

Interview with
Vivian Daley Bricker
December 4, 2004
by Kristi Hawthorne
for the
Highway 101 Association

Interview with Vivian Daley Bricker, December 4, 2004

Interview with Vivian Daley Bricker on December 4, 2004 at her home in Oceanside, Oceanside, California. Interviewer and transcriber: Kristi Hawthorne.

Kristi: I'm Kristi Hawthorne and I'm here with Vivian Daley Bricker and it's December 4, 2004. We are at her home at 3606 Vista Ray, Oceanside. We're going to talk about the Highway 101 or what we remember as Hill Street in Oceanside. Can you tell me where you were born and when you were born?

Vivian: I was born in South Dakota in 1918 and we were on a farm. We always lived on a farm until I was in high school. We lived in many different farms. It seemed like every year we moved. I don't know whether it was because we couldn't pay the rent or what it was. But at any rate, in 1931 we moved to Miller, South Dakota to Faulkton, South Dakota and that's where I finished my elementary school and I graduated from high school there. Then, after I graduated from high school, I worked for a year in an attorney's office. Then about six months in an abstract office, which is like title company offices here. Then my sister and I came to California, to Oceanside, and we've been here ever since.

Kristi: What were your parents' names?

Vivian: William and Anna. My dad was always "Rosie". My dad always called her Rosie. And of course, he was always, Bill.

Kristi: What was the name of the sister you came out with?

Vivian: Helen. Then Helen married Bert McIntyre and they had three children. They lived here for many, many years. My sister died on the 10th of December eighteen years ago.

Kristi: Was she older or younger than you?

Helen: No. She was older. I had an older sister Ethel. She was the oldest of seven children. Then my sister Helen and then I had four brothers: Edward, Raymond, Bill Jr. and Gene. Of course, Gene had lived here for many years and raised his family here and he still has many, many children including John, whom you know very well.

Kristi: What prompted you and Helen to come all the way from South Dakota to California?

Vivian: The reason was, my sister Helen had a very good friend who used to date this guy in high school. His name was Bud McElrath. Bud left South Dakota and came to Oceanside and was here for a number of years. He came back to Miller for a visit and he and Joyce, my sister's friend, got together again and they got married and she came back to California with him. So they talked Helen into coming back, too. She was here without a family so she talked me into coming. One by one we came. The last ones were my father and mother.

Kristi: Did you come out by yourself?

Vivian: Helen was already out here.

Interview with Vivian Daley Bricker, December 4, 2004

Kristi: Did you travel by yourself?

Vivian: The girl that my brother Edward eventually married, Edna Barto, and her twin brothers and I drove out. We had never been out of South Dakota before in our lives.

Kristi: Who drove?

Vivian: The twins. Howard and Harold Barto.

Kristi: What kind of car did they have?

Vivian: Oh heavens, I don't know. It was some old tin can; I don't know what it was.

Kristi: Were you excited?

Vivian: Of course, we had never been out of the state before. Of course, we were excited. It was a very big experience for all of us, you know, to leave our homes. It was the only thing we had ever known and come to a place. But as I said, one by one, my brother Raymond only lived here for about a year. He lived in South Dakota most of his life. He was in Rapid City and he worked for Gutzon Borglum on Mount Rushmore. He helped build Mount Rushmore. Gutzon Borglum was the sculptor that sculpted all of the faces on the mountain. He eventually came out here with this wife and they spent about a year and then they moved up north to Orange County. Then of course, Bill married a local girl, Jerri Nadon. They had five children. They're all still around, close proximity. Gene, of course, had eight children. That's my family. I had three.

Kristi: What are their names?

Vivian: The oldest is Dennis, then Donna and Debra. Dennis lives here, no he used to live here, he lives in Murrieta now. He just got married a couple of months ago. Donna has been married for about 35 years. She lives in Everett, Washington. Her husband is Steve Kiser, he's a policeman. My daughter Debra lives in Burlingame, California near the San Francisco airport. She's a flight attendant for United Airlines. I have six grandchildren. I have Nathan and Erin Kiser. I have Matt and Nick Gregory and Scott and Melissa Bricker. I have one great-granddaughter, Kendra Randall.

Kristi: What time of year was it that you came from South Dakota to Southern California?

Vivian: It was in November, the very first part of November. It was the first or second of November.

Kristi: What year?

Vivian: It was 1937.

Kristi: What did you think when you first came to Oceanside?

Interview with Vivian Daley Bricker, December 4, 2004

Vivian: Well, we got here, we arrived in Oceanside about nine o'clock at night and we kept looking at a map and every turn we'd take we'd say, "Well, where is Oceanside? It must be pretty far ahead." Well, not knowing we were going to go up a grade like Rosicrucian and then come right down into Oceanside, we finally saw the town of Oceanside and of course, we were thrilled that we had made it safely. It was some experience for people who hadn't traveled very much. The when I got here, my sister had gotten me a job. I worked with two realtors, Leo Meis and Laurie Porteous. They were real estate and insurance men. I worked for them probably six months and then the manager of the Bank of America, Roy Hoover, came to me one day and he said, "Why don't you come to work for us?" I don't know what I was getting; I can't remember what my salary was, maybe \$25 or \$30 a month. They gave me a small raise; I don't remember how much it was. So I went to work for Bank of America and I worked there until I retired in 1979. I retired from the bank.

Kristi: Where was the real estate office where you worked?

Vivian: The real estate office was on Mission Avenue. You cross Hill Street or South Coast Highway and it was right there, it used to be King's Men, was on the corner there and there was a drug store, across the street, where the new Regal Theater buildings are now. My sister worked there in the drug store. The real estate office was right across the street from that on Mission Avenue, which is west of Hill Street. She and I got a little apartment and eventually we got the rest of the family out. The last ones that came were my mother and father and my brother Gene. We eventually got on our feet.

Kristi: Was Oceanside bigger than the town you were living in in South Dakota?

Vivian: Oh yes. I don't know what the population of Oceanside was; it may have been maybe 2500. Not very big, but it was a lovely place and there were merchants downtown, there were stores of all kinds downtown, there were restaurants, there were jewelry stores, hardware stores. It was just a lovely little place.

Kristi: Do you remember any trips you might have taken on the 101 down south or up north?

Vivian: Well, yes. We used to go to San Diego and then of course in those days we had to go up the Torrey Pines Grade, which is highway 101. That was that way for many years. I can't remember when the freeway went in. But that was our only road down there.

Kristi: What was the Torrey Pines Grade like?

Vivian: Well, it was lovely. It was a lovely drive, very scenic. The weather was so gorgeous for us. We didn't get to Los Angeles too frequently but we would go up usually at Christmas time and shop around or look around. We didn't have much to buy but we would look around. That was about the beginning here in Oceanside for me.

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

Vivian: Yes, I just about do, because I'm sorry to say, I did not get my driver's license until 1944. How was I then? 26 years old. Of course, on the farm, part of the time we didn't even

Interview with Vivian Daley Bricker, December 4, 2004

have cars. My dad would use a team and wagon and if we did have a car it was an old clunker and sometimes it would work and sometimes it wouldn't. So I never learned to drive until I came to California and many years after I came to California. My husband Don went into the service, into the Air Force, and I made myself a promise I was going to learn how to drive while he was gone. And I did. And the way I did it was my brother Gene had a Pontiac convertible coupe, which was really something in those days. He was in the service. He left it down at my mother and father's place at 224 South Pacific Street while he was in the service. We had one garage but it was full of junk. So I thought one day, "Well, I'm just going take it." I took it out and I taught myself to drive. I had never been behind the wheel before. There was no traffic to speak of, very, very little traffic. So I was safe and I knew all the policemen in town. Our chief of police was Harold Davis. He was a real character. Anybody that hears this that's from Oceanside will know who Harold Davis was. I never will forget one day I came up Michigan Avenue from Pacific Street, I thought I would take a side street where there wasn't much traffic, but I stopped at the stop sign there when I came to Hill Street, or South Coast Highway, and I killed the motor on the car and I couldn't get it started. Finally I got it started but I didn't know how to get across the street and I kept putting my foot on the gas and little by little by little I got across the street. Well who was waiting across the street meeting me in a police car but Harold Davis! Of course, in those days everybody knew everybody and he was crazy and he just laughed and laughed. He made so much fun of me. But that's how I learned to drive.

Kristi: How did you obtain a driver's license?

Vivian: I just learned to drive and I went down and took my license. It was on Wisconsin Street. The DMV was on Wisconsin Street and after I had driven and I knew how to do things well enough.

Kristi: What did your brother think about you practicing with his car?

Vivian: He didn't know anything about it!

Kristi: Did you tell him later?

Vivian: Oh sure I did. I never had any accidents and I figured it was good to drive it rather than have it sit for years during the war.

Kristi: Do you remember any of your trips?

Vivian: I never left Oceanside.

Kristi: Did you ever go down to Carlsbad?

Vivian: Many, many times. I didn't drive, but, yes. We used to go down to Twin Inns very frequently when we would dance because they had a bar. The bartender was well known by everybody and everybody joined there and had a good time. We used to go there a lot and we also went to the Carlsbad Hotel in Carlsbad. That was where everybody had their main Christmas parties and dances, which is now that new retirement home there in Carlsbad.

Interview with Vivian Daley Bricker, December 4, 2004

Kristi: What year was it that you started working at Bank of America?

Vivian: 1938. The very beginning of 1938.

Kristi: That was right on the corner of Mission and the 101.

Vivian: Right where Johnson's Sporting Goods store is.

Kristi: Do you remember any of the merchants downtown?

Vivian: I would go down the street and say the merchants: a man by the name of Ed Pogue had a clothing store; it was a very nice clothing store, the best around any place. Next to him was a jewelry store and the owner was Cecil Henzel and then down a little bit further was Kostich Restaurant and then at the very north end of the block was a drugstore. I can't remember the name of that but there was a drugstore as well as that drugstore on the south corner where my sister worked. Across the street, of course the Bank of America was first there on that block, and then there was a bowling alley. There was a restaurant and then in the basement, in the bottom level, beneath ground was a bowling alley. Let's see, what else was there? Further north as you went across Pier View Way, on the right corner there where the Civic Center now is, was a great big Van's Store. It's Van's, not Von's, grocery store. This Bud McElrath, who married my sister's friend, was manager of that store and that's how he got out here and then she came out. Then, of course, there was the Palomar Theater, the Star Theater and the Margo Theater. On the southeast corner of Hill and Mission was a big store called Huckabay's, which is now Fullerton Mortgage. At the end of the block, going south, was the Grace Episcopal church, a little church. Then, of course, the post office was where it is now. Across the street from the post office, between the post office and the Episcopal Church was a service station. I'm trying to remember the name of the guy that owned the service station, he and his brother. Norm Hostetter, he and his brother had the service station, about the only service station around in those days. There was another jewelry store up on Mission Tufford Jewelry. Also at the corner of Freeman and Mission, on the south corner, was another drugstore. That was about the main part of downtown. There was very little but they had nice little stores there.

Kristi: What do you remember about the traffic? Was it busy? Could you cross the street?

Vivian: Yes. Very easily, except during race traffic. During the Del Mar race traffic it was bumper to bumper and that was the main road, of course, clear down the coast. The traffic was bumper-to-bumper going through town so during the races, there was no stop and go lights, not even signs. I did have one experience with the heavy traffic. It was one day during the races. I was going north on Hill Street and I came to where the Dolphin Hotel is and my folks lived at 224 South Pacific Street. So my son Dennis was about 18 months old. I had him in the front seat. No car seat in those days. He was standing up in the front seat so every time you put your foot on the brake you'd put your hand out to protect him from falling. But at any rate I wanted to turn west there and go down to my folks place on Pacific Street. I turned and he was standing up and as I turned the car with this bumper to bumper traffic coming at me, the door opened he and he fell out right in the middle of the street, the highway. Of course it was a terrible, terrible experience. I couldn't see back what had happened to him because I turned the corner. Well, the car right behind me stopped very suddenly and the man got out went over, picked him and

Interview with Vivian Daley Bricker, December 4, 2004

brought him to me and he was perfectly fine, nothing wrong. That's one of my biggest experiences with traffic on Hill Street. I remember that very vividly.

Kristi: There were no stoplights or stop signs at any of the intersections?

Vivian: There might have been a sign or two around town, not very many. But, no lights.

Kristi: Do you remember when the first light went in?

Vivian: Oh heavens. You know, there used to be years and years ago, I don't know what year it was, a big light post right in the middle of the intersection at Mission and Hill. Then that was gone very shortly. But no, I don't remember anything about the boulevard stops. I know there were no red lights.

Kristi: What was the speed limit on Hill Street?

Vivian: I don't know, probably 25 miles an hour. On the freeway I imagine it was 45 maximum.

Kristi: During the race season when it was bumper to bumper, how did people deal with it?

Vivian: Oh they loved it. They loved it because it was business for them. And I might say, and John will verify this, the 101 Café, was owned by a man named Johnny Graham and it was the stopping place between LA and San Diego for all these stars going to the race track and many, many people stopped there over the years at John's 101 Café.

Kristi: Do you remember seeing any celebrities?

Vivian: Oh yes, we went to the racetrack a few times. We used to see Jimmy Durante and Bing Crosby. That was the era when they were the big stars. It was very exciting, of course, to us to see that. It was great.

Kristi: Going north on the 101 towards Camp Pendleton, were there any service stations?

Vivian: No. Not a thing. That was a three-lane highway for many, many years up and down the coast before it became the freeway. Three lanes, now, and we used to call it "murder row" or something like that because there was only one middle lane to pass so somebody in both directions might pass at the same time—many, many accidents. But all the way to Los Angeles it was a three-lane highway and of course traffic was heavy in those days, but nothing like it is now. It couldn't have been because the roads couldn't have accommodated that much traffic.

Kristi: Do you remember the landmarks on the 101 as you traveled through each town?

Vivian: Well, first of all, the Mission comes to mind. It wasn't on the coast but of course, that was well known and always something to remember. I know we had bells all along the highway, the mission bells. Right across by the boat basin in those days was an airfield. It was very small bi-planes, that was about all that they had in those days. Not much of a field and not much of a

Interview with Vivian Daley Bricker, December 4, 2004

runway. Most of them just landed on the ground. It was an airfield until Camp Pendleton came in. Then, of course, the boat basin wasn't built, I don't know how long after Camp Pendleton went in. The north part of town was the Mira Mar restaurant. Very nice place, lovely food.

Kristi: Who owned that, do you know?

Vivian: Yes, I can tell you if I can remember. I'll think about it later on.

Kristi: It was on North Hill Street?

Vivian: On North Hill Street right there close to where you come off or go on the 76, by where that new motel is there. There was a little dance floor and there was always a combo out there that played music and the owner was Oliver Morris. Later on he built a beautiful big home clear out in the valley. He had a lovely home out there and had it until he sold the restaurant.

Kristi: Was the Mira Mar a place for the residents or the tourists?

Vivian: No, all the home people. That and the Twin Inns in Carlsbad and the Carlsbad Hotel were the three places where people used to go for entertainment. Well, of course, we used to have the Beach Hotel down on Pacific Street down by the pier. That was another one that was a lot of fun to go to. Did that one burn?

Kristi: No, they tore it down in 1966.

Vivian: Tore it down. I knew it had been gone a long time.

Kristi: Since you were working right there on the corner, do you remember any bad accidents?

Vivian: I don't remember any accidents. The traffic was that big or they didn't drive that fast. I will say one of the things that was the most exciting there, was during World War II when President Franklin Roosevelt came to Camp Pendleton and, of course, that was the main street so he went right down Hill Street and everybody knew he was coming, so all the people, all the merchants and all the employees they were standing out in front to wave to him. He was in a great big Packard convertible, a long one. We all got to see him. During the war the Fourth Marine Division was at Oceanside and they were the first group that came here and everybody got to know them real well. And they were the first ones to ship to Europe and all over during World War II and the day they left was a very, very sad day in Oceanside because people had got acquainted with them. We had a big USO in those days and it was very, very active. Many, many servicemen came and it was a fun place to be. I was a hostess; my mother was a hostess. The day that they shipped out for overseas everybody was very sad and we all stood outside for hours watching all the troops go by in the big trucks. They went south to San Diego. Everybody was waving because they had got acquainted with a lot of the servicemen. We took in two marines. I met them at the USO as hostess. As we got to know them a little bit more, I invited them down. My dad worked at Consolidated Aircraft in San Diego, he worked the midnight shift so he was gone at night so my mother and I were alone. So we had these two boys, Bills Bloxum and Paul Blake were their names. Paul Blake was a marvelous dancer and Bill Bloxum was a beautiful tenor. He later went on to play at Broadway in "South Pacific." But at any rate, they

Interview with Vivian Daley Bricker, December 4, 2004

used to come down a lot after the USO closed. They'd stay till the last bus back to Camp Pendleton at 2:00. To this day, Paul died here about ten years ago, but to this day, I still communicate with this Bill Bloxum. He lives in Connecticut and we've been friends for years and years and years. We haven't seen each for a while. Anyway, my dad, we would always try to get them out of there on the bus and we'd get in bed before my dad got home so he wouldn't know that we were up that late. He used to come home and he would feel the light bulbs and feel that they were warm so he knew we had just turned off the lights and gone to bed!

Kristi: How did he get to work?

Vivian: He carpooled with a guy, his wife was Gertrude. What was his name? I can't remember it now. He was a lot younger than my dad and he drove. Of course, in those days, we couldn't use headlights at night. Everything was black out. We had big cardboard and plywood covers on all our windows and doors. So they would drive to and from San Diego to Consolidated, at night, with no headlights on the road. But of course, there wasn't that much traffic and everybody else was doing it, too. I remember one night, my mother and I, of course we're alone, my dad was working and we had covered all of our windows and doors. I don't know what time it was, but it was the evening and a rap came on the door and we went to the door and it was a policeman and he said, "I can see the light out of your window, you'll have to fix that." That's the way we lived during that period of time.

Kristi: Did you ever hitchhike or pick up a hitchhiker on the 101?

Vivian: Yes, as a matter of fact we did. I had some friends that worked at the bank with me. One was Alice Simms, one was Vera Selinger and one was Marianne Mofioli. Marianne later married a Marine from Camp Pendleton but before she was married, the four of us used to go every place together. So we were young and carefree in those days. One weekend one of the girls drove up, went up to Long Beach, I can't remember the name, a play area with merry-go-rounds and ferris wheels and carnivals and things like that. Well, on the way, between here and Los Angeles, this Marine was standing along side the road hitching a ride. So we stopped and picked him up and never worrying of anything in those days about anything. He spent the evening with us up there and we never saw him again. I started to tell you about these two Marines that came down to my mother's, Paul and Bill, one Sunday before we got to know them real well, we were sitting at Thanksgiving Day dinner. You know where our little house on Pacific Street was, 224? Well, we were sitting there and we had finished dinner but everybody was still around the table and these two Marines walked boy and they looked in and they licked their chops and they got down on their hands and knees and put their hands up and prayed like, "please let us come in and eat." So we went out and we brought them in and fed them and they spent part of the afternoon with us. That was the way—we didn't have to worry about drugs, about crime in those days. Everybody was just taking everybody for themselves. It was great in that respect.

Kristi: Did you ever hitchhike?

Vivian: Oh, no. I never did that.

Kristi: Did you ever ride a bike?

Interview with Vivian Daley Bricker, December 4, 2004

Vivian: Yes, I rode a bike a couple of times, but I never had a bike so I didn't ride very much. But I rode a motorcycle once in my life. That was in South Dakota before I came here. I had been dating a guy who went to the University of South Dakota and he was about four years older than I was and it came time for their big celebration during the year, I don't know what the occasion was, but anyway he invited me down to the celebration at the university and he owned a motorcycle. He wanted to take me for a ride on a motorcycle so I said "fine" so I got on and he drove me all over the university on a motorcycle. It was the one and only time I was on a motorcycle. But one thing we did do, there used to be somewhere here in Oceanside where you could ride horses and ride along the beach. This same bunch of four girls, Vera, Alice, Marianne and myself, we all worked in the bank, we went down after work one night and rented horses. I had never been on a horse in my life, even though I was born and raised on a farm and we were riding along the beach in the surf and my horse got scared and took off and ran for a long, long time. The good Lord was with me because I had no saddle or anything, just bareback. I finally got him stopped and I was scared to death.

Kristi: Where did you rent the horses?

Vivian: I can't remember the place. It was someplace near the southern part of Oceanside, it was near the beach. I can't remember what kind of place it was or anything that rented these horses. But in those days you were ready and willing to do anything and everything, you didn't worry about that. You think you're not going to get old, but you do!

Kristi: Was their public transportation in Oceanside? Buses or taxis?

Vivian: No buses, no taxis. No nothing. In fact, people walked every place those that didn't have a car. That was something about the downtown area, it had enough stores, grocery stores, clothing stores, jewelry, restaurants, and you could walk every place, which most people did. The road was dangerous north on the 101 highway and that was where most of the traffic was. Of course there were cars in town, but not a lot of traffic. A lot of nice stores, it was a nice little town. Of course, we loved it. The only place I've ever lived in California. I've been here since 1937 or the first part of 1938.

Kristi: Did they greyhound bus come through? Was there a bus stop?

Vivian: I don't think it was the greyhound bus. I don't know that there was a bus. Of course, the train station was the only thing there, not where it is now, you know. But I don't remember that there were any coaches or anything like that. I think the only transportation was the train. There might have been a bus, I can't remember.

Kristi: You mentioned Harold Davis; do you remember any other traffic officers?

Vivian: Gosh, I don't right off hand.

Kristi: Do you remember a motorcycle policeman?

Vivian: No.

Interview with Vivian Daley Bricker, December 4, 2004

Kristi: Did you ever get a traffic ticket?

Vivian: No, never got a traffic ticket. The traffic was light and you knew all the policemen, especially the chief of police. He loved everybody in town and everybody loved him. He was always playing jokes on everybody. One day in the bank, we had columns inside the lobby to the roof and one day he stood behind one of these columns in the bank and as people would come out he would jump out and scare them. Now, this is the kind of character he was. He was our chief of police for many, many years. It wasn't like today. Everybody in town knew everybody very well. When I came here to Oceanside in 1938, there was one Black person in town, his name was John something, and he was a lovely man.

Kristi: Where did he live?

Vivian: He was killed, believe it or not, was hit by a car on a street downtown Oceanside. Everybody in town knew Johnny and he was just a great guy. He was crossing the street and a car hit him and he died.

Kristi: What did he do for a living?

Vivian: I don't really know what he did.

Kristi: Was he single or did he have a family?

Vivian: No, he was single. I don't remember that he had any family at all.

Kristi: What can you tell me about Roy Hoover, the bank manager?

Vivian: Roy Hoover was the bank manager when I started there.

Kristi: While you were working at the bank, was there ever a bank robbery?

Vivian: No, not there. Earl Walwick was assistant manager of the bank and he was an attorney here in town later on, his son is still an attorney here in town. There were a number of managers that I worked under. In 1961, I think it was, they built the new branch there at Vista Way and Hill Street which is now an outdoor clothing store. That was called the South Oceanside branch of Bank of America. The man that they picked at this branch to manage that was Frank Onstadt. He and I never did get along in the bank. He didn't like me and I didn't like him, apparently. But you know, when he became manager, he picked four of us to go with him to the South Oceanside branch and I was one of the four. He wanted me to come down as his secretary. So I did, not knowing if it was the right thing to do or not, but it turned out to be a wonderful experience. Another person that went from Oceanside to the South Oceanside branch was Emma Freed, her son Bill Freed is an attorney here. She and I have been friends for many, many years, over fifty years. We worked together. We both went to the South Oceanside branch and worked there together.

Kristi: What was down at South Oceanside?

Interview with Vivian Daley Bricker, December 4, 2004

Vivian: Not very much. There was a service station and at the southwest corner of Vista Way and Hill Street was a little office building. It was a real estate building and the realtor's name was Ben Lewis. I eventually became an escrow officer at the bank, so I had a real, real good business. I was very busy. Ben was one of the realtors. His office was right across the street from the bank. There was some burger place, I think it's still there, that opened eventually on the west side of Hill Street. There was a service station right across the street, north on Hill Street and Vista Way.

Kristi: Was it busy like downtown was?

Vivian: It was getting that way. It was getting so that it was populated enough. There were enough people down there to support it. It was a very busy branch.

Kristi: Did the one on the corner on Hill and Mission close?

Vivian: I can't remember when that closed.

Kristi: When did they finally build the branch on Mission near Nevada?

Vivian: Okay, I was at that branch. I don't know if Johnson's went in right after we moved to our new branch up there, which was close to where the branch now is, which is another branch. They tore the one down that I worked in. The downtown building, I think, was empty for years and then Johnson's Sporting Goods went in and they're still there. Also, on Second Street, which *the* street in those days, going east on Second was a jewelry store, the jeweler's name was Guy Tufford. There was a dining room that was owned by some people named Malleson's, which was very, very popular. Also there was another one of the places during World War II on South Hill street, down probably around Minnesota, it was Mrs. Smith's. I can't remember her first name, but it was home cooking, it was a very, very popular place for people, especially on Sundays. My mother and I used to walk up there from Pacific Street every Sunday and we would splurge and have dinner up there.

Kristi: Do you remember any parades?

Vivian: Yes, we used to have parades. They weren't anything big. We used to always have a Fourth of July Parade, very, very small.

Kristi: What was the parade route?

Vivian: Always from Wisconsin to Third or Second. Most of them were bands, high schools and little kids marching and everything. Nothing extravagant but we always had parades.

Kristi: Did they every have parking meters on Hill Street?

Vivian: No. Parking meters didn't come for quite a long, long time. I had no idea when parking meters were put in, but, no. They didn't have anything that modern.

Kristi: How did you meet your husband?

Interview with Vivian Daley Bricker, December 4, 2004

Vivian: Well, he worked at the Bank of America when I started working there.

Kristi: What is his name?

Vivian: Don Bricker. Eventually we became very good friends and we got to the point that we were enamored with each other. He and one of his buddies named Hobart Moxness used to bowl. They used to bowl a lot. They were both single. They'd go down underneath this restaurant and bowl. Well, a friend of mine, Lorraine Shafer--she and her husband Bob Shafer were here many, many years. I think their son still live here, Rob Shafer, I'm not sure if he does or not. Anyway, Lorraine and I, we were both single and we used to go down there and bowl because we were both kind of enamored with these two guys. So this is where I met my husband, down there bowling. But, whenever my children, after we got married and had children, my children would say, "Daddy, where did you meet Mommy?" And he would always say, "I turned over a rock and there she was!" We dated for five years before we were married. Nowadays that's unheard of.

Kristi: When and where were you married?

Vivian: We were married on December 27, 1942, which was just a year after the war started. He went in the Air Force the 1st of December 1941. And you know what happened, Pearl Harbor. So it was about a week before Pearl Harbor and he was in basic training up in Long Beach. He was very lucky, he got that weekend off, which was something unheard of after being in the service a week. But he had the weekend off so he came down and Sunday was Pearl Harbor. He was here when Pearl Harbor was bombed. So my sister and her husband, Helen and Bert, and I took Don back to Long Beach and it took us about four hours because everything was so tight, they stopped and searched the car because of the Japanese situation. It was very, very hard getting back. That's where he was and he eventually got in this aircraft training. He went overseas, I think, in 1943. He came home in 1945 right after D-Day. He had been home, of course, before that because our son was born in December 1945.

Kristi: Where were you married?

Vivian: We were married here in St. Mary's in Oceanside. The priest's name was Monsignor Trevisano. Our parish priest had been Father Daniel Ryan. He was a great guy. He went into the military as a chaplain. So they brought in this Monsignor Trevisano, a crabby, old Italian priest, and he married us. Don was in Lincoln, Nebraska at the time, after we had planned to get married. In those days, the only transportation was train and from Omaha, Nebraska and back—he had to be back in seven days to do all of this, get married and get back in seven days by train—so he had blood test taken back there and mailed here so that we could get our marriage license. Well, he got here and no blood test had ever arrived. We had no marriage license, couldn't get one without the blood test. The days were counting off and he had to go back in a few days to Lincoln, Nebraska and then overseas. So he was living in a little apartment of Ferrell Lauraine, who was then the postmistress and he had been living there at her little house for quite a long time so she said, "well, I'll go down and I'll check the mail every morning to see if it is in." Well, he had to leave Monday morning, so come Sunday morning it still wasn't in. Charlie Borden was the clerk here in Oceanside, the city clerk, so he said, "I'll check everyday."

Interview with Vivian Daley Bricker, December 4, 2004

So on Sunday morning she went down and there was the blood test. She called Charlie Borden, the city clerk, and gave him the blood test. He issued the marriage license and we were married a seven o'clock that night. It was quite an experience. I've had a wonderful life and God has been real, real good to me. I've had a lovely family and a wonderful life and I'm enjoying it to the hilt.