

Title of Interview Interview with Don Dambacher

Date May 22, 1984 Place 275 S. Shepherd, Sonora Length 90 min.

PERSONAL DATA:

Interviewee

Interviewer

Name Don Dambacher

Name Star Hempstead

Address 275 So. Shepherd
Sonora, CA 95370

Address P. O. Box 167
Moccasin, CA

Telephone 533-1387

Telephone 989-2320

Birth Date 1926

Relationship to Interviewee (neighbor, friend, relative, etc.)

Birth Place Sonora

Places Lived _____

Length of acquaintance just met when interviewed

Occupations Insurance
Car salesman

Reasons for the interview Early history
and Bixel relative.

INTERVIEW DATA:

List topics covered in order of appearance
(please spell names and places correctly).

Tape recorder
counter:

Topics

See separate topic sheets.

EVALUATION

I finally met with Don Dambacher on a warm, May evening about 8:30 p.m., May 22, 1984, at his home at 275 South Sheperd Street. I was met at the door by Mr. Dambacher in his bathrobe with a glass of iced tea in his hand. I was led into the front room of a nice, older, Victorian-style home. The home was remodeled inside, also Victorian style, with bright colors. The outside is painted orange, white and brown with lots of flowers in the yard, hence the remark on the tape about the house being Disneyish. There is a lovely stained glass window in the front door with a big "D" in the middle. Mr. Dambacher was calm and assured and had prepared some notes on his family's genealogy. I was introduced to his wife, Betty, who shut off the air conditioner and the television and went into the kitchen to finish her work.

My questions were ready and we began. We had really launched into the interview when I discovered the microphone was turned off. I ran the tape back and we started over. By then we were both laughing and felt at ease enough to be on a first name basis. This second attempt was every bit as good as the first attempt. The interview was very casual and informal and most of my questions were answered before I could ask them. Most of the questions asked were extemporaneous. The rest of the interview was pleasant with no distractions. When we were through with the interview, I had a glass of iced tea and we visited a bit. Don seemed to feel that what we were doing and trying to accomplish was very important.

Mr. and Mrs. Dambacher were very gracious and they said that I was welcome back anytime. I enjoyed very much the interview and the visit. I feel I have an added asset of new and valuable friends.

QUESTIONS AND TOPICS

Counter No.

10 Introduction

14 Mr. Dambacher, I understand that your family is very prominent in Tuolumne County history. Can you tell me where your family originated and some of their early history here?

Genealogy and origins:

John Henry Dambacher I	1825-1876
John Henry Dambacher II	1852
Henry Joseph Dambacher	1854
Frederick Dambacher	1857

Early Columbia home.

70 Is the original house still there?

More genealogy:

7 sons and 1 daughter

Frederick was the first born male, white child in Columbia

Charles and William, twins, 1859

88 How did they get along being twins?

William died at an early age.

More genealogy:

Wilhemina	1861
Aleck	1863
Joseph	1868

Mother's name was Barbara Klein, 1827-1903.

C.A. (Doc) Dambacher is the son of Charles, the brother of John Henry I.

115 Burial site at Columbia Cemetery.

John Henry III, son of John Henry II.

John Henry IV, Melton, and Don are sons of John Henry III.

John Henry V, son of John Henry IV.

John Henry VI, son of John Henry V.

170 Oldest continuing living family in Tuolumne County.

185 Tales about the jail.

198 Is the jail where the museum is now?

Don's mother's maiden name was Morse. Her mother's maiden name was Cannon.

250 Cannon family information.
Symons is sister of Cannon.

306 Did you marry later and have children later?
Wife-----Betty
Son-----Michael
Daughter---Laurie--twin sons

318 Suicide of daughter.

353 About father being sheriff.

375 Occupations?
Grandfather miner in Tonopah, Nevada.
Don's mother's sisters, Harden and O'Hara, here in Sonora.

432 Can we backtrack? I heard Minnie (Wilhemeni) died very young.

450 Gallo information.

476 The original house on Yankee Hill--was it made of any special material?
Various soil factors

531 Is there anything left structurally, indentions or foundations?

556 When you were a child growing up, or your parents, did they celebrate any particular holidays?

573 Early rodeos.

585 Did it occur about the same time as the one now?

605 Early Sonora.

SIDE 2

8 I heard that you have a family bible in German.

17 I know it is not your expertise, but can we talk about the Bixels?

33 Have any stories passed along to you about the Bixels?

45 Story about Freddie Bixel.

65 Story about Don Dambacher's father, John Henry III.

102 Do you yourself just have the two children?

124 Talks about Albert Dambacher, brother of C.A. Dambacher.

147 I haven't heard too much about Garnett. How does he fit in?

154 Which one of the two, Doc or Garnett, did the narration for "Crandall-in-the-hole"?

165 More family history - Della Ritz.

183 Is there just the two of them left, Doc and Garnett?

200 Is there anything really spectacular that stands out as acts of heroism, etc.?

223 Talks about own home, 275 So. Shepherd Street.
Victorian home.

265 I notice that you have a stained glass window in your door.

295 Do you think the home will stay in the family?

305 Did your son Mike live in this house a child?

337 Don's basic history.

385 I know that you've had a heart bypass surgery. Do you feel that this has changed you in any way?

428 Last heart surgery.

438 Enjoy life to the hilt.

472 Permission to use tape.

486 End of side 2.