of that than anything else in the community.

Annette: I know how that goes. I think if we get interested in things.

Mary: That's right.

Annette: The Fort Bragg Center interests me. There's a woman over there especially, that worked on it in the early days.

Mary: You talking about Liz Irwin?

Annette: Yes.

Mary: I just talked to her Sunday, and I was telling her that Mr. Bartlett is retiring in June and that he's going to run for the Board. We were saying what a wonderful thing that would be--wonderful for him, because it would keep his mind active and his hand in--and wonderful for us, because he's so good with budget and all--you know, it's a two-way street where we'd both benefit. She's a wonderful person. She says she has a great replacement over there now, but I don't see how they could--anybody could--compare with Liz, she just did so much.

Annette: I'm not acquainted with that Center a lot, but I've noticed their retail outlet they have, for the things they make to sell.

Mary: And they have floats in their Paul Bunyan Day parade, and they have a big Christmas bazaar there, and I've always felt their menu was really superior to a lot. And we have visited, as a Board, in Petaluma and Sebastopol and the Centers in Santa Rosa, and different centers

around in order to compare them with ours and see what the service was like and what the food was like. I just think that's really a super Center.

Annette: Is there much communication between the Ukiah Center and the Fort Bragg, or other surrounding ones?

Mary: Well--I don't know in what way.

Annette: I just wonder if I can bring in any connections between the Ukiah Center and any other centers? I'm wondering if the Ukiah Center should be seen in isolation, or if it should be seen in the context?

Mary: Oh, I think it should be seen in the context. Because I think that we--maybe not the people who use the Center in general, but the Board or anyone to do with the Board--is very concerned and very interested in the other centers. Helen Westa from Willits has a wonderful center, and the Willits seniors come down here, and we have gone to Fort Bragg quite often, and the Mendocino seniors come over here, and Lake County people come over here--sometimes a van comes over here of Lake County seniors. Yes, I think we're all supporting, and I think we're all interrelated and aware of what other centers are doing. Especially the Board is, I'm sure, because we've made a point of doing that.

Annette: I was asking George, when I talked to him, about the connection with the Indian Nutrition Center, and he said they had been pretty much to themselves--from the beginning, I guess.

Mary: I think so. And I don't think it's really our fault. Maybe I'm wrong, but I thought we had bent over backwards to integrate with them in any way--even before they had the Center, and even after they had the Center. I remember about a year ago that the man who was in charge of the Indian Center came up there, and we were talking about duplicating services for the bus service, and how few Indians rode the bus. And he seemed to think that was perfectly alright, and that we were welcome to come down there and eat, but he didn't see why they should come up and eat with us. I feel if it's an isolation, or segregation type situation, well, that is their choice. Because I thought we had gone out of our way. And when Priscilla Grant was there, she really went out of her way--to make them feel welcome, pick them up and bring them in.

Annette: I'm sure she did. I know Priscilla, from the college.

Mary: Right. And everyone tried to do that. Maybe they feel more comfortable in their own setting.

Annette: It would be nice for the sake of the history, to be able to build a relationship between somehow, but I haven't been able to find it. ~~_____~~

Mary: Well, I haven't either. I think there are many more of our members that go to the Indian Center, than there are the other way round. Once in awhile I'll say something--"Where's so-and-so?" and

they'll say, "Well, I think they went to the Indian Center," So I'm sure that, for whatever reason, a lot of our people are going up there. In fact, I just talked to Mr. Zeke this morning. I said, "Are you coming down to lunch today?--it's turkey," and he said, "No, I'm going up to the INdian Center, cause a friend of mine is going there." But I don't see many of their people coming down to us.

Annette: To change the subject a minute. Could you tell me a little about yourself? I'd like to know about people who built the Center. Where were you born?

Mary: I was born in Reno, Nevada, in 1913. We came up here in '59-- he bought a ranch in Redwood Valley. We stayed there until '73. My husband worked for the post office here, and he was postmaster in Redwood Valley, and he retired 2 years ago. We have 2 boys; one lives in Ohio, and one lives in the Bay area, and we have grandchildren.

Annette: Have you worked, outside of your home?

Mary: Yes, but not up here, I haven't worked up here. I belong to St. Mary's, and my husband belongs to Faith Lutheran. And I guess he does things for St. Mary's, and I do things for Faith Lutheran. We can't hardly remember, sometimes, which church is which.

Annette: It's interesting that you're able to keep that balance.

Mary: WE always have, that's never been any contention or anything, you know. If they need cookies or rummage or somebody to do something I do it, and Gene works on the Mardis Gras with me for St. Mary's school and things like that--it's worked out very well. I went to the ~~St. Agnes~~ in San Francisco. ~~I went to St. Agnes and graduated and started to Star of the Sea.~~ Then I went to UC Berkeley.

Annette: What was your major?

Mary: History.

Annette: Did you want to teach?

Mary: Well, my mother wanted me to teach, so I think I went just to please her. But I really didn't feel like I wanted to teach. Then, of course, I got married young, and I decided I wasn't going to finish college, so I only did two years, and my mother was very disappointed. I thought, well, when my children are grown I'll go back and finish, but I didn't. I really wasn't that interested. There was nothing I wanted to do specifically with it. And I thought, well, maybe after my husband retires, I'll go back to college here and finish, but I had all these volunteer things. We're very active in Redwood Valleys' annual crusade for the American Cancer Society, and we do the Redwood Valley Flea Market, Breakfast, Auction--the whole thing--once every year in May. So I've been in the Lake and Mendocino cancer crusades.

Annette: I'm finding that the people I talk to for this Senior history are very active in other organizations, for the most part.

Mary: And I think that's why I've never gone back to school or anything, because--I don't have to work. I wouldn't be in the age group that would go out and start teaching, and I like being free.

Annette: You have enough satisfactions in other things you're doing in your life. You don't need it, you don't sound like.

Mary: Yes, I do. The Society and the Senior Center and the United Way Board. You know, that's enough.

Annette: Well, what brought you to become interested in the Senior Center? Was there something that particularly attracted your attention?

Mary: I'm trying to think who it was talked to me about it first, whether it was Lois Anderson--somebody who was involved even before I was and said that they were desperately in need of somebody to help out in the dining-room. I thought, 'Well, I'm in town that day, I can help out in the dining-room,' and it kind of grew on me, I guess. Did you talk to Gladys McPhun?

Annette: I'm going to talk to Gladys.

Mary: She's quite an interesting person.

Annette: How long has she been involved?

Mary: Oh, she was on the Board for--what?--3 years, I guess.

Annette: Would you have any thoughts on the evolution or the evolution of the Senior Center, from when you were on Perkins St. to now? Is there anyway you would describe the way it's gone--the direction of its progress or the changes that have been made?

Mary: All I can say is that, when somebody asked me before I said, 'Well, I date back to the time when it was a little drop-in center with no funding, to where we're well-funded and we own our own property--and a great variety of services, not only to Seniors in the community, but others as well. I see us as being kind of a permanent part of the community now, whereas in the beginning I wasn't sure if we were here to stay or not. And not because of the funding, but--were there enough people here that really needed what we had to offer? And now that there is so much more--I'm thinking of programs like the new lip-reading service, and the tax service that we've had the last few years is so good. And all the physical fitness things that we do. Then it ties in with other areas in the community, like Autumn Leaves and Walnut Village and the Mendocino Clubhouse up there, have programs that are tied in with ours. For physical fitness, for swimming at the park. Betty _____, who I think is physical fitness instructor at Driftwood, comes over at noon and talks to people about getting up classes--Tuesday and Thursday--first at Walnut Village and then at Autumn Leaves. Kathie *P. Taff* does swimming all summer. All winter at Redwood Health Club which gives us their pool to use, and the City provides us with the park pool facility and insurance coverage, and funds an instructor for us for all the degrees in Redcross and Life-Saving and Beginners,

You can go through all these, and this is a City thing, that has helped us out. Redwood Health Club has done it on a private, business basis. They have given us ~~very low~~ rates to begin with for Seniors that are excellent, that any Senior could afford; plus giving us the facility and letting a City or County instructor come down and get paid and use their facility in the winter-time, when we can't use the Park pool. And the Clubhouse at the Golf Course--we use that for our exercise program Wednesdays and Fridays, because our Senior Center that we used to use is set up now for the dining-room, so it's not feasible to move the tables. These are things that are geared just for Seniors, types of exercises and relaxation. I think we've gone from a place with just a few people involved, to a Center where all the community is not only aware of us but different segments of the Community are involved with our people.

Annette: That sounds real good.

Mary: And you know, like I say, the thought was probably just Seniors, older people, to begin with, but now you have a lot of people involved who are not Seniors. For instance one of our outreach workers, *Ruthie Hillman*, is quite young, and yet she's working with Seniors. This is good. You need relationship with all age groups, in order to keep you active.

Annette: I find that's healthy. I love my friends in all age groups.

Do you have any particular vision of how you would like to see this book written? What you would like to see in it?

Mary: I think the people--and I'm not speaking just of the people who were involved in the beginning--because people that have come later have added a lot of other things to it that were needed. I'm thinking of the early people, like Mr. Trimble and Mr. Bartlett and Mrs. Anderson. The credit goes to them, for hanging in there, as the kids say, and getting it going when you couldn't see any future in it at all. I'd certainly like to see them get credit for staying there and seeing it through until it embraced all the different aspects that we have now, and different community awareness. You know, we have so many needs that are met by different businesses in the community. It will be interesting when it's finished, because you're going to get all these different viewpoints.

Annette: Yes. How to incorporate those as a writer is a challenge--I have to think about that a lot. And in just the physical structure, books can be all sorts of ways. We can have anything from a small pamphlet to a thick hardback. I think photos are important. Of course, it needs to pay for itself. It needs to be in the range, too, of people who want to buy it. Do you have any ideas?

Mary: No, I haven't. I don't think it has to be lengthy. I agree I think even people who aren't aware when they look at a name, like I'm not sometimes--I may not put the name with the face, but I know the person, so if I see a picture of someone, I know, well, certainly, she'd been there, or she's been involved with in this area or that area. So I think pictures are important, and of the buildings--I hope

you have pictures of the old one up here.

Annette: I haven't started looking for that sort of thing yet, so far I've only interviewed. But I'm sure they're probably around.

Mary: Oh, I'm sure--I'm trying to think. Theus Crowell ^{at} /one time was doing the scrapbook, on different things we've done for fund-raising and activities.

Annette: Can you think of any people that should be included that maybe I'm not thinking of?

Mary: No, I can't, but maybe some of the other people can, something that I'm missing. As much as I loved Dr. Kroeger, I didn't even think of him until you said that. He was always there, and he used his expertise, but he wasn't on the Board or something, so that I would be thinking, "Now, he's a key person," but he certainly was. He had a lot to do with forming the early Center.

Annette: Can you think of anything you'd like to add that I haven't thought of? Any interesting experiences?

Here are two experiences, added by Mary after recording went off:

"I had been working with St. Mary's, visiting resthomes, and I kept hearing the name 'Claude Trimble', and somebody said, 'Why don't you go down there and volunteer in the dining-room, and it was close to the same thing--working with old people and being in touch with their needs. I think that's how I got started.'"

"I felt so good about it when MSSP got funded, because it was the only rural area that got funded and we were a pilot project. We wrote the proposal for the grant and the people came over from Sacramento to interview us several times and we got funded. I think this was quite a feather in our caps."