

Interview with

**Carolyn Cope**

December 28, 2004

by Lloyd O'Connell

for the

Highway 101 Association

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Lloyd: This is Lloyd O'Connell and we're at Carolyn Cope's home and this is December 28, 2004. We're going to be interviewing Carolyn for the Highway 101 Association

Carolyn: I'm Carolyn Roy Cope, 47 McNeil Avenue, where I was born and raised. We built a new house in 1991 on the same site.

Lloyd: When and where were you born?

Carolyn: I was born in Escondido at Palomar Hospital because Scripps Hospital in La Jolla was adding a wing and they didn't have enough maternity beds. My dad had to drive my mom way over the mountain to Escondido.

Lloyd: In those days, it was different.

Carolyn: That's right.

Lloyd: What are your parents' names?

Carolyn: My father was French Canadian, named Gerard Eugene Joseph Roy, from St. Malo, Quebec, Canada. My mother Thelma Marie Boggs Roy moved here to join her brother and his wife, my uncle and aunt, Ralph and Martha Boggs. Martha was a home economics teacher at San Dieguito High School in the 30's. Her mom's heritage is Scott-Irish.

Lloyd: How did your family come to Southern California?

Carolyn: My dad came here because his sister, Jeannette Roy was married to a German, Joseph Reisner. They moved here and were buying up property in Pacific Beach and some in Leucadia. Dad thought it was a nice place and wanted to escape the cold of Canada. So he moved here in the 30s. My mother came because her brother and his wife, who was Martha Boggs, work was here. Uncle Ralph was a contractor and she was a teacher, so that's what brought her here.

Lloyd: What period of time did you live on the 101?

Carolyn: I was born and raised right here on this site where we are sitting right now which is on McNeill, one of the original streets in Encinitas, on the north side of the "Derby House" property. I was born in 1950, so all my life.

Lloyd: Can you tell me any outstanding events that occurred that were meaningful to you, related to the Highway 101?

Carolyn: Along the coast highway specifically? Probably the most significant change I ever saw wasn't when I was a child, it was more of when I was a teenager, when downtown Encinitas was where everything was. You'd go to get your animal feed, your groceries, the drug store was

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down there, clothing stores, jewelry stores, the doctor, the dentist. Then when I-5 went in in the early 60s, it almost became a ghost town. So in relation to the downtown corridor, that was the largest change. Other than that, it was where life was. Everyone was downtown. You couldn't go downtown without running into several people you knew.

Lloyd: How old were you when you first rode on the 101? Where were you going that you remember?

Carolyn: What I remember the most, because we would walk. Where the house is, we would walk downtown, so most of the activities along the coast were walking or going on 101 from Encinitas to Leucadia to my father's grocery store. So that was my immediate downtown. But the drive into San Diego going on coast highway, before the freeway of course, was all the large eucalyptus trees through Del Mar up Torrey Pines by Camp Callan. The intersection, which was a large intersection at the time, where UCSD is now, where you could make the decision to go straight or turn right and go down to where Scripps Pier was, which is now the La Jolla scenic drive. I remember that, I felt like I was in a whole 'nother country, because it was tall, foresty eucalyptus. It was just a total forest up there. There's still quite a few of those large eucalyptus trees. But that was the most significant area. And of course, from Encinitas to Leucadia, all the trees that would create a cave effect with the light at the end of the tunnel. The end of coast highway, the eucalyptus trees, and their fragrance was magical.

Lloyd: Those trees were in the middle, weren't they?

Carolyn: And on the sides. They were everywhere. It made the perfect canopy of eucalyptus and it smelled great, too.

Lloyd: Do you remember your first trip on the 101 driving yourself?

Carolyn: Probably just to the store or to work and back, which was nothing.

Lloyd: Your dad's store was located where?

Carolyn: On the corner of Phoebe and 101, which is still 1144 North Highway 101. It's still there. It was in Leucadia. He worked in Rancho Santa Fe and then for the Miller Brothers downtown, well before he was married. He built that store in 1952, I believe, and the post office 1955.

Lloyd: Did you always have a post office there?

Carolyn: No, it came about a year or two after the store and dad was approached by the US Postal Service to see if he would be able to build a dwelling that could be used as a post office, because he had the land and it was right along the corridor, so that's when the relationship with the US Postal Service started. It was built as a post office.

Lloyd: Where was the post office before 1952?

Carolyn: In Leucadia, there was none that I know of.

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Lloyd: There was a Merle post office, long, long before. But I wonder where it went after that. Interesting, that your dad built the post office.

Carolyn: Built it as the post office.

Lloyd: Can you recall some of the other buildings or businesses such as restaurants downtown?

Carolyn: The Coffee Mill. Raymond Brock used to take Denise Winters Brock, his granddaughter, and I--we grew up together. Raymond Brock was a Spanish Teacher and that was her grandfather. He would take us often down to the Coffee Mill, which is now the Encinitas Café because he enjoyed the company. His wife Merriam just didn't like going out, so he would take us often. I was talking the other day with someone about the Self Realization Fellowship Vegetarian Café. We used to go there also. A lot of people didn't even know that it was open to the public, which it was, and Raymond was always out in the community and everyone knew him, so the few days they were open to the public, we would go. We'd get the veggie burger and the healthy food. Mabel's was also important to me. It's on the corner now where Gardenology is at E and 101. That's where you would get patterns and fabric, and that's where I got fabric for my clothes. I had to learn to sew. So we stopped by almost daily. Definitely no more than three days would pass where my girlfriends and I would go in and see the new fabrics came in and patterns and we'd share them.

Lloyd: Did you make your own clothes?

Carolyn: Yes, I did. I wanted new clothes and that seemed to be the only way to get them! I enjoyed that. As a little girl, my mother would go down to Mode O Day, where Detour Salon is now, on the west side of E and 101. It was always a catch-22 because I was stuck going downtown with her. This was when I was real little, real small, when I couldn't go down by myself. Mom would always run into people she knew and it would never be a quick trip downtown because it was yak-yak-yak. To this day, a lot of us that live around here, we still run into each other.

Lloyd: It's kind of neat, isn't it?

Carolyn: It really is!

Lloyd: What do you remember about any other buildings that were significant to you?

Carolyn: Miller Feed Store. We'd always stop in there to see if they had any new little baby kitties that were running around. They had chickens and they had baby ducks, too. They'd sell them for people to raise, but every now and then we'd buy one. And I remember they were a quarter for a chick.

Lloyd: What is the date on this?

Carolyn: Oh, late 50's, early 60s. It always smelled good in there with the hay and the alfalfa

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Lloyd: That was right there on E Street by the railroad track.

Carolyn: Right. That was fun. And then Miller Grocery Store, which is where the Small Mall is now, which is on the south side of E, that's where we'd go get our penny candy. They also had the big dill pickles. I wasn't big on it—but my girlfriend loved those huge pickles in a barrel. They were a nickel.

Lloyd: What landmarks or unusual structures come to mind?

Carolyn: When I was a kid, the castle, when the top fell off the castle and then there was this square box with that one pole and we could see it from the house. That would be on my view looking south. In the Christmas time there was a huge Christmas tree at Thornton. That was a wonderful, wonderful Christmas tree. Of course, the La Paloma was the bank as well as a movie theater. The movie theater was very spectacular to me. This large building with, I don't know if it's tile or marble floor, (I'd like to find out what the original flooring is), but I remember loving to go in there. I couldn't see anything, but I would tap, you could hear yourself walking in. It was a typical bank in those days with tellers and all.

Lloyd: You went to the shows on Saturdays?

Carolyn: 50 cents and it was a double feature. I can't even imagine sitting through two movies now. Sometimes it was a Disney movie with a Tarzan movie. But we'd line up around the building, the kids I mean. It really was packed on Saturday afternoon!

Lloyd: At the time when you saw the castle, was it occupied at that time?

Carolyn: I don't know. It could have been. I honestly can't tell you.

Lloyd: So you've never been in it?

Carolyn: No, because they've since torn it down. Of course, we'd go up and dare friends to touch it because it was haunted!

Lloyd: Was there a particular person associated with this stretch on the 101?

Carolyn: The main person that I would see often was Marsha Tiedy's mother, who worked at the Fabric Shop, at Mabel's. We could never get away with anything. I would always see her and she would always ask about Mom. She would show me the new fabrics and the patterns that came in.

Lloyd: She was a neat gal to see.

Carolyn: Yes, but she didn't let us be rambunctious or silly or come in with sandy feet from the beach either!

Lloyd: What about your beach experience?

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Carolyn: Well, they had play equipment on it. That's one thing. I'm glad they have that new one little spot now.

Lloyd: The toddler place.

Carolyn: The Tot Lot. That big cement pavilion that was on the south side where people could picnic and hang out, that was always nice. I like that and we'd hang out around there. People could come in and get a table. There was a grass area, a lawn area, where there is still that one lone palm tree left over from my memories. There's only one there. And of course, Mr. Hipsley.

Lloyd: I remember him.

Carolyn: Going in and getting candy and stuff. The wooden floor, a wooden, flat floor. There was a walkway across the top, or a sidewalk rather, that went across the top berm that I remember from the pavilion to Mr. Hipsley's. Hipsley's is where you could rent rafts for 50 cents an hour and sometimes we'd split it and share. Then we could all use it. But they were best. The Western Auto Store downtown was fun, too. I enjoyed the Western Auto, which was downtown on the 101. It was where the resale shop is, Flashback.

Lloyd: Do you have any other favorite memories or favorite trips on the 101?

Carolyn: Probably going into San Diego. Not going north, that was never exciting. The 101 hasn't changed a whole lot, but I loved the trip going back because you felt like you were going into a whole different country.

Lloyd: Do you remember any bad accidents that occurred on the 101?

Carolyn: I don't remember it, but when Harry Hill's little two-year-old toddler walked down and was killed by a train in 1952. We used to play together. Harry Hill was the veterinarian. I don't remember it but I remember people being really upset and later just vague memories of that. It was always interesting to us during the race season and the "sucker traffic". Someone had coined that term "sucker traffic" it was all the suckers going to the track and it would back up all the way to the stores in Leucadia.

Lloyd: Or beyond.

Carolyn: And beyond, just creeping into Del Mar. But as far as accidents, I don't remember

Lloyd: Nothing. How about stories of patrol officer and traffic cops? Were you ever given a ticket?

Carolyn: No, I wasn't, even though I was driving at least two years even before I got my license, thank goodness for that, huh! I had my car and it was almost all paid for before I even had my license and I was driving to Palomar Junior College!

Lloyd: Do you remember the speed limit driving through town?

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Carolyn: No. Slow. I remember when the traffic lights came in.

Lloyd: So you never got a ticket?

Carolyn: No.

Lloyd: Good girl. Was there ever a celebrity in a parade route or a president to come there?

Carolyn: I remember Pernell Roberts, who was part of the Bonanza cast. He was one of the brothers on Bonanza and he was down on, I'm pretty sure it was Harloff Chevrolet where he had a used car lot. So we went down to see him because Bonanza was big at that time. He was on truck, one of the Chevy Trucks and we're standing there and he sat down on the side of the truck and he sat down on my fingers! But I got his autograph! I do remember this, and this is funny, I thought about this the other day, the Oscar Meyer Wienermobile. Dad had a grocery store and they would come through and they would stop at Dad's store and stop down in town too, and give out little wiener whistles! So that was fun, the Oscar Meyer Wienermobile.

Lloyd: Do you remember the traffic light where it was installed in the early days?

Carolyn: It was just here at D and E I think the only two spots where they had them.

Lloyd: You had two lights after the 50's? When you were growing up you remember two lights?

Carolyn: Just the two. I also remember when I was a kid, not when I was driving, when someone had a wild idea to have it one way in on D Street but west on D only and east on E only. Do you remember that? It was a pain for my mom and a lot of people.

Lloyd: I don't remember that.

Carolyn: I remember that and Mom was cursing all the time. I remember it was one way and then one way and that did not work.

Lloyd: I don't remember.

Carolyn: It was short lived.

Lloyd: Do you remember anything about service stations along the route?

Carolyn: Oh yes. Where Angelo's is now was the gas station.

Lloyd: Who was the owner, was it Ed Cory?

Carolyn: I don't know, was it Cory that had it? But I'll tell you, that company had service when you filled up. They'd check your oil and your water and wash your windows and I always liked to go with my sister when she got gas, and dad, because there was a really cute gas station attendant that was young, a teenager, that we always like to watch him wash our windshields!

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Lloyd: Those were the days when you got service.

Carolyn: That's right, not anymore.

Lloyd: Anything else that you can remember about the 101?

Carolyn: Well when the parades were during the day.

Lloyd: What were they like?

Carolyn: Oh, they were fun. All the school bands, as a Brownie, our troops in uniform would walk through, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Brownies.

Lloyd: Was that a Christmas parade?

Carolyn: Yes, Christmas. Not holiday, Christmas!

Lloyd: Do you remember any parades relative to the Flower Festival.

Carolyn: No, I don't. I really don't.

Lloyd: I think the Flower Festival was before our time. I think it stopped about 1935.

Carolyn: Now the Lumber Yard, I remember when that was the lumberyard, when it truly was. I used to go with dad into the hardware store and get stuff. They had everything, just like a Dixieline.

Lloyd: Do you remember any other lumberyards at that time?

Carolyn: Solana Beach, they had their own lumberyard.

Lloyd: Do you remember any restaurants?

Carolyn: There was a Mexican restaurant on 2<sup>nd</sup> street that was in a house that we'd go to. And down here, before George's--in 1957, the very first restaurant--the first time I was ever taken to a restaurant was in 1957 when Mom was in the hospital giving birth to my brother, Dad took my sister and I down here which is now Bistro Sol for dinner and I thought that was just fabulous!

Lloyd: Was that a steakhouse at that time?

Carolyn: It was a steakhouse, yes. I just remember it was really neat someone bringing all the food and taking the plates away.

Lloyd: That was close to E Street and 101.

Carolyn: The liquor store has always been the liquor store.

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Lloyd: It used to belong to Dillon's grandmother.

Carolyn: Oh that's right. Mike Dillon. Well, he would know the name.

Lloyd: Anything else that comes to mind?

Carolyn: Okay, with my dad having the grocery store in Leucadia, I remember when the Safeway store was built, which is now the old market. That was devastating to the family because that's the supermarket and the prices were so Dad couldn't compete with them. Initially, it was hard but people did come back and support us and we did fine. But it was like, oh they're putting in a Safeway, oh my goodness. It was just two miles down the road. But Encinitas was growing and it did serve Cardiff and Solana Beach as well. Where Roy's Market was served Ponto campgrounds, and La Costa people would come and then of course, the Leucadia people.

Lloyd: That can hurt.

Carolyn: Yes, the big stores coming in. I guess they closed when they moved out by the freeway. The freeway was probably the worst thing that ever happened to downtown. But now with the Main Street program and all the downtown is a vital point for tourism.

Lloyd: Do you remember any clothiers that were utilized at all?

Carolyn: Cory Brothers. But we'd go into Value Fair in Cardiff. If we were doing school shopping we'd go into the Penneys in Escondido or the Sears in Escondido because there wasn't much here. Once we went to Walker Scotts in downtown San Diego. Anderson's Jewelers, I loved that place, he was real nice and he had really quality jewelry. When the St. Christopher's came out, initially in the 60's, that have now come back, he had the best selection. He moved up to the Vulcan Square Shopping Center and then out by the freeway, but he was right by the Rite Aid.

Lloyd: They were good people.

Carolyn: They were.

Lloyd: His first store, where would that be today?

Carolyn: Real close to where the Diamond 101 is now.

Lloyd: The same block between D and E.

Carolyn: Between D and E on the east side.

Lloyd: Anything else you can remember?

Carolyn: Well the Daily Double was always there. We'd tease each other and push each other in, because it was under 21 and we were just curious to see what it was. "Push me in" like I

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don't want to go in but we'd push each other in. Then the library, and of course we'd stop there routinely. We had our stops, just like kids do now, like Alberto's and the 7-11. It's just different. The same activity I think goes on but the names have changed to protect the innocent!

Lloyd: Just a new generation. I think that's it.

Carolyn: It was the most wonderful place in the world to be raised and I'm fortunate that I can raise my kids here. I've traveled all over the world and there's no place like Encinitas.