**Oral History Center**
**The Bancroft Library**
**University of California, Berkeley**

**Earl Warren Oral History Project**

# Hunting, Politics, and the Fish and Game Commission

## Edwin L. Carty

**Interviews Conducted by**
**Amelia R. Fry**
**in 1972 and 1973**

**Edwin L. Carty**
**1948**

# Introductory Materials

## Legal Information

Since 1954 the Regional Oral History Office has been interviewing leading participants in or well-placed witnesses to major events in the development of Northern California, the West, and the Nation. Oral history is a method of collecting historical information through tape-recorded interviews between a narrator with firsthand knowledge of historically significant events and a well-informed interviewer, with the goal of preserving substantive additions to the historical record. The tape recording is transcribed, lightly edited for continuity and clarity, and reviewed by the interviewee. The corrected manuscript is indexed, bound with photographs and illustrative materials, and placed in The Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley, and in other research collections for scholarly use. Because it is primary material, oral history is not intended to present the final, verified, or complete narrative of events. It is a spoken account, offered by the interviewee in response to questioning, and as such it is reflective, partisan, deeply involved, and irreplaceable.



It is recommended that this oral history be cited as follows:

Edwin L. Carty, *Hunting, Politics and the Fish and Game Commission*, an interview conducted in 1972 and 1973 by Amelia R. Fry Regional Oral History Office, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley, 1975.

## Preface

The Earl Warren Oral History Project, a special project of the Regional Oral History Office, was inaugurated in 1969 to produce tape-recorded interviews with persons prominent in the arenas of politics, governmental administration, and criminal justice during the Warren Era in California. Focusing on the years 1925-1953, the interviews were designed not only to document the life of Chief Justice Warren but to gain new information on the social and political changes of a state in the throes of a depression, then a war, then a postwar boom.

An effort was made to document the most significant events and trends by interviews with key participants who spoke from diverse vantage points. Most were queried on the one or two topics in which they were primarily involved; a few interviewees with special continuity and breadth of experience were asked to discuss a multiplicity of subjects. While the cut-off date of the period studied was October 1953, Earl Warren's departure for the United States Supreme Court, there was no attempt to end an interview perfunctorily when the narrator's account had to go beyond that date in order to complete the topic.

The interviews have stimulated the deposit of Warreniana in the form of papers from friends, aides, and the opposition; government documents; old movie newsreels; video tapes; and photographs. This Earl Warren collection is being added to The Bancroft Library's extensive holdings on twentieth century California politics and history.

The project has been financed by four outright grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, a one year grant from the California State Legislature through the California Heritage Preservation Commission, and

by gifts from local donors which were matched by the Endowment. Contributors include the former law clerks of Chief Justice Earl Warren, the Cortez Society, many long-time supporters of "the Chief," and friends and colleagues of some of the major memoirists in the project. The Roscoe and Margaret Oakes Foundation and the San Francisco Foundation have jointly sponsored the Northern California Negro Political History Series, a unit of the Earl Warren Project.

Particular thanks are due the Friends of The Bancroft Library who were instrumental in raising local funds for matching, who served as custodian for all such funds, and who then supplemented from their own treasury all local contributions on a one-dollar-for-every-three dollars basis.

The Regional Oral History Office was established to tape record autobiographical interviews with persons prominent in the history of California and the West. The Office is under the administrative supervision of James D. Hart, Director of The Bancroft Library.

Amelia R. Fry, Director Earl Warren Oral History Project Willa K. Baum, Department Head

30 June 1976
Regional Oral History Office
486 The Bancroft Library
University of California at Berkeley

## Key Participants to the Earl Warren Project

**Principal Investigators**

* Deceased during the term of the project

Lawrence A. Harper

Ira M. Heyman

Arthur H. Sherry

**Advisory Council**

Barbara Nachtrieb Armstrong *

Walton E. Bean *

Richard M. Buxbaum

William R. Dennes

Joseph P. Harris

James D. Hart

John D. Hicks *

William J. Hill

Robert Kenny *

Adrian A. Kragen

Thomas Kuchel

Eugene C. Lee

Mary Ellen Leary

James R. Leiby

Helen McGregor *

Dean E. McHenry

Sheldon H. Messinger

Frank C. Newman

Allan Nevins *

Warren Olney III *

Bruce Poyer

Sho Sato

Mortimer Schwartz

Merrell F. Small

John D. Weaver

**Project Interviewers**

Miriam Feingold

Amelia R. Fry

Joyce A. Henderson

Rosemary Levenson

Gabrielle Morris

**Special Interviewers**

Orville Armstrong

Willa K. Baum

Malca Chall

June Hogan

Frank Jones

Alice G. King

Elizabeth Kirby

Harriet Nathan

Suzanne Riess

Ruth Teiser

## Interview History

A point of land pushes into the Pacific about thirty miles down the California shoreline from Santa Barbara, or, coming from the other direction, about sixty miles north of Los Angeles. The name, Point Hueneme, defies pronunciation (Wy-nee-mah) but its profile on the map is a landmark for the hills and plains of Ventura County.

This is Carty's country. It was rich farmlands when his forebears settled. Now the streets of Oxnard bear names of his children in the subdivision he created. Point Hueneme has changed rapidly. In World War II the construction of the Seabees base (Navy construction battalion) crystallized local efforts to build a recreational harbor adjoining Port Hueneme because a much-needed entrance to the channel was finally dug. Today one sees a forest of masts bobbing offshore from fashionable restaurants and yacht clubs. Almost anywhere Ed Carty drives here, he sees changes which either he has developed or his own persuasive powers have catalyzed. He is an incessant builder. Anything he comes in contact with grows. Author George Glass's biographical sketch of Mr. Carty, which follows, provides a newsman's-eye-view of Carty as son, husband, father, mayor, county supervisor, head of the League of California Cities, and Fish and Game Commissioner. The story of his life is also the story of the Hueneme area, a part of California that historians, in concentrating on the Los Angeles-San Francisco-Sacramento axis, can easily overlook.

On the sea's horizon lie the Channel Islands. It was on one of these that Ed Carty and Earl Warren hunted boar, deer, and other "planted" game. And it was here in 1953 that Warren received the expected telephone call to meet Attorney General Herbert Brownell to discuss an appointment to the United States Supreme Court. In this interview one finds the excitement of Warren's hunting companion, their mutual pleasure in the new distinction, and the on-the-scene bustle of transportation logistics and protection from the press.

Often the lives of persons are marked as much by what almost happened as they are by the real events. For instance, when Harold Ickes resigned from the cabinet, the Federated Sportsmen proposed Carty to be the new Secretary of Interior. Julius Krug was the winner for that position, but two years later the zesty, red-haired, Irish-German Democrat was talked about for a federal cabinet post if the national Republican ticket of Thomas Dewey and Earl Warren were to win in 1948. It didn't. The same year he was boomed for the approaching (1950) governor's race by the *Oxnard Press-Courier,* with Carty's consent only if he did not have to run against Earl Warren. [1] His proviso killed the candidacy when the Dewey-Warren ticket lost and Warren ran again for governor. His appointment by Governor Earl Warren to the state Fish and Game Commission almost ran afoul of the opposition: a clipping from *Bullets and Hooks* of May, 1948, says that because Carty was to replace General H. H. (Hap) Arnold of Sonoma County, San Francisco Bay Area and Sacramento Valley sportsmen were "boiling a bit" because their locale was no longer represented. Verne Scoggins, press secretary to Earl Warren at the time, confirmed recently in a telephone conversation that Carty's appointment was indeed controversial. But Carty *was* appointed, and his tenure is characterized by his strong stand on policies that would promote continuous levels of reproduction in both commercial and sport fish and game.

The Cartys' house is still the big, comfortable old farm house in which Carty grew up, although it had to be moved to a new site on the block to conform to alley easements when Carty subdivided his farm land. We taped both sessions in the paneled den, where nearly three dozen hunting trophies are displayed: heads of deer, moose, and African and Indian game look down from the walls amid pictures of hunting parties and portraits of friends and family. An enormous Persian rug shares the floor with a gleaming white polar bear skin. There is a generous stone fireplace, and in one corner a grand piano. The furniture is soft and comfortable, and a leopard skin draped the couch where we sat for the interview.

The warm weather called for cold ginger ale or coke, which his wife, Doris, served when she was not out on errands. She is a woman with a quick mind and lively memory, and her own comments are to be found here and there in the interview. Fellow hunter Wallace Lynn once described her to me as, "Gentle and wonderful. Ed would call me and say, `Doris has always wanted to kill a polar bear, so I've chartered an ice breaker and a professional movie cameraman. It'll take a month or six weeks and we want you and your wife and Earl and Nina (Warren) to come along.'

"Well, no one could get away to go except the Cartys, and they killed nine bears. Then two years later it was

"Doris has always wanted to kill a tiger, so I've arranged with a maharaja..." Actually," Mr. Lynn laughed, "I don't think Doris really cares for hunting."

In the sessions, taped May 24, 1972, and February 1, 1973, words tumbled out as one incident triggered the image of another in his mind—another political battle or real estate success or hunting expedition with Earl Warren.

After the interview Mr. Carty checked over the transcript, which had been re-ordered to preserve topical and chronological continuity, and answered further questions which we had inserted. He added notes here and there and cleared up the usual ambiguities that occur in conversational style. An added bonus was his secretary's typing a fresh copy, which was then proofed in our office with the interlineated original for meanings and intent, after which a few more names and sequences were checked out with Mr. Carty.

His object was to provide an overview for his pictures and scrapbooks of clippings kept by his secretary over the years and now deposited in The Bancroft Library. From time to time after the sessions, the Cartys went through their files and sent us other rare photographs of Warren the Governor or Warren the Chief Justice, usually relaxed on a hunting or fishing expedition. In addition, two scrap books were donated, one covering the political history of the Oxnard area and Mr. Carty's part in it, the other carrying clippings of sports and conservation topics of the period. To round out the picture of their lives together, they have also contributed the collections of stories of their travels which they had privately printed for their circle of friends.

The result is a picture of a man, a Democrat, who provided California's Republican (but bi-partisan) governor with jovial companionship, a pipeline to the developing problems of postwar suburbia and local bureaucracies, and first hand knowledge of policy questions in the conservation of the state's wildlife resources.

Amelia R. Fry
Interviewer-Editor
29 April 1975
Regional Oral History Office
486 The Bancroft Library
University of California at Berkeley

## Important in CI Harbor History - Edwin Carty

By George Glass

Edwin L. Carty's life is a trophy case stuffed with big game.

Some of his trophies hang in his den, like cape buffalo, tiger, deer, elk, rhino, polar bear, leopard, and a score more.

Some reside at the bank, like money, elusive green bucks shot down with sure aim in Ed's lifetime of sailing, trading, and developing the land.

But Ed Carty will be best remembered for trophies he bagged as mayor of Oxnard, member and chairman of the Ventura County Board of Supervisors, member of the State Fish and Game Commission - things like levees and harbors, the airport, game bird flyways, hatcheries for fish.

In short, Ed is a formidable kind of guy when he wants something.

For example, and of special interest to harborites, Carty, along with 18 others, met in 1945, when he was mayor, convinced that a small craft harbor should be built here. The big harbor at Hueneme was a reality. The small one would add pleasure and business, too, and create for the area a nautical center encompassing international trade, fun, housing, and sport. The interest of these civic-minded men was goosed along by

coincidence. Because of the jetties constructed for Hueneme harbor, coastal tidal changes threatened disaster. Erosion tore into beaches nearby, stripping off sand, chomping at Mugu. Engineers called in to survey the damage promised worse, but agreed there might be a solution. The idea of building a small craft harbor could, through the necessary dredging, produce sand to replace what the outraged ocean had gobbled.

Some of us thought Pierpont Bay might be the spot for the harbor," Carty recalls, "but the army experts said no, we could never compete with the river. There would always be the threat of flood. And I saw that was right. As a kid in 1913-14 I watched it flood out as it did again in '69." As an afterthought, he added, "Somebody'd better get that levee extended down to the sea or it could still go out, comes another one of those `hundred year' rainfalls."

The engineers turned down Ormond Beach for other reasons. It was deemed too shallow to maintain a channel. Selecting a practical site further north, Mayor Carty and company set out to acquire land, draft plans, and go to Washington to bag a seven million dollar "yes." Which they did, in large measure because Ed, as one of his former aides describes him, "just has that knack of cutting out all the crap and getting things done. He's got an Irishman's gift for con and German stubbornness to make it real."

We'll say more about the harbor later. Let's pause for a moment, as those annoying football announcers phrase it, and dip into the man.

Ed Carty was born in Santa Barbara on December 4, 1897, has been a resident of Ventura County since 1909, is a successful (very!) real estate broker and developer, has a record of public life including such impressive credits as mayor of Oxnard, 1942-1948; member county Board of Supervisors, 1950-1965, and twice its chairman: member, California Fish and Game Commission, three times under two governors (Culbert Olson, Earl Warren), 1939-1950; director, Clifornia Duck Hunters Association; member, American Sportsman's Club; president, Ventura County Rod and Gun Club; president, California Safety Council; member, Pacific Coast Board of Governmental Relations; member advisory board, California Centennial Commission; member, county Farm Bureau president. Native Son, of the Golden West; director both Oxnard and Ventora Chambers of Commerce; president, National Association of Municipal Legislators, representing 10,000 cities and 50,000 elected officials; member Knights of Columbus, and other more personal activities like advisor to boys' clubs and being director of the Ventura County Camp Fire Girls, earning him Brownie points as a hero of girlies' lib.

If Carty's public life is the size of a book, his family would require a shelf of volumes, so numerous is the clan spread across Ventura County. Direct proliferation and various marriages have produced an intermingling, by blood and law, near or distant, of many tribes, bearing the names, in addition to Carty, of Maulhardt, Friedrich, Hartman, Kohier, McGrath, Borchard, Maloney, and others unnamed, Ed says, "only because I've got such a lousy memory for names."

Grandfather Jacob Maulhardt started it all when he and his wife Doretta left Hanover, Germany, in 1870 to escape a fiercely militaristic society they hated. As quickly as they could they came to Oxnard, having been told there was a large German settlement here. A sailing ship took them to the Isthmus of Panama. They trudged overland to the other coast, then caught another square-rigger for Contra Costa County. There they outfitted a spring wagon and slowly clippety-clopped their way to Oxnard where Jake purchased 500 acres of land. He was a carpenter by trade in the old country. Now he turned to farming. Doretta bore him three sons and two daughters. One of the girls married a Hartman. One of the boys married a Friedrich. The line was growing. The Hartman union, for instance, yielded 14 children.

The other Maulhardt girl was Emma, Ed's mother, born during the trip down from Contra Costa. When she reached marriageable age, Emma met a sweet-talking Irishman named Cornelius Carty, who, with two of his six brothers (from Burlington, Vt.), owned three livery stables in Santa Barbara. He married Emma, and in a lesser display of family fecundity, sired sons Adolph and Ed. Ed's mother died when he was but 11 years old, which brought him to Ventura in 1909 to live with Grandmother Maulhardt. Ten years later he was farming

the family land in the Oxnard area. Soon thereafter, by means of swaps and purchases, he had 100 acres to call his own.

During Ed's school years at Ventura High he was introduced to the heady game of politics. In the drives to become class president and student body president he reveled in the campaigning, the maneuvering, the handshaking, and the speech-making. All very appealing to his Irish side. And the power and the glory, achl, they lighted the filaments of all that was German in him. Clearly he had the itch to be a mover and shaker.

Let us hasten to interpose here that while Ed Carty has won many friends in his lifetime, he also has gathered his share of detractors, as movers and shakers must. Close friends are fond of saying, thinking of "Durocher's Law," that "Nice guys finish last, but Ed Carty isn't one of them." Among the detractors at the other extreme you will find a goodly segment over in Ojai, where Ed is the center of a bitter clod flinging controversy over a zoning change on Carty land along the Maricopa highway. The battle has many ramifications. Ojai claims its right to protect its environment. Ed hollers the city has diddled him foully. At a local election, Carty lost, but his guns remain unsilenced. He has filed a lawsuit against the city. Courts will decide who did what to whom.

But be they friends or be they foes, all must agree Carty is a man of achievement.

One he prizes above all others. It comes through neither his public nor his game hunting heroics. Her name, back in those Ventura High School days, was Doris McDonell, a black-haired lass of Scottish extraction, whose father was Ventura postmaster under Woodrow Wilson. Ed was one among a host of senior boys who vied for her company. He was running down front of the pack when he had to leave her to his competition and enter the University of California at Davis. He had vowed to marry Doris as soon as he was 21 years old. From far away he could hear the competitive howls. He left Davis and hurried back. He married Doris on December 23, 1919, less than three weeks after his 21st birthday, at the old mission in Ventura. The Cartys have remained all 53 years of their marriage in Oxnard, save for the many hunting and fishing trips they have made around the world, and some time spent in getaway homes in Ojai, on Krotona Hill, and Solimar, by the sea.

Formal education ended for Ed when marriage began. Ed placed himself behind the plow. The first year, in beans, he knocked over $20,000. "Where has this easy touch been hiding?" he mused. The next year as a 14-year dry cycle began, he gathered less than $4,000. The charm of farming began to fade.

At the age of 74, Ed is somewhat heavier than he was in those old days. He weighed 160 then, pretty skimpy for a six foot, two frame. Now he's a solid 200 (his medico is bucking for 190), with an ever so-slight equatornal pleasure bulge. These days he goes for the hamburger patty and the cottage cheese instead of the club sandwich.

His hair is white, on the thin side, showing traceries of yesteryear's shaving, when they called him "Rusty." His eyes are green.

For nearly 45 years, Ed has chased profit and fun with equal fervor. If his philosophy of life were to be burned into a placard it would say something akin to "Taste It Now!" What happened in 1928 convinced him of it. The same event took him on the cash road to riches.

"That year I nearly died," Ed recalls. "I had a stomach ulcer and a gallstone, dropped down to 130 pounds. The doctors here shipped me off to the Mayo clinic. They thought I was a goner, but a Canadian doc named Balfour came up with a revolutionary cutting job that pulled me out. He opened a second door to my stomach. When I came out of that, I figured what the hell, it was all borrowed time from then on. Shows you how life is really just a thread. So don't take life too seriously. And don't pass up a good time. And we never have, Doris and I. We never go back to the same places twice because life is too short to cover the world for all the shooting and fishing we've tried to do."

A former aide of Carty's, with Ed for nine years, is Bernie Wallens, now of Valley 'N Shore Realty Co. He remembers: "If a $100,000 land deal was waiting and Ed got the itch to go hunting or fishing, that deal would wait or go for a bargain 40 grand. If there's a weakness in Ed, that's it. But, say, it doesn't seem to have hurt him much, has it?"

Wallens carries around in his head a favorite Carty quote. Ed told him "The only thing the government can't take away from me is the fun I've had and the friends I've made." Impressed Berne so much he's aming to spend his own later years - a long tune away, however - in a place he loves, the Pyrenees mountains in Basque country whence came his lovely wife's forebears.

Carty talks a lot about the friends he's made, and he does like to drop names; important ones. He savors as much pleasure from his influential contacts as in his civic triumphs or sporting trophies. Civic fervor has been a motivating force, the jungle chase thrilling, but the name has meant as much as the game to him. He mentions Earl Warren often, and Donald Douglas On his walls are photos of hunting trips with them both. He remembers the time Warren was summoned to the U.S. Supreme Court during a hunt on one of the Channel Islands.

Ed mentions with obvious avuncular fondness Martin "Bud" Smith, the financial and development wizard, a force in the founding and growth of the harbor. "I started Bud out 30 years ago." says Ed, rented him the restaurant next door (to Ed's office on Oxnard Boulevard), the Colonial House. He had nothing and I gave him cheap rent. I liked him, and I didn't want to be the richest man in the cemetray anyway. You got to hand it to that boy. Where he went from there! Success in everything. He's worth millions. He's a dynamo. I'm glad I was very lenient with the rental." Apropos of those days, Smith's sister, Macha, remembers the struggle and adds. "But when a field of Ed's grew cabbage, we had cole slaw."

What nudged Carty into business and off the farm was a warning by doctors that after the Mayo operation he was to retain from physical strains like lifting. That zonked the agricultural life. Besides, says Ed, the five children were coming and he needed more money than a man could wrest from ground quickly. Well, money wasn't very hard to lift, he reflected, and it also comes in handy. He dropped the plow and put on a shirt and tie. His first year in an insurance business saw him writing up $150,000 worth. He was moved to remark once more. "Where has this been all my life?" Along the way he pecked at real estate, and he determined the greatest promise was in the land, 100 acres of which he owned by inheritance, swap and purchase. By 1936 he was out of insurance and totally in real estate and development. The value of land rose and with it his fortunes. His management and imagination marched with the times.

The sign on Carty's office today says "Edwin L. Carty and Sons." plural, but only one son, Roderick, 38, his youngest, is in business with him. Douglas, 45, left long ago. He has operated in Hawii for 14 years, presently making his bundle fashioning condominiums out of apartments in that rapidly compacting island paradise. A third son, Robert, 46, a gifted and renowned artist, lives in Santa Barbara, where he teaches art. Another son, Edwin, Jr., who would be 47 now, according to Carty, had he lived, died in the crash of a P-39 in Palm Springs as an air force officer. The Carty's one daughter, Elizabeth Patricia, married a Navy flier, Philip K. Maloney. The streets surrounding Carty's office bear the names of his wife and children Running across them all is an avenue called Carty.

The streets are within the 100 acres, which began with a piece his mother owned on Rice Road, traded by Ed to Uncle Louis for another piece, and rounded out by the buying of additional land. From this came Carty Tract No. 1, followed by Tracts 2, 3, 4, and 5.

"Just kept growing and building until finally we even had to move our house - we still live in it after more than 50 years - to accommodate new streets and alleys, and set it down in another part of the tract."

Plenty of room in that old house, five bedrooms and five baths, plus guest space, should Ed's eight grandchildren show up all at once for a visit. Coming from a family featuring mainly boys. Ed made a flat

offer to all his children, one thousand bucks for the first girl. Robert, the artist, obliged with Annie, and got $2000 instead of half that much. Ed upped the ante because Annie was a twin, even though the other twin was a boy. Annie is the only female of the eight. Maybe Ed should have made it eight grand.

For all his interest in the small boat harbor, Carty is not himself a seafaring man unless it's a fishing boat looking for big ones. Hunting and fishing, fresh water as well as sea stuff, dominate his interests, with golf up there close. In his younger years Ed sported a six handicap on the golf links. He laid off the game from 1928 to 1948, then, at the urging of his kids, started whacking away again at the frustrating little white ball. His handicap hovers around 19 now as the years take their toll of that old sweet swing, but around Las Posas and Ojai he can still give strokes to younger men and add their dough to his trophies at the bank.

Carty is quick to praise Richard Bard and Commander H.P. "Pete" Needham for their work in the birth of Channel Islands Harbor. Bard, who already had given land to Port Hueneme (Carty pronounces it Wye-nee-muh), donated more property to the small harbor. Together with land bought from the McGraths, the site was in the bag. Needham, Bard and Carty, a persuasive trio, descended on Washington. The harbor was dedicated on May 29, 1965. They named Carty "King Neptune" that day. Sand gleamed new, white and clean upon the once ravaged beaches nearby.

"And look at that harbor now," Carty beams, "look at all those taxable boats, a gold mine for the county. Some of those boats cost a thousand a foot. The harbor doesn't cost the county a dime. All the land is lease hold and will go on making money for the county forever."

Ed feels certain the harbor will grow all the way to Fifth Street. After the county's land ends at the bridge, the rest is private, "but look," he says, "at all those fifty, sixty and seventy thousand places going up now."

There have been other pets among his past projects. He names the levee along the river from Saticoy to Ventura, the Oxnard airport, the city's master plan, the city manager system, a national network of game bird flyways, warm water hatcheries for "catchabie" fish, and the Emma Wood Memorial State Beach, gift of the late Adrian G. Wood (together with purchased McGrath property) at Ed's suggestion when he was supervisor.

Why all the effort?

"Hell, somebody's got to champion everything," is his answer. "It just don't happen, these things. Somebody's got to work."

As a one-time public game protector and a private hunter, Ed likes to recall his days as fish and game commissioner when the flyways were conceived. "It worked out two ways, good for the birds, good for the shooters. You see, you've got to treat game like a harvest. Harvest the game and they stay healthy. Leave them uncontrolled and they starve to death.

"For example, in 1922-23, 90,000 of the finest mule dear herd in the world were up there starving on the Kaibab forest plateau. Nobody'd been allowed in to shoot, they had browsed out everything in sight. Finally they came in and slaughtered those deer with steel jacketed bullets so the herd could survive. We opened up the Kaibab from then on. We also took some fawns and planted them on Santa Rosa Island: Flourished fine."

The four flyways, covering areas of the U.S. where ducks and geese fly down from the north, provide feed for the birds and, at the same time, set limits on hunters' bags, according to the size of the hatch, determined by experts. Rice farmers are pleased because they are spared depredations of crops by hungry birds.

There will be no retirement for him, Carty promises, not while there's game to shoot and fish to catch. He'd like to top that 600 pound blue fin catch at Kona three years ago. On their 25th anniversary they counted up the folks they'd like to see and threw up their hands. An ad in the newspaper beckoned "all our friends come over and celebrate." Five hundred people showed up.

After a life of selling, trading and developing real estate. Ed takes a starting view of the wildfire subdivision activity in the county.

"A shame," he says, "It's the finest soil in the world for growing things. That river through the ages created great land. Hate to see it covered by houses. They should build homes on the slopes and leave the growing land alone."

To which a skeptic might say all well and good, Ed's got his and to hell with anybody else. Could be some truth in that, but when Ed says it there is a touch of honest melancholy in his voice and the sound of a farm boy loving the good earth."

Yearly trips are a "must" to the McKenzie for trout and Canada for salmon. No trophy in his rustic den will make him prouder than the polar bear pell, because Doris shot that one in Spitsbergen, Norway, and "only a handful of women ever did that," he boasts.

They've enjoyed their adventures over the years, the Cartys, and they remain in this area because, they say, "Our friends are here."



# I Personal Background

## Family History

**Fry:** Would you tell us about your grandparents coming over to this country and how the farm was gotten and so forth?

**Carty:** Well, my grandfather and grandmother, Loretta and Jacob Maulhardt, came from Hanover, Germany, in 1870, when the groups of Germans came here in the early days. They took a sailing ship to the Isthmus of Panama. Then they walked across and there they caught a sailing ship up to Contra Costa County in the Bay Area, where they were outfitted with a spring wagon team. He was a carpenter by trade as a young man.

So, they came as a young couple to this country; they wanted to get away from the military end of it all, raising their family. They started out at the same time as all these different Germans that came here. Then the Irish settled along the river here. The Germans settled in—that's where you get all the races by marriage, you see, in the different big families here.

They came down through the San Joaquin Valley and they ended up here in Oxnard. They bought this land at $25 an acre. It was money that he worked his way to get. And some of the other families up in Merced had bought a ranch up there. They stayed for a while and gradually they raised the family right here on the east of the town of Oxnard. They had five hundred acres of land. That's where they started out, the Maulhardt tribe. My mother was Emma Maulhardt. She had a sister who married a Hartman later. Then there were three brothers. One was a doctor who studied in Germany. He went to the



university there, so he had a good education, and later came back to Oxnard and went into practice.

The rest of the family all settled around here as ranchers. There was Henry Maulhardt. And Louie Maulhardt married a Borchard girl here that had an adjoining ranch. By marriage we

went into another ranching family, the Friedrichs. And then Kohler was another family—my grandmother's brother was a Kohler, so that gets into another group. They were ranchers out here, too.

**Fry:** And that's all from the Maulhardts that came around through the Panama Canal?

**Carty:** That's right, though there was no canal then and they had to walk across. [Laughter.] And then to the West Coast and they caught a sailing boat up to the Bay Area around 1870. Of course, that was after the gold rush, when they came here from all over the world, when the story went out that they could pick up gold anyplace.

**Fry:** Why did they choose California, do you know?

**Carty:** Well, one starts and then the others come. It's like sheep. The same group of friends go in and settle and tell of the wonderful climate, and all of these things. And what they'd heard about the gold discovery and everything. That draws people in from all over the world.

**Fry:** So they heard from some other Germans?

**Carty:** That's right, sure. "It's a wonderful place to live, with wonderful soil, wonderful opportunities—" which there were. And they're still coming on the strength of that. Even in the United States in the Midwest and the East, where it's cold now and hot later, you can't blame the people for coming here. Thousands of them.

**Fry:** That was your great-grandmother who came across Panama and on to California?

**Carty:** That would be grandmother, not my great-grandmother. Then my mother died in 1909. I went to grammar school in Santa Barbara, then went to Ventura for a vacation and stayed with my grandmother and Mary



Hartman, my aunt, and lived with them and went to Ventura High School. My cousin, Al Hartman, and I were raised together. He has a beautiful place, with a big lemon orchard and his house sitting in the middle. They were a large family—there were fourteen. So, you get into another big tribe. They had a hotel in Ventura. They had a brewery there and he was a county supervisor in those days. Way back there when they divided all of Santa Barbara, they divided Ventura from Santa Barbara and made it two counties.

While I was going to Ventura High School I became involved in politics, running for student body president and class president and all the rest of them. I had a very good campaign, which carried on through life.

**Fry:** What kind of campaigns did you have?

**Carty:** Oh, kid stuff.

**Fry:** Did you carry signs and—

**Carty:** Oh, all kinds of things. The girls! There were two sides in the school. There was this fellow, Clark, who lives in Ojai and was an A student; he was the smartest one in the class, and I always had to beat him for every job in student affairs. That's the way I started out.

**Fry:** You met Doris McDonnell there in high school?

**Carty:** Yes. She was a freshman and I guess I was a junior. So the two years there I got to know her.

**Fry:** Was she interested in *your* side of politics?

**Carty:** Well, of course, I was a little green then. But she was kind of in the background. She was a beauty, I'll tell you.

**Fry:** You can tell that now.

**Carty:** Yes. On Mother's Day she was something.

**Fry:** Then you went to Davis?

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**Carty:** Yes. I was taking short courses at the University because I was on a ranch around here. I knew at which end of the cart to put the horse, having been on a ranch all of my life. A lot of these kids didn't. Seed selection and things like that I went into.

I always said that I would wait until I was twenty-one to marry. I was twenty-one on the fourth and was married on the twenty-third of December, 1919.

**Fry:** How long did you stay at Davis?

**Carty:** Well, it was 1917 when I graduated from high school.

**Fry:** Then you took over which part of the farm?

**Carty:** I moved here in 1917. I built this house, but it was down in the field then. Later, I had to subdivide.

**Fry:** You were telling me that you had to move your house to make an alley to comply with regulations?

**Carty:** Yes [pointing]. That's the alley. We had to move our house so we'd come out on the street eventually. That whole thing [surrounding residential area] is the Carty tracts one, two, three, four, and five.

Grandma and I came out and lived here and I started farming. Poor Grandma wanted me to wait until she died, because she got to be just like a child.

**Fry:** Do you mean wait to get married?

**Carty:** Yes. [I went ahead and married anyway.] But then when we had Pat, our first child, her whole life just centered around Pat, our daughter. But before then we had to take care of *her;* she just wanted me to wait, but I didn't want to take any chances. I betcha it was the smartest thing I ever did. There were too many after her [Doris].

**Fry:** Too many other fellows chasing her?

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**Carty:** That's right. And the way this guy writes it up, "The wolves are howling... " [2]

**Fry:** That's pretty accurate?

**Carty:** That's right. It was.

**Fry:** Then, you farmed for about nine years until—

**Carty:** I was thirty years old when I got sick and went to Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

## Illness Interrupts a Ranching Career, December, 1928

**Carty:** I had an ulcer and a big gallstone that caused an inflammation and closed the outlet of my stomach. I went down to a hundred and thirty pounds. Doris kept after me to go to Dr. Samson in Santa Barbara, who was a famous dietician.

I was hunting in the Conejo Mountains over here. (My aunt and her two sisters own that 3,600 acres. It used to be my private deer hunting ground.) When I couldn't carry a buck a hundred yards on my back, I gave up and went to Dr. Samson.

**Fry:** You knew something was wrong.

**Carty:** Oh, I knew. The food was tearing my stomach: I had to drink milk and stuff. I finally gave up and went to Santa Barbara. I was there ten days. Everything I would eat that day they would pump out at night. I got so I could swallow that hose just like spaghetti. But now I just choke to death. But the tenth night Dr. Samson, who had gone to school with a friend of mine, Earl Hart, came in and said, "You know, we've got lots of good doctors on the coast here. You may stay with me and I may cure you and I may not. But, I'll tell you what I would do if I were you. I would get on the train



and go to Mayo's where they do a hundred operations like mine in one year to one here."

And that night I was on a train and ended up in a private car because I had met the wife and daughter of the president of the Pullman Company on Jack Burnham's Matilija Ranch in the Ojai Valley. We were, of course, friends. We went to Kaibab to hunt deer together and our wives went with us. So, we had met the wife and daughter of the Pullman Company. They let her know that I was on the train and she called her husband. So all Jack said to me, "If they treat you like the king of England, just accept it." He didn't say anything about *this.*

So I had this little stomach pump. I would eat cream of wheat and then two hours later I would swallow it (the pump) and pump it out. Before we got into Omaha on the outskirts of town, this man got on the train and said, "We will put your car on the siding and you don't have to get out" (if I got sick and needed a doctor). But I said, "I'd love to see Omaha." The snow, the snow just *piled* up. I'd never been in snow. Doris and I are natives here and had never been in snow. So we got out and they got a cab for us and we drove around the streets with the snow ploughs cleaning up the snow. We came back to the station and there was the car for us. I said, "Where are the rest of the passangers?" There wasn't anybody. They had a special bed for me [in a private car].

And they said, "Now, we'll put this car on the siding, and tomorrow you'll be at Rochester at eight o'clock in the morning." I said, "No, you won't. Not with me on it. They'll take my ranch away from me if they see me coming in a private car."

This was a Saturday morning; we got in at eight o'clock. We went to the Kalor Hotel and checked in right away. It was getting toward Christmas time and the doctors were vacationing and all. So we got a taxi and went out to the St. Francis Hospital. We walked in and there was a great big lobby, and the nurses were tough; they have to be. People come there as a last resort.

I was down then to 130 pounds, really skinny. Dr. Judd was one of the big doctors, but he was away.

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So the nurse went down the list and she said, "Here comes Dr. Balfour," down the big stairway into the lobby. So Doris ran right over and shed a tear or two. And, boy—he was a Canadian and was leaving for Canada on Monday; he'd married Will Mayo's daughter—so boy, if we didn't get the royal treatment from then on!

They took Doris home with silk stockings on. It was ten below zero, you know, you'd just freeze. They took care of her. And Will Mayo would take her anyplace, the operating floor or anyplace. I had all these doctors. They had all colored cards for each doctor on the outside of my door. He said, "I'll stay over and operate on your husband on Monday." So, he stayed over.

And he's the doctor that invented this way of connecting the intestine to the stomach. They check the little ulcer for malignancy while they have you on the table. I was there twenty-one days at Mayo's Saint Francis Hospital.

And I had a fever of 105— the tenth night because, with all my nurses in Santa Barbara, there was a flu epidemic in 1928 and they gave it to me. So they looked at my incision and they couldn't figure out what had caused that fever. But, boy, when my fever got up to 105 degrees, they couldn't believe it. They went on—and you have nurses sitting up night and day after a gall bladder operation. They didn't have penicillin or antibiotic internal drugs in those days. No internal medicine like that.

The nurse never could leave that room without somebody replacing her. They had to. I could die in a matter of seconds. Then I ended up with 105 degree temperature from the flu. But, oh, I was a rag then.

In twenty-one days I went down to get my bill. I wanted to go home. I was restless. (They were lancing my mastoid in the ear drum; they were draining it. You never hear of mastoid anymore because penicillin and sulfa kills that internal infection.) So, it was $375 and they said to pay it when I got ready.

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**Fry:** Isn't that incredible? That wouldn't pay for even one day now.

**Carty:** It would have cost me $3 or 4 thousand here, even then. But, just the difference—the friendship, I think, came into that.

Dr. Balfour and his wife later came out here to see us. I'd take them to the [seabee] base. He was the head of all the hospitals in the U.S. during the war. He was the top man, the big shot. And, boy, they had all the top brass out there to meet him. He was a big shot in those days. He came out to speak at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles and called me. There were about five hundred doctors there. And he showed movies of the operation he did on me.

**Fry:** And you got to see it?

**Carty:** Yes, I got to see it, how he turned the flaps back. And these doctors at the Rancheros Visitadores from Pasadena, you know, big surgeons, he said that so many of them had to go in later and disconnect those flaps in their patients. But with me, here it's been forty-four years and it's never bothered me. I've lived a normal life and eaten everything and drank anything I want.

## Land Development and Civic Activities

**Fry:** What did you do about ranching when you returned?

**Carty:** Well, then, they said to not be lifting all the time. With my five children, four then, I thought that I'd better get out and make money fast. Well, I had a friend who was the vice-president of New World Life Insurance. So, he said, "Why don't you sell life insurance for us?"

So I wrote about $300,000 that first year, through friends, you know. Of course, they give you premiums and trips and all for sales contests you win.

**Fry:** You certainly had a lot of acquaintances for an old farm boy who stayed out on his ranch a lot.



**Carty:** Well, those are through family. The head of the New World Life Insurance Company was a great friend of my father-in-law. He was in the banking business. Then, when we were married he was postmaster of Ventura under Woodrow Wilson. I became a Democrat as soon as I married; I've been a Democrat ever since. My closest friends have been Republicans and I votefor Republicans at times. But that was the reason that I registered as Democrat: because my father-in-law was postmaster and I was twenty-one [voting age] on the fourth and married on the twenty-third.

**Fry:** When he won it in the primaries?

**Carty:** I wasn't too interested in politics from that angle in those days. Then, too, the jobs I had [in public office] were non-partisan, like mayor. They came to me, handed that one to me on a platter. When somebody died they moved officers in the city council. The Chamber of Commerce and the newspaper came to me and handed me my job as mayor.

I influenced Earl Warren to appoint Richard Bard to the Board of Supervisors and then a few years later he moved out of the district. He had eight thousand acres out in the Simi area. So, then the newspapers came to me to take the job of supervisor. I wouldn't say anything to Earl Warren about the appointment but others did. The Chamber of Commerce, the newspaper wrote to him and called him and asked him to appoint me supervisor, which he did.

He called me up and said, "Ed, you can have any job I've got. You know it."

I said, "No, I don't." In other words, my *friends* wanted me to have it. I wasn't seeking the job. I never did seek a job at first. The others were fortunate to be on. Governor Olson, too. I didn't know Olson. And, so far, an office didn't mean that much to me.

**Fry:** So, while you sold insurance, you just got to know everybody.

**Carty:** That's right. In business and real estate land development they were good friends. And to this day



they come to me. I've got a $1 1/2 million deal going now with the Edison Company near their big plant here. Friends have ranches here, like A. G. Woods. He owns property all over the state: the big oil field in Ventura, 8,000 acres on the Ventura Ranch. It gets oil from the avenue clear to the coast. That's where our beach house is. Woods passed away at eighty-nine in four or five months from cancer. Oh, he was a wonderful person. I sold millions of dollars worth of property to him and for him and never had a scratch of a pen from him. They don't have

people like him anymore. So your friends make your business. The compensation is the friends you make, you know. All the different people that I have met through the years in the Fish and Game, and the associations like that. Donald Douglas [of Douglas Aircraft], we'd go to Santa Rosa Island hunting. So many of them: Earl Warren, Wally Lynn and others through my experience in the League of Cities, all these mayors of many towns. You make good friends.

**Fry:** You also probably served as a valuable leader in terms of being able to contact someone like Earl Warren and bring him into the community when he was needed here.

**Carty:** That's right. He'd come down here anytime I wanted him to, and he'd come to the League of Cities when we had our annual installation of officers. He would meet a lot of people, as we had two or three thousand, you know, from all over the state.

I was elected president of the National Association of the Municipal Legislators in 1948 in New Orleans. Ten thousand cities with fifty thousand elected officials with offices in Chicago.

## Recent Events in the Ojai Valley

**Fry:** Going back to this newspaper story. If we put this article in the front of your book, as a kind of introduction, we need to know what errors are in it.



**Carty:** Well, one would be—the McGrath family is one family I am not related to by marriage.

**Mrs. C.:** Let me have it just a minute. [Looks at article.]

**Carty:** That was only one. The Buell Tribe in Santa Barbara. There it reaches out. My father's sister married a Buell, and they're all over there. And this "Bud Smith" (Martin Smith) that I started out thirty years ago that owns so much now—the big Financial Center, the Lobster Trap Restaurant, apartments and hotel at the harbor—is worth ten or fifteen million now. He didn't have a dime when he started.

**Mrs. C.:** Some of this stuff you could leave out, you know, Edwin, like—

**Carty:** You can't leave anything out that's in *there* [the newspaper story]. What's the difference? I had to laugh, though, when I read some of the things he put in there about what Ojai was doing to us. He had to read my mind. [Laughs] But they're all there, the different families, you know, the distant and many tribes bearing the name. In addition to Carty, there's Maulhardt, Friedrich, Hartman, Kohler, Borchard, Maloney and Buells.

**Mrs. C.:** You know, the town of Buellton.

**Carty:** That's who it's named after. Buellton. They have ranches up there.

**Fry:** You talk about Martin "Bud" Smith here on page two.

**Carty:** Yes. I started him out in the restaurant business—$250 a month rent and he couldn't pay that. The traveling men wanted me to put up a motel because we were quite a ways from town and they would not stay in the old hotel downtown.

**Fry:** What part does Martin Smith own now?

**Carty:** It was just a lease. He transferred his lease to McHenry, who owns the Tail o' the Cock Restaurants in the San Fernando Valley and on LaCienega in Los



Angeles. Smith was on the lease to me for thirty years.

**Fry:** I was trying to get a visual image, in my mind, of where the harbor is in relation to the seabee base and where the levees are.

**Carty:** The levees are up on the south side of the river (Santa Clara) between Ventura Road and Saticoy.

**Fry:** I still haven't seen that river. Are you sure there's one there?

**Carty:** [Laughter] Yes. People wonder, you know. We used to have steelhead runs on the Ventura River years ago, and the Santa Clara River. This whole valley was made by the river through the ages. The levees were built up in order to settle here. The river used to go out at Point Mugu. If it were not for that levee the river would be through Oxnard now.

**Fry:** Where is Pierpont Bay?

**Carty:** That's over at the mouth of the Santa Clara River. That's where it went out and did all the damage. It washed right out through the harbor, and now the big sewer plant and the whole area is down at the mouth at the north side of the Santa Clara River. It will go tomorrow again if they get another flood, or near it, because they—

**Fry:** They never did put up the levee on that side?

**Carty:** They haven't gone upstream. We built levees on the south side of the river. That's on the north side. But it cuts in against the McGrath ranch and goes right on through there.

**Mrs. C.:** I think you could leave out some of this stuff about Ojai.

**Carty:** It doesn't make any difference.

**Mrs. C.:** They're mad enough at us up there.

**Carty:** Not everybody. A lot of them are with us.



You see, they're starting to recall some of the Ojai city council now. There's going to be an election on the 12th of February, on one. The other two, the mayor and this woman, Mrs. Chase, they haven't been in office six months yet, so can't be recalled. They filed this recall against Haye. He was the one who had been on the council. The other two always voted *for* the agreement they made with us. So, if this guy is recalled, they'll go out and get the other two. They had fourteen hearings, and eight of them public hearings in regard to our annexation. Because we were already in Meiners Oaks with our sewer system, they wanted to incorporate it. They begged us to come into Ojai. All we get is a big tax bill, $28,000 a year on fifty-five acres. That's $500 an acre.

**Mrs. C.:** That's just for tax bills, nothing else. No income.

**Fry:** $500 an acre per year?

**Mrs. C.:** Yes.

**Carty:** And here we sit with zoning for twelve years. Five different sales have been killed by the planning commission and the political atmosphere of Ojai.

That's the problem. We've always played fair with them. We give them forty acres, practically for nothing, for the high school, right in the center of the ranch of 130 acres. I was supervisor and they were trying to acquire a high school site. I said, "Just leave my well out." And if they didn't take the well in by ten feet! The understanding was with the school board, that they leave the well out. I let them do their own appraising and everything. And, boy, when they took the well, I went to Hathaway, who was the attorney in the district attorney's office for the schools. He said, "We couldn't give that back to you. That would be a gift of taxpayers' money." Boy, that cured me. You know, with an understanding like that you go ahead at $2,000 an acre, and they were paying $5,000 an acre at the same time up on Grand Avenue for school property. We gave them forty acres of flat land on our place.

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We live up on Krotona Hill. It is beautiful. Then [the property] goes along with the road, Highway 33, to Maricopa. And because of a C-1 zoning (retail sales) it went to a bond issue. So that means it will cost $97,000 for our share over fifteen years. We could have sold five acres at $25,000 per acre to Thrifty Drug and Alpha Beta Market. They would have picked up the assessment on the frontage, which was going to be about $97,000. But we will end up paying about $6,400 of it per year for fifteen years.

**Fry:** And as long as this question is pending, you can't do anything, can you?

**Carty:** No.

**Fry:** Was your zoning something that precipitated the recall?

**Carty:** Oh yes. That's part of it. Also they were going to go into the downtown, in the old arcade that's over fifty years old; they were going to condemn 135 acres that's behind it. They said that these homes are substandard, and right away, eight hundred signatures they got on the recall. They'd wanted to put it to the vote of the people and they wouldn't do it; but here, for a few property owners in that arcade—. One woman who is on the planning commission is the cause of our problems. Because we had the zoning in the county before [our property] came in the city, and all this they knew when we came in. And all the men that were on it, the mayor and the city council and the planning commission, all had signed letters, statements that they had agreed to accept the zoning. But then you get into the legal points again, whether the council and planning commission are responsible for the actions of the former city government.

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# II State Fish and Game Commissioner

## Appointments and Resignation

**Fry:** I want to go into your California State work on the Fish and Game Commission, now, if you can put your mind back to those days. You were on it first—

**Carty:** In 1939.

**Fry:** And Olson appointed you?

**Carty:** Yes.

**Fry:** Was this as a representative of the sportsmen?

**Carty:** That's right. He appointed me after the urging of the sportsmen of Southern California. See, I was president of the Southern Conference of Conservation Clubs. And I was president of the Western States Federated Sportsmen for three years. They're the ones who introduced me to Olson. I had never met him or known him.

**Fry:** You mentioned that you obtained plenary powers in the legislature. Can you explain that to me?

**Carty:** I was up there, in other words, lobbying for the sportsmen.

**Fry:** Was this under Olson?

**Carty:** This was before Olson. This is when I was the president of the Southern Conference of Conservation Clubs that I went up there at my own expense and stayed there; I knew all the senators and assemblymen. We wanted to get plenary powers



passed on setting seasons so that it wouldn't be just a football. Every senator or every district, they'd want a different date for opening the deer season, or all the seasons. That meant a lot of confusion, you can imagine. We wanted to let the professionals set the seasons, bag limits and all, which we were successful in doing. We got the assembly and the senate to go along, but we had to do the lobbying. They don't call it lobbying now. What do they call it?

**Fry:** Advocacy.

**Carty:** An advocate. That's right.

**Mrs. C.:** Yes. Sounds better, doesn't it?

**Fry:** Yes. Well, was this plenary power for the commission?

**Carty:** That would let the Fish and Game Commission set seasons and bag limits. And this is what I was doing before, and also working on the flyway system, the ducks' migration for these flyways.

I went to Washington. Gabrielson, then, was the head of the Fish and Wildlife in Washington, and I went back there. I was also advocating the controlled feedings of ducks: make clubs down here feed them because then they won't decimate the crops around. They go down to Imperial Valley and they shoot them night and day because they eat the lettuce and puddle it. When they irrigate it, they ruin more lettuce and what they hate is the damage.

But, this way every club would have to be feeding and that costs thousands of dollars. But at the same time, those birds went back in better condition, which reflected in increased hatch. So, those were a few of the things.

**Fry:** When did you go off the commission?

**Carty:** It must have been 1949 or 1950. I resigned, I guess in 1949. And that's a story, too. [3] The McGraths have big ranches out here. They owned all this land out here toward the beaches. In

fact, where our harbor is, we bought a couple of hundred acres from them. Those sand dunes were



thrown in for nothing when they bought the Patterson ranch. That was just waste, in those days. But they had a duck club out here, the McGrath boys, a little private deal. The boys had put lima bean culls out when the threshing machine was there, a lot of split beans and stuff where the ponds were. You were allowed to feed but the feed had to be out of there when the shooting goes on.

Jack White was a county warden, and the state warden had been trying to get him fired; they said he took guns, the.22's, from the Mexican boys. It was up before a grand jury.

**Fry:** Who was trying to do the firing?

**Carty:** This Spicer, who was our state warden. He lived up in Ojai. They had a feud going between them. By the way, when these beans were dumped out there, the birds wouldn't eat them. They drew moisture and soured.

So we went hunting and I had Donald Douglas' right hand man with me. I had to be in San Francisco that day; about eight o'clock we had our limit of ducks and started to leave. And the warden swooped in there. This was our second day. The club had been cleared for shooting by a warden.

Of course our local warden is a federal and state warden, too. Jim McCormick had asked them to come out and look it over and they cleared it for shooting. I got international publicity over this, all over the world. I was mayor of the town, Fish and Game Commissioner, and was arrested for baiting ducks—that's the way the story went out.

**Fry:** Who arrested you?

**Carty:** Well, this guy, Elder, a federal warden. But they thought they were catching Jack White because my cousin had a car, a station wagon, just like his. This was the second day of shooting, not the first day.

**Fry:** So, you mean the ground was really clear of these lima beans?



**Carty:** Yes, and by conversation with our state warden in Bakersfield, this fellow Elder had planned with Spicer, our state warden, this arrest to get Jack White, our county warden. Then when we went to court, they lied that there were tons of grain around—and oh, I was so damned mad. Of course, we won the case on the appeal.

Then they thought I was going to have all these guys canned, but I said, "No, I'm going to just resign from the commission. I don't want to have any reflection on it."

**Fry:** You felt that your effectiveness had been impaired by all the publicity?

**Carty:** That's right. But of course, as far as the sportsmen, they all knew the whole picture, and they all hated this guy, Elder, and the way they lied under oath on the stand. And of course, they had all types on that jury. They're a regular hired jury that acts on one case after another. But on appeal, we won the case, because feeding is legal. It's still legal to this day.

The only thing is when you start shooting, you have to have everything cleaned up or feed two hundred yards from the blinds. It was cleared. But it's just a feud between this guy Spicer and this guy White which caused the whole thing.

**Fry:** And you were caught because your car was the same, is that right?

**Carty:** My cousin's car, a station wagon, looked like White's car. This was the second day. They could've taken us the first day if there was something wrong. They knew it. But they were waiting to catch Jack White. That was just wonderful for the press, you know. They picked it up and quack, quack, the lies are out.

There was even a priest there, a padre from Los Angeles, too. There were fourteen shooting there. And I think it was, oh, eight or ten of us that went to court. They just let those others off, like Donald Douglas' man, Stevenson, and those fellows. No one had a duck over the limit. They had the limits and it had been cleared for shooting.



But it's just one of those things.

And then they didn't know whether ducks would eat lima beans. And the guy told them, oh yes, Jimmy was going to clean all those beans out of there. (It was just the culls and they draw moisture so they sour and the ducks wouldn't eat them. But in the old days, mallards used to eat around the big lima beans.) This guy Elder had ducks at home trying to feed them and see if they'd eat beans. They'll eat them if they're starving.

**Fry:** You had to resign to Earl Warren, didn't you?

**Carty:** Yes.

**Fry:** How did he feel about this?

**Carty:** Well, of course, he felt bad about it too, but that was the second appointment I've had from him. See, I was appointed twice by Earl Warren. I was appointed supervisor of the county, you see, after I was mayor.

**Fry:** And then after that you became county supervisor?

**Carty:** Yes. The Oxnard newspaper and the Chamber of Commerce and all talked me into taking that job. But that's the spots in life; you have all the types. [Laughs.]

The press came out editorially to run me for governor.

## World War II Protection for Sardine Fishermen

**Fry:** One of the things I'd like to pick up is the effort you made when you were on the Fish and Game Commission on behalf of the sardine fishermen during World War II, when they kept sighting the submarines but had no radios on their ships.

**Carty:** Well, I went to Washington, D. C., with one of their labor leaders to see if we couldn't get the navy to put a man on the purse seiners so they would have radio communication if they saw a submarine—which

they did because the subs were surfacing to charge their batteries at night, you know, and there was no one their fishermen could contact to do anything about it. Of course, there was just two or three submarines around there. They shelled Santa Barbara, you know, where their oil tanks were, and then they sank a lumber boat off San Pedro. That's the only damage that was done; then after that there wasn't any more. But that was a shock to us. And of course, then they spent millions camouflaging the Douglas plant there in Santa Monica in case of attack. The same way when the Japanese got into the Aleutian Islands, off of Alaska. (My son was flying out there then and he used to write about all the game when the snow would melt in the spring and then the game would move back into the high country. He always wanted to go back after the war was over. Then he was killed and then later I took another son, Doug, and went back to Alaska to hunt.)

**Fry:** But he saw submarines up there?

**Carty:** No, the Japanese were moving in toward those islands. Our boys were flying in to knock them out. Then we built the Alcan road to bring oil to Whitehorse in case our oil supply was cut off. They spent $125 million on this line and the Alcan Highway. I was one of the taxpayers who got some pleasure out of it. [Pointing to wall trophies.] That's where we got the dahl and the white sheep and the moose and caribou and bear, the grizzlys and all. Of course, the bridges were washed out; and when the ice comes in the spring, you see, it took everything out.

But we went in, probably about a hundred miles on that road. And all the big camps had been left there, the equipment and everything was still there. The trucks were jacked up; they only had the tires off of them. All the cooking utensils, the beds, stoves, and the dishes were all there in the camps. So, we just moved in. And we had some colonels who had gotten permission for us to be on that road.

**Fry:** You mean these were the construction workers' camps?

**Carty:** Yes, the construction workers. There were immense batteries of motors for boosting six-inch



line with 2,800 pounds pressure on it to force that oil through and bring it out to Whitehorse, where they had the big refinery. We never did pump a boatload of oil through it because then the war picture changed, but they were preparing for these things in case their oil supply was cut off.

**Fry:** What finally happened with the fishermen who sighted these subs? Was this at the very beginning of the war?

**Carty:** Yes, when the Japanese came out here and shelled the oil tanks at Santa Barbara and then sank this lumber boat down there off San Pedro.

**Fry:** How did this problem come to your attention about their sighting the submarines?

**Carty:** Well, it was through the fishermen's union that it came to me. And so we went back to Washington to talk with them about it to see if they could put a navy man on each purse seiner. Of course, it was just those two incidents that we had, those two submarines that were out there. That created a scare and it created a lot of expense—like with the Douglas plants.

**Fry:** How many submarines had the fishermen sighted, how many times?

**Carty:** I think a couple of different times at night, when the subs were on the surface charging their batteries. And the fishermen would fish at night on these schools of sardines with the purse seiners.

**Fry:** And they'd see the submarines—

**Carty:** Yes.

**Fry:** And the fishermen couldn't report them to anybody?

**Carty:** No, no. They had to observe radio silence because of the Japanese here in California. That's when we put them all in these camps, took them out of here up to the Owens Valley and they had a camp there, and to Idaho and these different places. They took all the Japanese out of here. We had a sheriff's posse here, out at Point Mugu. One of the commanders on one of these Japanese submarines had lived out



here for years; he had had a fish camp there at Mugu. We found out after the war about his being captain of the sub.

**Fry:** And then when war started he—

**Carty:** Went back to Japan, and of course, since he knew the coast and all, was made a commander. These details came to light afterwards. The sinkings gave everybody a scare though, that's the thing.

**Fry:** Did the Japanese commander of the submarines that shelled Santa Barbara ever come back?

**Carty:** Well, they had him. [Somebody] knew the man because he's been on television since the war talking about how they came over here and shelled these places.

The attacks on Pearl Harbor: I was at the Vail Ranch that day with Maklin Vail. Franz Sache, head of the Department of Natural Resources, lived down there and I was hunting with Donald Douglas. And then after our hunting (we got our limit early in the morning—it was quail) I went down to Vista to see Franz Sache, and then that's when the shelling of Pearl Harbor started. That's when I first heard about it on the radio. We lived then temporarily in Ventura up on the hills because we were moving our house up the field in Oxnard.

**Fry:** Oh, this house was being moved?

**Carty:** Yes. So, we had rented a house up on the hill in Ventura, and we had the blackouts and everything, you know. Of course, nothing came of it here on the coast. Then our boats got into action, but they sure wiped us out there at Pearl Harbor, a terrible blow. But they paid for it with those two A-bombs. That stopped it. My son Douglas was with the navy and they were getting ready to invade Japan. Well, there'd have been thousands of boys killed because the Japanese were really fortified for any action of that type. But they couldn't continue when they dropped those two bombs at Hiroshima. That stopped the war quick. When you kill a couple hundred thousand with one bang, why it's over.

Here we sit now with a bow and arrow, you know; Nixon in Russia. They were signing papers yesterday

in Sweden on ecology and all these different things, setting the international restrictions. They're cutting down the arms race, and all these billions that they're spending can sort of help the needy countries more. And then the fight on cancer and heart diseases, on all those things we've got to cooperate. And also on space exploration, we're going to work together. So, it's doing a lot of good.

Of course, this Vietnam deal: Russia's been supplying them with arms, and of course this bombing is going on; now they're hitting their electric plants and everything else.

## Progress in Federal Game Management

**Carty:** Getting back to Fish and Game, I think this flyway system is one of the outstanding deals that happened to improve game management. Because if you had a poor hatch in Alaska, or a dry season, then you wouldn't have many birds in the flyway; so they would cut down the bag limit to two or three birds, depending. Now they get up to six or seven birds because they have more birds in the flyway. The birds can even hatch more because this season the clubs are only open twice a week, Sundays and Thursdays.

**Fry:** This would be a federal program?

**Carty:** The federal government created these flyways in the 1947 Wildlife Conservation Act.

**Fry:** The birds' flyways were already there, I guess—

**Carty:** The birds were there but they never made it into a flyway system. And Gabrielson, head of the U. S. Department of Fish and Wildlife, always agreed when I went back to Washington to talk to him about it, that it was good sensible game management.

I also argued that the Kaibab Forest should be opened. It had been closed to hunting for years. The father of a friend of mine came to Arizona with a commission to open it up to hunting; the deer were starving to death. Ninety thousand deer on



the Kaibab plateau browsed on everything they could reach standing on their hind legs. They just ate all the leaves off of everything, and they were starving. They had never allowed any hunting, and then they opened it up, and they went out there and shot steel jacket bullets through whole herds, just slaughtered them. They cut down the herds because there were just too many.

[That] opened up the hunting. Well, then Arizona got into that and the federal government licensed up to $36 to go there hunting, but it was the finest mule deer herd in the world. They had terrific horns—up to thirty and forty inch spreads.

When they opened it up we went down there and caught fawns. That's what we put on the islands and out here on the ranches. The way we caught the little baby fawns, we had small shepherd dogs that just nosed them over. They would just lay there and we'd pick them up. We'd be on horseback and we had overalls, and we tied the bottom of the legs and put the little fawn in there, and then we'd carry them back to the car and take them to Freedonia where the women would put them on the bottle and raise them as pets. And then we would bring them out here, about eighty at a time, and I would sell them to friends for $25 a piece, and those people went back rich. That was a lot of money for them. But they were cutting down the herds, which is what they wanted to do.

**Fry:** What would your friends do with them?

**Carty:** Oh, our friends would turn them loose, like on the big Broome Ranch, Santa Rosa Island and the Ridge Ranch for hunting.

**Fry:** Would you finish explaining this flyway system: do you mean that the federal government would make surveys to determine how many eggs had hatched in a given season?

**Carty:** Of course. They have men who made a bird count each year. The climatic conditions have a lot to do with it. If you get a dry year or a lot of rain then they have the water and the birds can hatch. And it varied across the country from East to West. They might have a good hatch here and a poor one



on the Atlantic coast or in the Mississippi flyway or the Rocky Mountain flyway. So then they can control the bag limit in that flyway. There's a little overlapping, but most of the birds fly down and take the same course year after year.

**Fry:** So, what you're saying is that what you wanted was a new policy set that would be coordinated among the flyways based on the variations in egg laying and hatching, is that right?

**Carty:** That's right.

**Fry:** So that there would be a different bag limit each season, and the West would vary also probably from the middle U.S. or the eastern seaboard?

**Carty:** That's right, and they'd vary in the hatching in the Canadian provinces. Like Alaska. We get most of our birds out of Alaska. Saskatchewan and those areas would be the Rocky Mountain and the Mississippi flyway. There's some overlapping, but generally it's a flyway right through the country. So, if we need two birds or five birds as the bag limit, it would depend on the hatch. It's good sound game management. The federal Fish and Wildlife Service gives the state in the different flyways several choices of seasons and bag limits.

**Fry:** This was the federal department of fish and wildlife?

**Carty:** That's right. And at that time, Gabrielson was the head of that federal government department. I'd go back to Washington, D. C. to talk with him.

**Fry:** And he opposed it at first?

**Carty:** Well, he said it was good, but there was a woman who had a pipeline to the president at that time, you know, and any changes in these things she opposed—I guess she was a wealthy woman who made big donations. But that went on for two or three years, and then we got the Duck Association of California men, like Carl Wente, and a lot of these who were on the board with me, we all started putting pressure on Congress. I mean, no one person does anything, on any board or anything else. You've got to have three votes on the board to get anything done. But somebody has to champion it.



Like when I finally got Carl Wente to take the Fish and Game Commission job, after he turned Earl Warren down. I said, "You're a sportsman and you owe a service to your fellow sportsmen, and you can afford it; you're in a position that you can do some good, your influence and all." Then I was hunting at the islands and I told Earl, "You ask Carl Wente again if he'll take it."

And he did.

You know, I had others—sportswriters on the *San Francisco Chronicle* and other guys—put the bee on him, see? And between all of us, we were able to do it. And so many of these things, that's the way you bring them about. But you have to follow it up. Someone has to spearhead it; that's what it amounts to.

**Fry:** So, once the Duck Association was behind you, did this make a difference in getting the policy changed on bag limits?

**Carty:** We got things together and started putting the bee on them, and they finally came around to it then, which was a sound good game management business.

**Fry:** Do you remember whose administration it was in?

**Carty:** Well, this started in the 1940's when Warren was governor. Because we got all the pressure we could put on.

**Fry:** And he helped you?

**Carty:** Oh sure. And we were having the governor and his children hunting. His children were small, little Bobby and Earl and all of them, also my Roddy and Douglas too—they were all small. But we'd take them out hunting and they got started learning how to hunt, which kids don't have a chance to do today because there are very few places to go to and it's an expensive passtime.

**Fry:** Yes. You never hear much of kids hunting today, except in the northern counties.

**Carty:** That's right. We used to hunt the river bottoms here and anyplace you go, but no more. Everything is closed. The Broome Ranch was our private hunting



ground for fifty years; also in the Conejo area where my aunts owned 3,600 acres. We hunted deer, quail, and dove. I was young. This was between the age of twelve and twenty.

**Fry:** Not many kinds would have a whole mountain to hunt on.

**Carty:** That's right.

**Fry:** And of course, that was a luxury that children can't have nowadays because of population growth and the restrictions on shooting and guns.

**Carty:** But one of the biggest advances in good game management was the flyway system when they established that. It caused some rivalry between sportsmen in different areas. If one had five and the other one had three ducks limit, then they thought that they all should have the same, like it was before, clear across the country, which wasn't good game management. The same way with the Kaibab Forest, where they let herds of deer build up with no hunting until they had to slaughter them because they were starving to death.

Pennsylvania and other states have proper control of the length of seasons, but there are laws back East so then they start shooting does. Our state is different than Pennsylvania because there there is close shooting because of the denser undergrowth and everything. They even use shotguns and make drives through the forest because it's close range. Here we have open country, long range shooting, four and five hundred yards, a different type of cover altogether like the sage brush.

## Improvements for Sport Fishermen

**Carty:** Did I tell you about the catchable fish thing?

**Fry:** That was going to be my next question.

**Carty:** Well, Governor Olson came here and stayed one night. We have a hatchery out at Fillmore.



**Fry:** You mean he stayed here at your house and you talked him into it?

**Carty:** No, he came down and went to the dedication, after we got the hatcheries built by the Fish and Game Department. There's warm water springs that come up there. There's a fault across the canyon by Fillmore and the waters raise up and flow over the fault. We run that water through the pond and in twenty-one days we hatch fish eggs. The water is 60 degrees. That's the secret of it. In Mount Whitney it would be 121 days to hatch the eggs, where the water is 38 or 40 degrees temperature.

Everything in the Fish and Game in hatching eggs is controlled by temperature—the time it takes to hatch an egg and how fast they grow. We were operating twelve months of the year here, and getting an inch of growth a month on fish, so we could have continual use of the hatchery and continual planning of fish all the year `round, so the fellow who has a two-week vacation can go to the Sierras and get fish because they're planting all the time. And the fellow who pays his three dollars for his license can catch a few fish most any time.

**Fry:** Was this a new concept?

**Carty:** It was a new concept. Practically all our fish biologists that we had in those days came from Stanford University. And the question of disease was always a factor. In warm water you'd have diseases if the water temperature got up to 65 degrees. Down in the desert there we were hatching eggs in sixteen days, but they keep fresh water flowing through the fish all the time. It's not like the usual hatchery with forty or thirty degree water: they're fighting the current, the little bitty fish, 120 days to hatch the egg and then they grow very slowly. With the hot water hatchery, they grow an inch a month, and when you've got a six or seven inch fish, you start planting them.

**Fry:** I noticed that one of the responsibilities of the Fish and Game Commission was to provide for research into some of these policy questions. Was the research done on this because of the Fish and Game Commission?



**Carty:** Oh sure. Alan Taft was, at that time, the head of our Fish and Game Department. He was a Stanford man. Dr. Paul Needham had done a lot of studying and experimental work up in Convict Creek in Mono County. By Mono Lake they took the Convict Creek there and just wired it off, and they would put so many fish and snakes and all the natural predators to see what the survival to the creel would be on different sized fish. You know, for the little fry they were planting in those days the survival was only about 10%, against six or seven inch fish that would get up to 60 or 70% survival to the creel.

**Fry:** To the "creel"?

**Carty:** That's right: that many lived to be caught. That's your best fish batch. And Dr. Paul Needham was carrying on those experiments there under natural conditions.

**Fry:** Was he from U. C. Berkeley?

**Carty:** Yes. So it got to be a big business. They put out hundreds of tons of fish now. You ought to see the set-up at Fillmore. It's beautiful now. My gosh, the fish they produce there! And it's all natural spring water that comes up and goes over this fault and then down again to the river. You see, it just goes through once.

It's when you recirculate the water that you get disease. That's the fight we had. Just common sense will tell you when water keeps on going right through and out it's not going to cause disease, which has proven to be a big thing in Hot Creek.

See, they had experimental ponds up there. And that expanded to a big thing in Mono County. Of course, they put out hundreds of tons for all those lakes and streams around there. And they keep planting all year around. It's a twelve month operation, where it used to be kind of a seasonal deal.

**Fry:** Under Earl Warren as governor was there any further development of this?



**Carty:** Oh sure. That's when it got going good, in the 1940's here, because we expanded all over at different places, different action wherever warm water was available. Like Victorville. That water is up in the sixties [degrees] and in sixteen days they hatch the eggs. That's the whole secret of it: producing fish fast that grow fast.

Then, as far as [fish] going from warm water to cold [when planted], they didn't have a problem. It's more likely to kill a fish by going from cold water to hot water. They plant them all over. They fly them into high country, in the Sierras—golden trout, all these they produce. They have a vast production of all these different kinds.

But I was just going from the trout to the reaming ponds. It wasn't from a scientific knowledge, and of course the little fish up at Bishop have big springs. We put in a few hundred thousand fry and take out tons of catchable fish. We dynamited the ponds to clean out the ponds of fish that eat the other fish, then put wheels in to keep the fry in the big ponds and put lights all over the ponds, and had a boy with a rowboat live there to feed the fish meal. The insects are attracted by the lights and fall into the ponds and the fish feed on them. I think we put in 400,000, and we took out nineteen tons, at practically no cost. Just warm water, about 60 degrees, coming out of the springs. All those fish grew an inch a month.

Another example of good game management: in those days, the people would dig up the little clams at Pismo Beach and throw them back, then they would come up with the tide and there'd be a whole string of them, and either the sea gulls would get them or the sun would hit them and they'd die.

So we got trucks to bring them down the coast at different places, like here at Port Hueneme, and there are clams now all the way to Point Mugu. There were no clams there that people could go and get before.

We make taking the very little clams against the law. The size limit used to be about five inches and it's now 4 1/2. So if you dig up the

little ones, you've got to put them back and bury them again, otherwise the tide brings them right up on the beach and they all die. The waste was terrific.

So I held these hearings up there, in San Luis Obispo and Monterey, about these things and then we opened closed areas and closed open areas and we rotated them that way. We opened one stretch by the mouth of the river that had been closed for twelve years, and these clams were just like gravel: immense numbers of clams, thousands and thousands. Tons of them. They'd take a hundred tons of clams out of there in a short time. For miles along the beach a terrific amount of clams had accumulated there with all this twelve years of protection.

**Fry:** Before you changed the policy to rotating closed areas.

**Carty:** Oh yes, before this it was just closed. Nothing. It was just a waste, like this Kaibab Forest with its mule deer herds. But this way they were allowed to harvest a crop. All game is like a crop that you can harvest, but you have to harvest sensibly, you see, so you don't destroy it, like they did the sardines. Ecological concerns.

They just destroyed them [sardines] and to this day they haven't come back. It was just greediness, that's all. They were making so much money and got so greedy, and they had that lobby in Sacramento and all, and then this one commissioner from down there in Imperial [County] changed his vote which made it three to two to kill the size limits. The labor unions and the fishermen and all were in there together fighting. I told them that in three years that they would all be out of business. In three years they were all out of the sardine business.

## Ecological Concerns

**Fry:** Did you have to contend with any problems from DDT residue draining into the ocean and harming the fish life?

**Carty:** No, that's come in later years, the DDT and ecologists.



Of course, oil. We had problems with sump holes and things where birds go in and get oil on their wings. (Of course this is like the Santa Barbara deal when the oil broke loose [in the ocean floor].) The birds would get oil on their wings then they can't fly and they die. We had it with the oil fields up through the San Joaquin Valley where they had sump holes, you know.

**Fry:** What's a sump hole?

**Carty:** That's where the waste oil is dumped.

**Fry:** Those pools of oil by the drilling rigs, yes. And the birds would land on that?

**Carty:** Yes. They'd go in there and get oil on themselves and then they can't fly. So, in those days we'd make them burn that oil off.

All that lower bay in San Francisco was polluted from all the cities, and so we had to fight there so the fish life could survive. No oxygen in the water, you know. Well, that was kind of a battle.

**Fry:** That was sewage and industrial waste?

**Carty:** That's right. It ruined all that area down there for fishing, and of course that's when the fight started for ecology.

**Fry:** And you were on the commission at that time? What cities did you have the most problem with?

**Carty:** Well, all of them that were around.

**Fry:** San Jose and Hayward?

**Carty:** Yes, they were all dumping into the bay. It's just like a river. You go to Paris, you go to Rome, wherever. They were all on rivers; in the early days that's where they carried their waste away.

**Fry:** I guess you've seen a lot of those dead rivers in Europe.



**Carty:** Oh yes. And the big fight is in Russia now. They're talking—Nixon is—about ecology and the atmosphere and the water and all, you know. And rivers like the Rogue when we floated down it, my gosh. There was riffle there like beer foam. The pear canneries, you know, washing the pears.

**Fry:** With detergents?

**Carty:** With detergents—that's what made the foam. Detergents don't deteriorate, see; detergents go on. So now they're cleaning that up.

**Fry:** Did you have that problem when you were on the commission, when detergents had just begun to be a problem?

**Carty:** Just before they were a problem in this state, the wife and I and two other couples floated down the Rogue River. So then I started complaining to those who were in power (either Brown or Knight, different ones), all these fellows that I knew.

**Fry:** That detergents could do that to our rivers, too?

**Carty:** That's right. And here to let our beautiful rivers just be destroyed, actually. We hunted and fished all over the world and saw what was going on; we saw that something had to be done. Detergents *have* built up.

A lot of people have got in the picture now to try to protect birds and animals.

## The Sardine Industry Crisis

**Carty:** Then the sardine deal. That was the big deal. To this day it has affected us. Well, I fought for a size limit to allow fish to reproduce at least once or twice [before being catchable]. Animals, anything, if they can't reproduce, it's the end of them. That's what happened in those in Monterey.

I had to go up there and make speeches when they had a big parade of boats. And they were making fertilizer, fish meal, cat food, everything



you could think of, except fish. 590,000 tons.

**Fry:** I noticed in the annual report [4] in 1946-48 the catch was 121,000 tons, which was a new low.

**Carty:** Yes. That's when it started going down. When Harvey Hasting was appointed to the commission, he changed the vote. We had a big meeting in San Diego where the labor unions came in, and the fishermen, and all, and they acted like we were taking the bread right out of their mouths.

**Fry:** By doing what?

**Carty:** By knocking out the size limits. We had a six inch limit before. Economically it wasn't sound to take little baby fish that would make twelve gallons of oil to the ton. Seven inch fish make fifty gallons to the ton. It didn't even pay to take them. The oldtimers, the old fishermen, said, "We sit on a school of fish until they're broken up." We can tell what class year they're in. The fish run in schools of the same ages. But when they're broken up the first thing is that they get all mixed up. So, those fellows when they sat on a school of fish before they are broken up, they could tell what size fish they had. They didn't have to take the baby fish. But they got too greedy.

So, at the San Diego meeting they changed the vote, three-to-two and the size limit was lifted. They'll take any size in.

**Fry:** About when was that?

**Carty:** That would be in the 1940's.

**Fry:** Was that the cause of this low catch?

**Carty:** That's the reason; they just cleaned them out. Listen, I just said to them (I get upset now), "Now, you men are going to be out of business and



broke in three years." And they were. The banks owned the purse seiners, they owned the canneries in Monterey and all of it. To this day the sardines have never come back.

But when we had the six inch size limit for several years there, it allowed them to build up. The migration is up and down the continental shelf. We tagged the fish and we knew how they spawned. If you had a good spawn year in Monterey, and you had a heavy hatch and the conditions were right, then you have a terrific amount of fish.

But the game fish live on the sardines and anchovies. Now the fishermen are going after the anchovies. People just don't believe—the ocean is so big out there they think it's unlimited. It's very limited. Fifty miles out, where the limit of the continental shelf is, is where your growth fish feed and where your fish are.

In three years the sardine canneries were shut and are still shut. There's one old fellow living here that had a restaurant up in Monterey. I said to him, "Well, I told you what would happen, and it happened, didn't it?" They're all broke. Then the canneries, the banks own them. And these purse seiners run $75,000 apiece. Big boats like that.

And they used to have a big parade of boats. I still have clippings on the Monterey Peninsula fair. That's what really gave you the dope on the fish that they took at that time that year, and the big celebrations that went on, the parade and the boats, and all this stuff. I was up there and it had my picture, talking to them and all this.

But I tried to keep that size limit. We had it in for about three years, is all. They don't have these canneries around here today.

**Fry:** Do we have a minimum size limit now?

**Carty:** No.

**Fry:** It never did get put back on?



**Carty:** No. They just went ahead and picked the babies right up. Economically it wasn't sound. It just didn't make sense, because you'd have the same results with animals, anything. The human race would be the same. If they didn't reproduce there would be an end to it. That's all with anything.

## Other Commercial Fishing Issues

**Fry:** On an issue like that were you ever able to get Governor Warren to speak out, or speak to someone who could help?

**Carty:** Well, I don't think at that time that we tried to. The commission itself had the vote. And the scientific staff and all, we were arguing with them, you see.

**Fry:** You were arguing with the scientists?

**Carty:** Yes. Sure, we had a disagreement there on this principle of fish and trout, the warm water deal and the growing of disease and all. But in the end, why, it was proven out and got to be a big business in the state, these warm water hatcheries, planting all year around.

**Fry:** I just wondered if while you were on the Fish and Game Commission, in these issues that now we can see were very important, if you were able to use your friendship with Earl Warren?

**Carty:** Well, of course, I didn't push Earl, as we had plenary powers. You know, when you're on with five men and you've got to have three votes all the time on everything, you just don't cross them. There are so many different things that might come up. We'd meet and discuss it. And there was a theory on my part that I could get along, too.

But I just put two and two together. These things could happen with anything that wouldn't reproduce. They admitted, the oldtimers, afterwards. They said, "If we followed Ed Carty we might still have fish." I heard that up to a few years ago. Now, they knew; they knew when they sat on a school of fish, they knew their size.



**Fry:** In the reversal of the vote, was this the result of pressure from the unions and the fishermen?

**Carty:** That's right.

**Fry:** Combined?

**Carty:** Well, all of them involved would be boat owners and union members. They said that we were just taking the bread away from their children. That's when I told them, "Listen, you'll be out of business in three years." And they were, because they had taken all the little baby fish. They just cleaned them out. I mean, the efficiency of harvesting the fish was too great. They could sit on schools and by instruments and all they could locate them. The fish hadn't got a chance.

**Fry:** What happened with tuna while you were on the Fish and Game? It was being heavily caught about 1949 according to the annual report, although at that time there were some economic disturbances in that industry. They were holding large quantities of canned tuna, for instance, for putting on the market later when prices were higher. There was relaxation of Japanese fishing restrictions after the war, and this was threatening. It said that "long trips to Central America and to the Galapagos Islands were necessary as tuna on the banks closer to California failed to supply a large quantity of fish."

**Carty:** Well, I guess, there were more fish there. They had to move farther, and the refrigeration boats, and all they used, allowed it. But they have to reach out, farther and farther, all the time to get these fish.

**Fry:** The size of the bait fleet had increased from 136 vessels in 1946 to 225 vessels in 1950. There were more and more people coming in to fish tuna. Do you remember any actions that came up to limit the fishing?

**Carty:** No. We never did anything with the tuna. Of course, those were again far away from the shore. They were down in the south, and with these refrigeration boats they could do these things. Then the Japanese came clear over here and caught tuna and salmon.



**Fry:** Did you have some trouble with Japanese fishermen?

**Carty:** Not at that time, in the 1940's. But later it developed. As the fish become scarce they [fishermen] go farther afield. Naturally, they reached and entered our shores up in Alaska, just like [they did with] our crab, like Oregon. Last year when we opened the fishing season on the McKenzie River they had to send up to Washington to get crab. We arrived on a Friday and had a big crab dinner at Ben Charles home, about sixty-five miles from Eugene. But, this year there was no Oregon crab. We had to send up to Seattle to get the crab for dinner. And it just shows how they're overfishing everything.

It's a shame because your game fish, just like the sardines and anchovies (they're working the anchovies over), they want to open it up and take everything. They think, "Oh, the ocean is so big! It couldn't ever happen." But it could and did.

**Fry:** It looks as if it was the beginning of Earl Warren's third term, in the early `fifties, that this crisis first began, which we now know has changed our whole coastal ecology so much. The salmon dropped from an all time high in 1945 and 1946 of nearly 14 million pounds down to 6 1/2 million pounds about three years later.

**Carty:** Yes. Lots of times in poor spawning years, too, it can happen. That can cause it.

**Mrs. C.:** You know, like the crab, too. This man up at Dean McComber's in Anacortes, Washington, was saying—he's been a fisherman for years—"Well, the crabs are all gone." But he said, "In history they seem to deplete and deplete, and then they'll build up again."

**Carty:** As long as they don't overfish in areas. Abalone is another thing that in skindiving so many people have taken up. You know, they can destroy a lot of abalone, too.

**Fry:** But you didn't have abalone problems, did you?

**Carty:** No. At that time we didn't have it.

**Fry:** In the annual report there was an official alarm on signs of depletion of black cod. Do you remember anything about that?

**Carty:** No. My memory isn't as sharp as it used to be.

**Fry:** Well, probably the sardine depletion is a good example of how you attacked the depletion problem.

**Carty:** That's right. And it goes with other fish, too, when they're overfishing.

**Mrs. C.:** Well, they take them so young that they can't reproduce.

**Carty:** Economically, it's not sound to take them so young; they don't have the oil content that the full grown ones have. But it takes so many thousands of sardines to make a ton of these little fish, thousands, where when you get big fish, why your numbers go down and the oil content increases.

**Fry:** The industry apparently gets behind research investigations, and so forth, to judge from the annual reports.

## Administrative Matters: State and Interstate

**Fry:** Is there a system in which industry can contribute funding for investigations for the universities to carry out?

**Carty:** Yes, they can. The universities with their departments can. Like, Stanford was the one that was putting out these fish biologists that we had at that time; most of them were Stanford men. Alan Taft, you know, was running it. Naturally, he would have students coming along and they would get into the study of the field.

**Fry:** I'm interested in the relation of the university to the state government in the 1940's. I wondered if the fish and wildlife specialists, for instance,



were called upon by the Fish and Game Commission and asked to carry on specific investigations. Or did the commission just ask "What's going on in research in the universities that we can use?"

**Carty:** All we could do was to recommend. In other words, we were recommending to Taft and the other department staff members. (There was one other man there that I used to do a lot with. He was a smart man, and he was the one, too, who realized what was going to happen.)

**Fry:** Fish and Game became an independent department in 1951. Did Seth Gordon come in with this reorganization as head of the department?

**Carty:** I think so; at that time they hired him.

**Fry:** Was that the same position that E. L. Macaulay had held?

**Carty:** Macaulay? I actually forgot about Macaulay. When did he pass away? I have some correspondence with him. I think that was the same department that he was in until Seth took

over. But Seth Gordon is still around Sacramento.

**Mrs. C.:** He was the director of everything, Gordon was.

**Carty:** Yes. He was over it all.

**Fry:** Yes, and so was Macaulay.

**Carty:** Yes. Because you could contact him, I think, very easily in Sacramento. (He's on my Christmas card list.)

**Fry:** Another thing you might remember is the financing of the department's operations. Did it all come from the licensing?

**Carty:** The licenses. The fish and game licenses.

**Fry:** And kelp bed leases and packer's privilege taxes?

**Carty:** That's right. That's the canneries. See, they had a tax on the canneries. So it was self-supporting.



**Mrs. C.:** Maybe it isn't any longer.

**Carty:** I think so. Of course, licenses have gone up, too, in cost.

**Fry:** Did you have any financial woes that you remember?

**Carty:** No.

**Fry:** There seemed to be a perennial problem of enforcement. Was that related to financial problems? Not enough men could be hired—

**Carty:** Well, of course, as in any business, always, your limitations are financial. But the money is derived from the fishing licenses and that is returned to the fishing—hatcheries and all, in the state. Then, the fines from the arrests would go into the patrols. We try to keep it in the source that it came from. Really, we're doing pretty well. We have a lot of hunters in this state.

But the supply of fish and game is a big problem, naturally. We have so many hunters. We have thousands of them. And so many fishermen. Then, the poor fellow who bought a three dollar license and only has a two weeks' vacation out of the year, why, that's where a catchable fish program is important for him. Because they go in their trucks and plant all the year 'round.

**Fry:** Whenever people have vacations.

**Carty:** All summer especially, sure.

**Fry:** Was part of the problem of regulations along the California coast, that the fish would migrate up along the Oregon coast, so that you had to have some coordination between the three coastal states? Was this the reason for the Marine Fisheries Compact? [Ratified by California in 1949.]

**Carty:** That's right, between the states.

**Fry:** Do you remember anything about that?

**Carty:** Well, those things you worked for were controlled because you'd have the migration of sardines up and

down to Mexico. So, you had to control many states, and they had to work together.

## Commission on Interstate Cooperation

**Fry:** Did this compact have any relation to the Commission on Interstate Cooperation.

**Carty:** Well, that would be one of the things they would work on. They would work together on the fishing problems and all problems like water, the streams. We would want to reach clear up in Oregon to get some water. The Columbia River, even. Anything that's connected between states. There are so many things it covers in all the different groups I served on.

**Fry:** Do you remember working on the compact to arrange this?

**Carty:** I don't remember the details. But, we had conferences that went on at Portland, or San Francisco; those are the places I went to. I'm one of the few that's left. It's gone on quite a while. I think it's still on. I'm sure that they have it.

**Fry:** What was its main purpose at that time?

**Carty:** Well, government relationships between states. Earl was there. I usually went up with him. It was on one of those trips that I told him, "Earl, I have a name, Richard Bard, to take the supervisor's job." At the last minute they called me at the airport to say that he would not take it. He was the type, like Carl Wente, who turned down the Fish and Game Commission too. And General "Hap" Arnold we got on it, too.

In fact, I had lunch with General Arnold at the Clift Hotel the week before he died. He had a couple of martinis, but his heart was so bad, I said, "My gosh, you're not supposed to drink, are you?" We had a nice friendship for years.

He is the one who, when I was mayor and my son was killed in a P-39 crash, wrote right away



that they were eliminating these P-39's as fast as they could. And I wrote back, I said, "General, we killed five boys in the last thirty days, right here on our strip with P-38's, old obsolete models." So, in a few weeks, they cleaned the field and they came back with J and I models and we had no more accidents. See, P-38's were kind of a freak plane, a double-motored deal. So I probably saved some boys' lives here. Donald Douglas told me that the P-39 plane was just no good. The balance of the motor is way back with a long drive shaft. The Russians were using them and they killed a lot of Russians. My son was flying them from Whitehorse into Alaska and he said you could see the burn spots in the forests where they had crashed trying to land. What happened was that the stabilizers would leave them in straight flight. And that's what happened with my boy. A highway patrolman saw it happen in the air.

The stabilizer'd break off. The weight caused it. But then the other thing was losing flying speed when they were landing. They'd roll. That weight was back too far. I'd said the plane was no good.

And they had a Boeing, a short-coupled plane built by Boeing that killed a lot of boys, and they eliminated it also.

**Fry:** At any rate, General Arnold was a good friend of yours.

**Carty:** Yes. He was a wonderful person. And then his son married Donald Douglas' daughter. And they came here and I got an apartment for them. She was a wonderful—personality plus. And he was a swell guy; he was stationed here at Mugu for a while in the Air Force. He's still in the service.

Last week was Donald Douglas's eightieth birthday and Mom and I called to sing happy birthday to him on the phone. And now they want us to come down this week for dinner. They were married right here in this den, twenty-two years ago. She was his second wife; she was his secretary for years.

**Fry:** Did the Commission on Interstate Cooperation handle things like water and power rights and interests



between the states?

**Carty:** Sure they did. All those discussions. Anything that affected relations between the states.

**Fry:** Did that include the Colorado River?

**Carty:** I don't remember—it's hard to remember after so many years.

**Fry:** Well, you've done pretty well.

**Carty:** I hope you've got enough to help you out.

**Fry:** Oh, I think we do. Combined with your scrapbooks, it's going to give us a good history of this area of California and a lot about Warren when he was governor.



# III Friendship with Earl Warren

## Hunting and Fishing Fraternity

**Fry:** I would like to get the texture of the experience Earl Warren would have when he went hunting on Santa Rosa Island, for instance. Did you spend all day hunting or did you sit and relax part of the time, just telling stories?

**Carty:** Oh, we relaxed, too. Yes, we'd go out in the morning and the evening. And then the kids would go skin diving for abalone all around there. We'd have abalone feeds and lobsters—these islands are wonderful for shellfish around the shorelines. And the same way where we went to Mexico. Earl and Bobby, they're both good skin divers.

**Fry:** Earl Jr., you mean?

**Carty:** Yes. And they'd go swimming or sunbathe or rest. It was restful for Earl because the rest of the day he didn't do anything vigorous. The mornings and the evenings he'd go out.

**Fry:** I see, and did Earl Warren swim any?

**Carty:** Well, I'm just trying to remember—over there the bay was pretty deep, it wasn't a nice beach. But we'd go in a boat around the island and then that's when the kids would go in—

**Fry:** On the other side—

**Carty:** Yes, we'd go around on a boat that goes on the edges. And down in Mexico at LaPaz, they'd go in too. Of course we were watching for sharks there; a lot of sharks there. And they just scared the devil out of the Mexican boys on the boat; they're scared of those great big sharks—they're twenty feet long, you know. So they were always nervous. They swam in the little inlets where the boat was right there, but even then it was dangerous.



**Fry:** You have to stay close to the boat.

**Carty:** Yes, they were right close. Earl would take his shirt off and sunbathe. He got a lot of pleasure out of it and a lot of mental relaxation. It was a wonderful way that he could relax. He could take a little cat nap sitting right there. He'd just take a little nap in a matter of minutes. It's a wonderful thing when you can do that. It's like meditation.

**Fry:** It's turning your mind off.

**Carty:** That's right. You turn your mind off. And he could do that, too. Even on a bumpy road, riding in the car he'd take a little nap. Another friend, Hap Maxwell, can do the same thing. I'd have to wake him up to shoot a deer. I'd say, "There's a deer. See? Now just come up slow." And he'd get out of the car and get his gun. But he could sleep like that too. It's a gift, I tell you. Earl can do it. He'd take a little snooze and come out fresh. When I do that, it takes me a while to wake up.

Over all the years, Earl and I have been together in so many different things, you know. Like that Hearst Castle purchase. George Hearst and another gentleman who owned a big shipping deal in the bay boat building area, flew down to Oxnard. I was president of the Mission Trails. They promoted tourist travel on the coast of California. He told me he just hated to see all the things his father had gathered thrown to the four winds. Of course, there's a tax angle too. So there was a question of giving it to the public. And so I got busy on it.

I got in touch with Earl and said, "My gosh, it's a crime that they don't take it. He's willing to give it with forty or fifty acres around it and all these beautiful things that we go to Europe to see—a castle like that. And here he's brought all those things here."

**Fry:** What did Warren say?



**Carty:** Oh, he was for it. We got him to go along with the idea. He put the bee on the three departments who had to okay it.

**Fry:** I think Newton Drury, who was head of the parks and beaches, felt that they could never keep up such an elaborate property.

**Carty:** Oh yes. That's right, "It'd be red ink," and all. It's a gold mine! There are hundreds of people to see it every day. You have to wait in line and they have shortened the time for the tour. Running several hundred people a day through at $2.50 each is quite a source of revenue.

I was off hunting in India when they had a special meeting for us—you know for the Mission Trails—to go up there and see it. I was gone, so I never got to see it. I went by once and there was such a crowd waiting there, jammed. And Senator Lagomarsino had a special deal for me,

but we just never made the connection here until just a couple of years ago that I went to see it and realized what—

**Fry:** What a fabulous gold mine that you had got the state.

**Carty:** That's right. Beautiful. Beautiful. So many people get pleasure out of all the things, too. And the millions Hearst spent on it, you know. They have game there—zebras and all kinds of wild animals. We got some sheep once and traded them for an elk down at Griffith Park that we used for our Rod and Gun Club barbecue.

**Fry:** Well, I would like to document when you met Earl Warren and how you two got to know each other.

**Mrs. C.:** It's funny isn't it, that you forgot how you met?

**Carty:** Well, of course, our friendship developed after I was on the Fish and Game Commission, because I got him started hunting. His boys and ours were about the same age, small.

**Fry:** How did you get him started hunting, do you remember?



**Carty:** Through the League of Cities. I was the president of the League of California Cities. Then, Archie Davidson of Colusa followed me next year and we got to be good friends. And that's why I took Earl up to Colusa to Davis: Archie Davidson was mayor of Colusa. Then, he, in turn, got Wally Lynn in the picture. Wally invited us out to his ranch to go duck hunting.

**Fry:** I see. Was that the first time that Earl Warren had hunted?

**Carty:** He hadn't done much hunting, you know. We took him to Santa Rosa Island for the big game, the mule deer and elk, to the Vails' ranch. The Vails were friends of mine that I had known through the years, and fellows like Donald Douglas, Sr.—all these different men, you know, that you meet through social contact in fish and game. That's a great fraternity, fish and game.

**Fry:** Do you mean the commission?

**Mrs. C.:** No, just anybody—

**Carty:** Sportsmen. They're kindred spirits.

**Mrs. C.:** I've always said they could spot each other without knowing them. They're strange buddies.

**Carty:** It's just like alcoholics. They'll get together. Like when I was national president of all the city councilmen [National Association of Municipal Legislators] in 1948, I went to Halifax, Nova Scotia to represent the cities of the United States at the Canadian Conference of Mayors. And there I hadn't been in a public meeting more than twenty or thirty minutes and two fellows came over and they wanted to take me fishing up at the Gold River; the salmon run was on.

I said, "I've got to stay here and go to these meetings." They said, "Oh, we'll pick you up at five o'clock in the morning at the hotel and have you back before lunch so you won't miss the meetings."

So, these fellows had their rods and lunch and everything, and we went about fifty miles up to the Gold River, beautiful little shallow stream, and you see these big schools of salmon there. You drop a little fly in the water, and wham! The first thing you have one of them on bouncing

all over the place.



And up there, of course, it's just `your worship' when you're a mayor. The British, you know, the mayor has a mace to show his authority, and gowns he presides in.

**Fry:** I'm trying to picture that happening in Oxnard. [Laughs]

**Carty:** Mrs. McCormick, the woman that just died here not long ago, she called me the day she died and called me `your worship.' [Laughter]

**Fry:** Which newspaper?

**Carty:** The Halifax, Nova Scotia paper. They may pick it up down here. [Laughter] They had my picture in the paper with the mayor of Halifax. It said: "His Worship Edwin L. Carty, mayor of Oxnard, California, representing the cities of the United States." We bumped into that in Singapore and other parts of the world where we met with officials.

**Fry:** Is it unusual for women to go along with the men, on hunting and fishing expeditions, like you do, Mrs. Carty?

**Carty:** Well, there are not too many of them that would go shooting tiger in India.

**Mrs. C.:** I think a lot of them go.

**Carty:** The wives of some of our friends go, sure.

**Mrs. C.:** They like to—Billie McCormick likes to shoot and fish.

**Fry:** Did Mrs. Warren ever take part in it?

**Carty:** No, she never went. So, it's a minority of women.

**Mrs. C.:** But I never went with them when it was just the men.

**Carty:** It was sort of a stag deal on most of the trips that we made. We could have mixed the group. Sometimes



after the July season and it was hot down there, we'd go to LaPaz or different places to fish; we'd fly down the gulf and take our boys with us, the older boys like Earl, Jr. and Doug and Bob. We'd take them duck shooting with us. So we have lots of pictures of the kids on the boats down in LaPaz.

**Fry:** Were you with Earl Warren just this past Christmas when he went down to LaPaz?

**Carty:** No. He went down with Ben Swig; they were on Ben Swig's boat. Ben Swig was someplace else when we were there. They got to be great friends. Wally Lynn was with them.

Earl said that he met the old man who was governor of Baja California at the time we were down there. The governor had never fished. We took him out and had a contest to see who could catch the bigger fish. He caught a two-hundred pound marlin. He was tickled to death. I had four hundred feet of film and sent him the whole reel. He'd write to me, asking me to come down to fish with him again. He said, "Here I sit and have never gone fishing." This was quite an occasion for him.

Then he became head of the military in Mexico after that. Earl said that he met him again when he went down there. I forget what his name is—Alonso, something like that. Earl said that he's living near there now again and he had nice visits with him but he is not very well. When we went fishing all his men got seasick. I had Dramamine and kept giving it to them but they couldn't keep it down.

**Fry:** Yes. If you take it too late, you're lost.

**Carty:** We did that in the Arctic. Everybody was seasick but Mama and I. And this doctor had given us a green pill and a yellow pill. We started taking pills before we got out of the fjord. In the morning you take one that relaxes you. The whole trip was just one rough sea, the waves were going clear over a five hundred ton boat.

**Mrs. C.:** I wasn't seasick. I was just scared. I wouldn't get out of my berth.



**Carty:** You had to hold onto the berth. You could hear the dishes breaking. The water would come over the top and run down the side. [Laughs]

**Mrs. C.:** I knew it was going to be rough; we heard that it was an awfully high sea from Don Douglas, who ran military supplies to Russia during the war.

**Carty:** The sea was really rough—the Iceland Sea.

**Mrs. C.:** But when we got on this big ship all the berths were barred like a cage, with just a little slot at the end where you climb in.

**Carty:** We stopped by Bear Island at two o'clock in the morning and I was catching these big cod fish, twenty-five and thirty pounders. There must have been thousands of them down there. And then we pulled them up. The boat was full of them. We had 135 of those big cod fish laying around the deck to take up to the men on the island and the governor and the miners. They're wonderful eating, those big cod fish.

But that sea, I tell you, it's like this roof, the size of the waves, in a five hundred ton boat, you see. I got Mama out to hang on the rail in the center of the boat.

**Mrs. C.:** I was all right after I got up and got over being afraid.

**Fry:** Does Earl Warren ever get seasick?

**Carty:** No.

**Mrs. C.:** He's a hearty individual.

**Fry:** He never gets anything, does he?

## European Travels

**Carty:** No. What's the name of the little town we stopped at, where he was born, he and Nina?



**Mrs. C.:** Oh, yes. She wasn't born there. She was born in Sweden. But his family came from Haugesund.

**Carty:** He was a Norwegian. He gave the Fourth of July speech. They always had the Americans come there at Gettling for the Fourth of July talk. Of course, he was over there at that time and he knew we were there, and one night we met in Moscow after the theatre.

**Mrs. C.:** Oh, we went to see the puppet show.

**Carty:** And I got claustrophobia. I'll tell you, I had to get out of there, so we walked out on the big boulevard and tried to get a taxi. They go by there at fifty miles an hour, and very few of them. Then this big limousine drove up right across the street. So I told her, "You stand here and I'll run over and see if I can get a taxi."

Then I look over and there's Earl and his wife coming out of another theatre. So I just ran back across the street. He knew we were in that part of the world, but didn't know where. We went back to the embassy and had tea. And then they took us to the hotel and had a nice visit.

**Fry:** You just bumped into each other?

**Carty:** Accidentally.

**Mrs. C.:** They were only there for three days, and he never did say why. He was there on something.

**Carty:** Well, he's worked a long time on international affairs.

**Fry:** About when was that? Was he Chief Justice?

**Mrs. C.:** Yes. It was when we went from Moscow to Czechoslovakia.

**Carty:** What year was that? Must have been 1958, because every third year we were going some place different in the world. But that's the time that we went with Stan Chambers of KTLA and the whole group, wasn't it?

**Mrs. C.:** Yes.



**Fry:** Was Earl Warren with any other friends on that trip?

**Carty:** No, just his wife. And we stayed at a big new hotel, Ukararina, twenty-seven stories tall. I said, "Where are the stairs?" "There are no stairways." I said, "What do you do when you have a fire?" "We don't have fires." And we're up on the twenty-third floor! I said, "My gosh!"

The hot water would go right down—there was no stopper. Then there was the telephone but no directory and no information. So you couldn't call anyone.

**Mrs. C.:** They don't want you calling any people.

**Carty:** I'll tell you, the way those things are run! Then the subways and all, escalators and beautiful trains, all tiled and different levels. They all go out in different directions around the city. Then you get down there and there's music playing and all this propaganda going on for the working man.

**Mrs. C.:** We were touring and they were going to show us the housing programs.

**Carty:** The building programs around the city.

**Mrs. C.:** Anyways, this one day, going down an escalator (they have marvelous escalators), a little woman attached herself to me, a cute little thing, and she couldn't stay in the background. She

wanted to talk. At first, she said, "You're Americans, aren't you? My mother was an American." So we walked along and she told me, "I have a book of my mother's, just one book, and it's about Kentucky Do you know where Kentucky is?" I said, "Yes." That was where her mother had come from.

Her mother had gone on a trip and in Vladivostock she met a Cossack and married him. So the little thing said, "So now I'm a Soviet." Oh, she was so interested in it. Until Vera, our guide, finally discovered her, and she just gave her one look and the woman disappeared in the crowd.



**Carty:** Oh, this guide that we had—at the Presidium, when the people were all going there and no one could get in, this little gal walked up, handed them a card and we went in, all by ourselves. What beautiful chandeliers and decorations in the Presidium in Red Square!

Then the tombs where you go underground, the lines of people would be a mile long but Vera would walk right in the front and we'd go right in. It was kind of embarrassing to us.

**Fry:** But you were kind of official warmer-uppers of the U.S.-Russian relations?

**Carty:** That's right. We were on a goodwill tour.

**Mrs. C.:** Stan Chambers of KTLA went along, made tapes and kind of ran the thing. I think they told us that it was the first time they had taken a group like that. We had royal treatment.

**Carty:** We had red carpet treatment in the hotels, also. It was beautiful. Double fixtures in the bathrooms and all kinds of beautiful chandeliers, and things that were locked up, dishes, etc. But then they would send these big limousines for us to take us to see their housing projects.

These big boulevards they're building—and women doing most of the work! Planting trees as they go along, and the lights and the whole system. Then, the big apartment houses; one right after the other, all on the same pattern.

**Mrs. C.:** They have good plans for it, though. They have the shops and stores on the first floor, and then the playgrounds and parks surround it.

**Carty:** And they took us to their construction sites where they have American houses. They had taken American houses over there and set them up to show how they compared.

**Fry:** Who brought them? The Russians?

**Carty:** Yes.



**Mrs. C.:** Some builder brought them.

**Carty:** And they would have American fixtures to compare with theirs. But they didn't paint them and keep them up like they did their own. I laughed when I saw through these things.

**Fry:** They looked kind of shoddy?

**Carty:** Yes. They just let them run down.

**Mrs. C.:** Oh, I tell you—I came back feeling that—I enjoyed them and I enjoyed the people, but I thought, "Boy, this is the formidable enemy." I still think that's exactly what they are. And I

think that the people are very, very patriotic. Whether they like the government or not doesn't mean anything, but they will fight and do anything for Russia.

**Carty:** Well, as I said, they aren't a minority, that's for sure.

**Fry:** Was Nixon there at the same time?

**Carty:** That was shortly before, wasn't it?

**Mrs. C.:** It was after we were there, but it was the same year.

**Carty:** Because we went through this thousand acres with all the things set up.

**Fry:** The international fair?

**Carty:** Yes.

**Mrs. C.:** You're talking about the big one that they have that's their permanent exhibit. That is beautiful, just fantastic.

**Carty:** But the one that—each state is represented there. The same as our states.

**Mrs. C.:** You know, I went back by myself. I found that they had all of the household appliances, and, oh, model kitchens and model this, then they show an ordinary house and what is in it, and then their house. I thought, "I'm going back there to see what those Russian women think about that."



**Fry:** The American houses?

**Mrs. C.:** Yes. And they weren't impressed.

**Fry:** Why?

**Mrs. C.:** So many times they would say, "We can't understand you. Here you were the most powerful nation in the world. You could have everything. Why do you waste your time with these silly gadgets?" Why, they thought they weren't necessary.

Actually, those things aren't. You know, if we didn't have all these luxuries—so many things are really not necessities.

**Carty:** They'll stop you on the street and talk to you.

**Mrs. C.:** If you were talking with the women, they wanted us to say what each one did.

**Carty:** Yes, what kind of work we did, what kind of job we had.

**Mrs. C.:** Of course, when I said that I just stayed home and was a housewife—

**Fry:** You could tell them you were the gadget supervisor. [Laughs]

**Mrs. C.:** Ruth Newman, who is quite a painter, was along. And I told Brad's wife, "Lee, she goes along in their plane and does the navigating—tell them you're a navigator." [Laughter]

**Carty:** Johnny Newman, who is a close friend of ours, is director of Southern California Edison Company and chairman of the race horse board. And director of the Irvine Company.

**Fry:** But the American women were having trouble with their status?

**Mrs. C.:** What the Russian women would say was, "Well, of course, we all work, but we understand that the poor American women"—they knew just exactly how many women worked in the United States—"those women have to work all day and then come home and cook dinner. On their day off they have to do the

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washing and house-cleaning and everything. But we have a maid; if we work we have a maid. We don't have to do the housework." Of course, people are assigned to being maids.

**Fry:** Yes, it's provided.

**Carty:** That's right. One in every family has got to work. This little girl in Prague, remember that? She was afraid because we wanted to take her to dinner and she was afraid to dress up because they're watching her all the time, just like a prisoner. One in the family has to work. She was the daughter and the mother had to take care of the family.

**Mrs. C.:** All the Czechs are prisoners.

**Carty:** It's just like a prison.

**Mrs. C.:** That was the saddest place I've ever been.

**Fry:** Czechoslovakia?

**Mrs. C.:** Yes. We have some friends here, Dr. Powell and his wife, and, oh, they had travelled from way back. I don't know where he had gotten to know this Czech doctor but he'd known him for years and years. Then when the Russians took over Czechoslovakia they went to see them one time, and they could see that they were in very bad straits. The wife was also a doctor. She had taught, I think, in the university. Well, Noble said that he tried to give him some Czech money that he had, and they just wouldn't accept it.

**Carty:** It's just like Vera; I tried to give her money, and finally I bought her a big box of candy and she wouldn't take it. She had to give me something in exchange. Because they watch you.

**Mrs. C.:** Anyways, when we got into Prague—Nadine Powell had said, "We're going to write to them, anyway, and tell them that you are coming." While we were in customs, this woman came up to me and said she was the niece of the doctor, that she was very sorry that he was busy. She said that the wife was in very poor health and that they had sent her some place. So she rode down with us on the

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bus to find the hotel, and I asked her—it was about four o'clock in the afternoon—and I said, "Won't you come in and we'll have tea or a drink or whatever you would like?" And do you know, somebody said something to me and I turned around and the woman was gone. I never saw her or heard another word from her again. Wasn't it strange that she was in customs? It was, but I didn't think about it at the time.

She told me, coming on the bus, that she had a daughter in this country with a group of dancers. I said, "Well, maybe you can come and see her sometime."

She said, "No, I'll never see her again. But, I'm glad she's here." Vera watched her all the time.

## Supreme Court Appointment Preliminaries

**Fry:** What can you tell us about the negotiations for the appointment to the Supreme Court while Warren was staying at your beach house?

**Carty:** We were on Santa Rosa Island hunting.

**Fry:** It isn't clear to me if the reason that Warren had chosen to come down here at that time was that he knew the appointment was in the air. Was he using this as a way to get away from the press?

**Carty:** I don't know. I don't know really, because we had planned this hunting trip with the Vails, and I had made arrangements with the board of supervisors. Warren had his plane fly him here and then I'd pick him up. And we went to the island and shot. But they told me then, "If there's any calls for Warren, you take them."

**Fry:** Who told you this?

**Carty:** One of Earl's aides who was with him from Sacramento.

**Fry:** So this would have been sometime between September 8th and September 24th, 1953, I guess.



**Carty:** Yes.

**Fry:** It was after Vinson died, but was it before Brownell flew to Sacramento to talk to Governor Warren? Had he already talked to Brownell at this point?

**Carty:** Well, he might have, because Warren seemed to know there'd be a phone call, that the President wanted to talk to him. The call was the tipoff that he should get ashore to a private phone. So then when the call came, I took it on an intercom—a public phone—it's a short wave deal. You see, on a phone out there everybody in the country can hear you. It's an open line—

**Mrs. C.:** It's ship-to-shore.

**Carty:** Everybody would be listening in. Well, he knew what the call was all about. Then he called Eddie, Vail's pilot, to come from Santa Barbara to pick him up.

**Mrs. C.:** He went over, made the call and then came back to the island.

**Fry:** He flew over to Santa Barbara to talk to him, and then he flew back to Santa Rosa Island?

**Carty:** That's right. The call was for him to go ashore, which he did and talked to President Eisenhower. And that's when he was offered the position and when he accepted.

**Fry:** When he came back from Santa Barbara did he tell you what the phone call was about?

**Carty:** Yes. We knew then that he had been offered this job. Sure, we talked about it. I don't think there was any part of it that we were concerned with except not to give it out to the press.

**Fry:** But, just among you, did you talk about it?

**Carty:** Oh, yes, that he had been offered the job and that he was going to accept it. But not to give it to the papers.

**Fry:** Had he been offered the *Chief* Justiceship at this point?

**Carty:** Yes.

**Mrs. C.:** I think he knew. There must have been some indication—I don't think these things just come out of the blue—

**Carty:** Oh, they had to wait several days to see if the man was going to accept what was offered to him.

**Mrs. C.:** There must have been *some* preliminaries.

**Fry:** The other thing we need to know is which contact this was. Was this the final one, in which case he left and moved to Washington in something like three days? Or was this one of the preliminary ones—

**Mrs. C.:** You know, I think you ought to ask him because we might make a mistake. [5] But I do know that these three men arrived and they were not about to leave. They told him that they couldn't.

**Fry:** Then, you all stayed at the island for a while?

**Mrs. C.:** I don't know whether they came in that day or whether it was the next day.

**Carty:** We went hunting when he came back. You see [pointing to a picture] that's one of the big bucks he shot up there.

**Fry:** At another time?

**Carty:** It was about the same time. We got six or seven big bucks, all over thirty-inch spreads.

So the next day we came ashore and went to our beach house in Oxnard and had a barbecue with our kids and the group that was with us. Then the phone started ringing and ringing and ringing. It was on all the news services. They were trying to



get a scoop on it but he wasn't giving them any information. He wouldn't talk to them. So I always talked to them but all I would tell them, "You have to get your information from the other end." It wasn't up to Warren to say that he had been appointed. Let Eisenhower be the one it had to come from.

But then the Highway Patrol started coming to the door.

**Fry:** What did the Highway Patrol come for?

**Carty:** Oh, they got the word, to watch him, you know.

**Fry:** Because he might be the future Chief Justice?

**Carty:** That's right.

**Fry:** How long after this, then, did he leave for Washington?

**Carty:** Well, we went to the airport to get him on the plane that night. The Highway Patrol wanted to take him to his plane but he said, "No, I want to ride with Ed." So I took him to the Oxnard Airport in our car to get the plane back to Sacramento. And they followed us because right away they were throwing protection around him.

**Fry:** Which plane?

**Carty:** His plane, the one that the governor has at his disposal. Other times, like when we went to the Vail ranch, I would go to the Santa Ana Airport to pick up his children and him to go hunting.

**Fry:** Well, that's a story that future biographers will want to have because it was such a dramatic moment in his life.

**Carty:** Yes. Because that appointment was something, you know, and then to be appointed *Chief* Justice!



# IV Ventura County Leadership

## Mayor and Supervisor

**Fry:** I'd like to go back to your own career. I have down here on my notes that you were mayor from about 1942 to 1948.

**Carty:** Yes. I went on the board of supervisors in 1951. Fourteen years I was on the board.

**Fry:** Why don't you relate how you were able to bring some industry to Oxnard when you were mayor?

**Carty:** Well, my wife and I went back to Milwaukee to see the officer of Allis-Chalmers. I had a ninety acre tract, subdivided for a Mr. Dias, who lived out here. The president or vice-president of Allis-Chalmers wanted land for housing for their employees. There are some articles concerning this in the scrapbook. Allis-Chalmers bought nineteen acres in my tract at the lower end; and I gave it to them at the same cost that Dias wanted just to get them out here, because they employed several hundred people. When I left I had a census taken and we had about nineteen thousand people here in Oxnard. Ventura had about twelve thousand. So there was always a rivalry between the two towns.

And then we went to another industry to get payroll here; that's what we wanted in those days. Then the military came when the war started and brought in thousands of people. Some eleven thousand were here at the Seabee base, waiting to be shipped out to the South Pacific.

**Fry:** And was the Allis-Chalmers plant supposed to help substitute for the time when the seabees moved out?



**Carty:** No, they were here *before* the seabees. They were in agricultural machinery; this is a big agricultural area. There is a billion dollars from agriculture here in this country, our biggest source of revenue. Citrus, avocados, strawberries and celery—it's a big business. This is the lima bean capitol of the world, you know. Wonderful soil here; it's a shame to see it covered with houses. In fact, it's the finest soil in the world; wherever you go, Sicily or any place, you can't beat it because it has the climate to raise avocados or lemons or oranges, which they freeze very easily. It's just small areas in the state that you can actually raise that type of crop, the climate is so important.

**Fry:** Was there any attempt made by the board of supervisors to see that some land was preserved as agricultural land?

**Carty:** Yes. Now there's been a move on called "green belts," where they keep them from subdividing and lower their taxes. That's working now all through the state. You apply for a green belt—

**Fry:** And for ten years you have much lower taxes?

**Carty:** That's right, you have taxes much lower, but if you sell any, you have to pay all that back taxes. But there's a lot of acreage going out—thousands of acres have gone in this county into the green belts now.

And of course, our county had a lot of restrictions that other counties didn't have that discouraged a lot of people from coming in. And then they allowed the city to have control of a mile or two around. They opposed that, see, where they were going to expand.

**Fry:** Oh, the city opposed it?

**Carty:** Yes, anything around close, anything within a mile or two of the city. They figured, "Well, that's going to be subdivided within ten years," so they would oppose that, and when they opposed the owners couldn't go into green belt. My cousin's out here on the old home ranch. He tried to get in but was never able to.



**Fry:** You mean as a green belt?

**Carty:** Yes. Was never able to. He just wanted to sit there and farm it. He didn't want to, didn't need to subdivide.

**Fry:** And he couldn't qualify as a green belt?

**Carty:** No, because the city opposed it. So that's that.

**Fry:** Well, did you ever find yourself in a position in which you were on two sides of an issue, with different hats on?

**Carty:** Oh, of course, with all the different jobs I've had, I would've had to change hats all the time.

**Fry:** I could see something like that case in which you might be wanting the city's interests looked after, but at the same time you'd be on the board of supervisors and you'd want this land made available to the county. What was your position at that time?

**Carty:** Well, of course, having been in agriculture, I was strong for having the green belts, because it was a crime to see this beautiful land with all the plants in the world, covered with shacks. And in a lot of cases they were just tract homes.

**Fry:** Little match boxes?

**Carty:** That's right. And the revenue from citrus is high. Ordinarily, with lemons, on twenty acres a person could make a living. Now there's not many crops that you can make a living for a family on a small acreage like that; you had to have bigger acreage. And of course now that the state has gradually come to big farms, heavy equipment machinery that they have to farm with is so expensive. So you're getting bigger and bigger ranches, those farms of thousands of acres, two thousand and up through the San Joaquin Valley are big. Well, they farm more economically

that way.

Of course, you have your grape growers deals and all; and then you get into this Chavez labor troubles and all.

**Fry:** Caesar Chavez?

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**Carty:** Yes, the unions are getting into agricultural labor. They're raising the minimum pay to $1.65 and they want to go to $2.00 minimum, and they're shifting. Of course the responsibility is on the farmers to withhold taxes and keeping books and everything. Where it's shifting, it's not a permanent deal. They are going from one crop to another in different parts of the state; they migrate. But books like *Grapes of Wrath* that paint the picture of these terrible living conditions and all these things, have helped improve living conditions, sanitation and all that in the fields. So they do have their benefits.

But then, the farmer, the taxation is what's getting him. When the farmland here gets up to $150, $200, $300 and $400 an acre, the taxes a year are so high they can't make it out of a crop. Their only hope is in some day trying to sell it; then they run into the planning commissions in these little towns that won't let them develop or sell it when they get a buyer.

So, it's like what I've been bumping into in Ojai Valley; the supervisors don't want anybody else to move in or any new developments. They just want to sit there. But they keep spending money, and the taxes keep going up. And when you get up to $300 and $400 an acre on bare land with no revenue, all those things have an effect. (That's not the high agricultural areas; it's a drier area, warmer in the summers and there is a lack of water.)

**Fry:** But it's still taxed for agriculture?

**Carty:** It's still taxed heavy. You see, when I had an escrow of $25,000 an acre for business—then they killed it, right in the middle of an escrow. Even though they begged us to come into the city on that basis. We had C-1 zoning for twelve years, what we already had in the county.

And then they put a $300,000 road through there, and so I have to pay about $100,000 for that road, my share, for Highway 33, which goes over to Maricopa—to Bakersfield.

**Fry:** And while it was in escrow, they changed the zoning?

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**Carty:** Yes. So we have a law suit filed. But I have another escrow coming in on housing. They turned us down twice now, once on a mobile home park, which I didn't care too much about myself but it was the only buyer that had come along; then the Thrifty Drug and Alpha Beta Market wanted to buy a five acre block at $25,000 an acre but the city wanted the old town protected. It's over fifty years ago that Mr. Libby built the arcade to hide the old shacks—

**Fry:** Arcade?

**Carty:** —the little village with all the shacks, to make it look nicer. He built the country club up there, the Ojai Valley Inn, which is a beautiful country club. They're mad at the city now because they put a bed tax on them, and they had planned to expand. The city killed a $600,000 sale for them.

## From Agricultural to Urban Problems

**Fry:** Along those lines, I had a question. When you were wearing your hat as a leader in the League of California Cities, I noticed that the general problem that the League was working with right after World War II was the expansion of services to these new communities that would crop up outside the nucleus of a small city. Most of the taxes for this extension of services and utilities would be paid by the people who remained in the city itself, and the new suburbanites would be paying maybe only ten to twenty percent of it.

**Carty:** That's right. In your county areas, in other words.

**Fry:** Yes, unincorporated county areas, not inside the city limits. I wondered, with you here in Oxnard, if that was a problem?

**Carty:** Well, it was, because we had such a rapid growth with the installation here of the seabee base, which brought thousands of people in, and then the Point Mugu guided missile test center brought thousands.



**Fry:** That would have been *during* the war?

**Carty:** Yes. We got up to $80 to $90 million on our payroll in the county. Then with the intercepter base, we had three military installations here, which, of course, was all on our water system, sewers, and all the rest of it. Naturally, that put a load on the area. But we were reaching out and bringing them into the city, so it had to be expected.

Bud Carpenter was our attorney in the League of Cities in those days and Dick Graves, our executive officer. The legal questions of cities on all this come to Bud Carpenter for decisions, even to this day.

**Fry:** As a sort of super city attorney?

**Carty:** Yes. Of course, we have two officers in Sacramento during the legislative sessions for any bills that were affecting cities. And the counties had their lobbyists, too.

**Fry:** It seems like it would be a terrible fight between the board of supervisors and the city council.

**Carty:** Well, it wasn't too bad. Hueneme at that time was in a county area, and I should have followed up and got them to come to Oxnard. You see, we created two communities here, which is more taxes on the taxpayer.

You'd think with more people, your taxes would be less. But it's more. It creates more problems—your schools, services, and everything else.

**Fry:** Because they're bedroom communities and you don't have the industrial tax base?

**Carty:** Right. And then welfare is getting to be a big thing now. That's a big cost.

**Fry:** When the legislation was finally passed to put more of this tax burden on the county, that must have been a big debate between League of Cities lobbyist Richard Graves and the lobbyist for the supervisors' associations. Were you involved in that too?

**Carty:** Yes. I had to give and take on both of them, and

of course, I was on both boards. I didn't want to go for any more chairmanships; like the State Real Estate Board wanting me to be president. That's a killer job because they had to run up and down and across the state, and that's what I've been doing in the Fish and Game Commission and sportsmen's organizations for so many years.

**Fry:** You were *on* the State Real Estate Board, weren't you?

**Carty:** Yes, I'm a life director.

**Fry:** That's one of the organizations, as I understand it, that was always arguing and battling with the League of California Cities.

**Carty:** Oh, sure.

**Fry:** And you were in both?

**Carty:** Yes, I was in both.

**Fry:** Were you ever used as an arbitrator?

**Carty:** Yes, sure. We had to do a give and take on all these things.

**Fry:** What about battles for zoning?

**Carty:** That is getting to be the big problem in the country.

## Compensations of Public Life

**Carty:** Here's something—only two or three exist in the state. [Showing a card in his wallet.] Carl Wente and I got ours at the same time.

**Fry:** An honorary hunting and fishing license.

**Carty:** For the rest of my life. And that little card there is—

**Fry:** "Honorary Director of California Real Estate Association for Life."



**Carty:** Right.

**Fry:** Who's president on your card? S. H. Larkey.

**Carty:** Yes, they rotate the presidency, too, and they wanted me at that time to take it, but I had so many jobs, too many.

**Fry:** Did you ever find that you were torn two ways on an issue?

**Carty:** No, you compromise. I try to do what's best for everybody, you know. And I think that's the way I've been.

**Fry:** Can you give me an example?

**Carty:** Yes. [Pause.] My memory—

**Fry:** The only thing I can think of right at the moment would have been this taxation struggle—

**Carty:** Of course taxation has been a big problem—

**Fry:** —between the counties and the cities.

**Carty:** Well, I was always against the way some of these people would vote. Everybody wanted everything in the way of services, you know, and so many fellows that sit on these boards, they're only thinking about votes and how's it going to affect them vote-wise so that they can keep their jobs. But I had no problem that way because I was in my positions by the voice of the city council and the newspaper and the chamber of commerce and things like that. I was independent and I didn't need the money. I got twenty-five dollars to be mayor, and it would cost me $500 sometimes for steaks and all for a party with every change of command at our military bases. At those parties my place would be full of officers who later went up in rank in Washington. Rear admirals, admirals and whatever. I made a lot of wonderful friends, too.

But then when I wanted something for our constituents, we got it, just like we got the $7 million dollars. When I went to Washington, Warren was then Chief Justice, you know, and I could go in any place through contacts with my friends and with men like Donald Douglas and a lot of other men. It's a compensation



of public life; it's the friends you make, that's all.

**Fry:** How did you and Donald Douglas first meet?

**Carty:** Oh, hunting. We used to go to Dallas, too, to hunt, and then they had the big ranch out here at Santa Susanna, a hunting ranch. It was for the employees—a recreation area. And as Fish and Game Commissioner, I helped them gain the game management licenses and things like that. And the same way with Lake Arrowhead. We'd open up part of the lake and the Kern River and we got a hatchery there for them. And of course, the big sportsmen's club in Bakersfield, that's Elmer Hochen's friends, you know. And just like Earl Warren, the Sportsmen's Inn. In that way that we built up wonderful friendships.

Dr. Balfour at Mayo's is another friend. That started when I went back there so sick. And the wonderful care I got! That's what keeps me going today; I wouldn't have been around otherwise.

So, these are the things that are invaluable in public life, the friends and contacts that you make. Mama and I can travel any place in the world and we know people. It's surprising how small a world this is. We're out in New Zealand and somebody comes up and grabs my coattail. The streets of Rome or Paris, the same thing: we'll be walking along and here's some friends and fellows that knew me as president of the National Association of Municipal Legislators. They know you, where you might not know them at all.

**Fry:** And you have to place them: "In which group did I know this man?"

## State and National Municipal Associations

**Carty:** That's right. Because in the National Association of Municipal Legislators there are fifty thousand elected officials, in ten thousand cities. I was the first president elected back in New Orleans.

**Fry:** I have down here that you were president in 1948.

**Carty:** Yes, I was mayor and president of the League of California Cities and then I went into the national presidency, and we had headquarters in Chicago.

**Fry:** When you said you were the first president, you mean when that organization was first organized?

**Carty:** That's right, that included the *elected* city officials. We always had organizations of city managers, you know, but this was a first, when we brought in the elected officials. Of course, the hard thing about keeping an organization like this is there's such a turnover in the city councils.

**Fry:** Constant.

**Carty:** That's right. To look out on a federal level for things affecting the cities—that was our fundamental purpose. Then we worked through our city managers, too. We worked together. But any legislation, that's the big thing in all these areas.

**Fry:** As president, did you do active lobbying for the National Association of Municipal Legislators?

**Carty:** Yes. I went to Washington at different times on things that were affecting the country, like going to Sacramento.

**Fry:** What bills in particular did you lobby for?

**Carty:** You got me. I can't remember them. It was like in Sacramento; the big thing there, of course, I was representing the sportsmen's plenary powers, and control over the ocean fishing and the sardines and all. It was a big fight and a big lobby instance. But we were successful in getting those.

**Fry:** Were you involved in the big swing toward city managers?

**Carty:** I brought the first city manager here in Oxnard from Texas; and then we developed the master plan for the city.

**Fry:** Is this while you were mayor?

**Carty:** Yes, this is when I was mayor.



**Fry:** Did you have much opposition to that here?

**Carty:** No, because it was good management and good sense. I mean, things like that, where there is nothing involved in the way of votes, but it means economy in purchasing and all for the city. Of course, we had little run-ins with our local merchants because the city could, like, buy paint cheaper, by the gallon, directly from the companies. So, the city manager was in it to save money for the city, which he did. He saved thousands of dollars. He could buy more reasonably. Equipment and all, street sweepers, everything you can think of... trucks and city cars, by buying so many on competitive bidding. See, most of it is put out on bid.

**Fry:** Well, would the League of Cities help in something like that?

**Carty:** The legal cases, they would always give advice.

[Interruption]

**Fry:** Could you compare Dick Graves with Bud Carpenter, of the League? How were they alike and how were they different?

**Carty:** Well, Bud was legal advisor, an attorney, and had years of experience. He was the attorney for us when Dick was executive officer. But Dick is a man who had lots of ideas. He'd throw them at you; whether you agreed with him or not, he just kept putting them out, and he had lots of good ideas. Then he left to go with McKeown that built condominium parking garages. They built thousands and thousands of them; they started out in Sacramento. Then Dick became president of this parking garage, Tilt-ups Construction Company. They have them in all the major airports, where there are two and three stories and you drive up ramps to park. They've got them all over the United States. It's something they can just move if they ever have to; that's the big thing. That was his idea; he was a sharp boy.

**Fry:** Who followed him? Let's see, Louis Burk was counsel under Dick Graves, wasn't he?

**Carty:** I think so.



**Fry:** And then Bud Carpenter became counsel.

**Carty:** Yes. And then Bud went on to become the executive officer, too.

**Fry:** Was he more systematic?

**Carty:** Well, from a legal angle; he is a different type of person altogether. He's a wonderful person. But he has a legal mind, and of course he gives a lot of advice to cities that have problems. I wrote to him about my Ojai zoning deal, see, and he cited cases that stand up.

It wasn't a written contract I had, but the records of the meetings, the hearings, are all in the public record. They had fourteen meetings in regard to our tract to get us to come in to the City of Ojai, and eight of them were public hearings. And then they tried to say that we never had hearings! Well, the public record killed those arguments, that's why we have a good case. And everyone who was on the board, the attorney, and the manager had all agreed and they all wrote letters that they had made a contract with us, an agreement, if we would come in because we had intended to go the other way — the way the sewer went out Meiner's Oaks. So we think we have a good case. I don't like to sue, I don't like to go to court, but if they kill this subdivision now that I've got in there, at $18,500 an acre—! It's R-3 zoning which allows forty-three units to the acre, and they're cutting it down to eleven units to the acre. And take in another R-1 acre a piece, that would be twenty-two acres that would make it R-3 L, which allows twelve units. And the commission is having me put in swimming pools, tennis courts, and recreation and all that whole setup. They built over ten thousand in Southern California already, and they're rentals.

People can't afford to build anymore. The cost of construction! Houses that we used to build for $3,000 or $4,000 are now $25,000. I built the Carty tract here, all these different houses. $6,000 was a big house that would sell for $30 or $40 thousand now. In those days the cost of lumber, plumbing, electrical work and everything was much lower.

**Fry:** When did you build the Carty tract?

**Carty:** In the early 1940's.

**Fry:** And in other parts of the country it almost doubled right after the war.

**Carty:** Oh, it's terrific now; $30, $40, $50 thousand for houses. That's why my son got into condominiums in Hawaii and has been so successful. He's taken apartment houses and converted them to condominiums and sold them for $28,000 to $29,000 per unit. Well, renters would come and in one weekend would buy the whole thing out! They dislike paying rent, but this way they were buying something.

## Recollections of Legislative Activity

**Fry:** In reference to the League of Cities and some of the problems you wrestled with—there was kind of an ongoing struggle for state funds. After the war, when the state had such a big surplus in its treasury, didn't Dick Graves want it shared with the cities for sewers and things like this that were badly needed; but Governor Warren felt that this should be used primarily in creating jobs for returning servicemen and other postwar economic problems?

**Carty:** He was the one who started the highway system.

**Fry:** And the highway system. Remember the Christmas tree bill? Warren and Graves really came to loggerheads about that, and I think Graves won, over the Governor's veto. Were you part of this scene?

**Carty:** Oh yes. I do remember that, now that you mention it. One of the famous arguments in Sacramento was that Christmas tree bill. That's what the press named it. Santa Claus, you know. I was president of the League of California Cities then.

**Fry:** Did this interfere with yours and Warren's friendship?



**Carty:** Oh, it never hurt our friendship at all. Because I even had him down for our big meeting in San Francisco to be the speaker before the League of Cities.

**Fry:** During this controversy?

**Carty:** Sure. I got him to come to different places. He flew down for the dedication of the city hall, for the opening of Mission San Antonio, the old mission that sits back in the country. So, on all these different things, we always worked together.

I mean, that has nothing to do with personalities, between us.

**Fry:** How did he fare at that meeting? Wasn't that sort of like going into the lion's den for him?

**Carty:** No, no, no. Everybody respected him, because after all, he had his reasons for doing these things.

It's just like the fight he had over this highway system. It's a darned good thing he got that started in those days, the way that things have developed. Cost, etc. If he hadn't, we would never have the highway system we have today. So he had to fight in the legislature over that, even. Then, the fight between North and South—dividing the gas tax money, fifty-five to

fifty—because in Southern California, with its millions of automobiles, we pay the big share of the tax now. Senator Randolph Collier, he was always fighting for the roads up north; they needed money. And they're still fighting to this day over it. They did change the percentages here in the last session. The money is coming from the big gas tax money from Southern California now. You've got an income tax, you've got a lot of things.

**Fry:** Did you get involved in that gas tax fight? Did you help to lobby?

**Carty:** Well, on a lot of things I kept neutral, you see.



I was in more of a neutral position because that wasn't affecting the League of Cities necessarily, and we used the highways a lot anyway. We travel through the state; this is valuable to us in the South because so many people are going north for their vacations and all. So, it wasn't too terrible.

**Fry:** What was the position of the League of Cities in that?

**Carty:** Well, the League of Cities was more or less neutral.

**Fry:** Because they represented northern cities, too?

**Carty:** That's right. We represented all the cities in the state. I think when I left it included about 330 cities. There were 286 when I first went in. They are really adding new cities all of the time. Like this county; we keep adding new cities.

**Fry:** How does the League of Cities determine how much each city should pay for membership?

**Carty:** Well, according (as I remember it) to the population.

**Fry:** I see. It had a big increase in dues when Dick Graves was in, from the mid-1930's to the mid-1940's.

**Carty:** Yes, we raised his salary up to $18,000, a big salary. But he earned it, he was smart and had lots of ideas.

## Federal Funds for Small Craft Harbor Development

**Fry:** Along about this time, you were able to get several million dollars in federal money for a harbor here.

**Carty:** A recreation harbor.

**Fry:** What was your capacity at that time?

**Carty:** County supervisor, but that started when I was mayor in the 1940's. [6] We started by seeking locations in the county where we could have one,



like Pierpont Bay. We had the army engineers here. I had nineteen men come from all over the county who got together on this—mayors, Chamber of Commerce, newsmen. We wanted a small craft harbor some place in the county. And then at Ormond Beach to the south, they said a channel could not be maintained there; that it was too shallow.

Later Ventura was creating a harbor district, and they were trying to take in all the Taylor Ranch oil fields. I was on the board of supervisors so we stopped that. They were organizing under an act that they could have done anything. And of course, with the oil field assessed value of the Taylor Ranch, why they could have millions.

**Fry:** You mean the oil fields would have been a part of a district formed for the Ventura harbor development?

**Carty:** Yes. But they wouldn't listen to us. I said that we would have built there; we didn't care where in the county we put the harbor. But I told them that the army engineers said that you can't compete with the Santa Clara River, and they were right. And what happened! We couldn't compete. Then we tried to get the navy to let us come in through their channel, which was the harbor that we had built at Hueneme first, and then turn north. But there was too much military traffic in that channel, so they wouldn't let us.

So then, when the erosion started down the coast, it was affecting *them* at Point Mugu. That's what made it easier for us to get the $7 million to build this harbor and bupass the sand. This big ocean canyon goes off 2,500 feet deep at Hueneme; that fifty foot channel keeps clean just by the surge in and out, and the sand all goes down that canyon. It wouldn't go around. And then the erosion starts.

**Fry:** This just literally pulls the sand and the earth from the shoreline into the underwater canyon, is that right?

**Carty:** That's right. Now they pump it. Every second year, they'll pump out the trap that they have, a big trap up above the recreation harbor entrance where we were yesterday. Where that goes out, the ocean



is a sand trap to the north. And then they put the dredges in with a large pipe line that pumps the sand under the entrance channel to Hueneme Harbor.

**Fry:** And this is underwater?

**Carty:** Yes. You saw the dredges sitting there. That's down the channel.

So, at Ventura, where they built the harbor afterwards against our advice (the army engineer said, "You can never compete with the river"), the river went out through there and did millions of dollars of damage here when we had this big flood, you know. It washed the harbor out and the big sewer plant they had there. It wrecked everything. The golf course, the boats, and docks at the marina.

**Fry:** Which river?

**Carty:** The Santa Clara. The dry wash you go across. In the flood stage it was something, clear over the bridges with water.

And then we went down this side [of the river] with the levee, to Ventura Road, and I kept after Mayor Petit of Ventura that they should go up the river by the McGrath ranch and put dikes in there because the water would go right down the old channel. So, they threw a little rubble along the banks. Everytime I crossed that bridge down there that we had the county build, I said, "Mama, you're going to see the river go right out there." When I was a young man, it went right out through there in 1913-14. It washed out everything. And it's bound to come again."

But then some of the farmers said, "Oh, you're just costing us a lot of money. There is not going to be any floods like that." Well, within three years, boom, it happened! *Two* hundred-year floods in sixty days! It *could* be thousand-year floods that they were.

**Fry:** By two hundred-year floods, you mean the kind that only comes once every hundred years?

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**Carty:** That's right. And they hit twice in sixty days. It comes out of the Sespi and the Piru and all the rivers that flow into the Santa Clara. It just rains so hard. And now we have nothing. For four months we've had only.43 of an inch. We had ten inches around Christmas time and now we have nothing. It's the driest year in the history of the weather bureau in Southern California and Arizona—all the Southwest.

**Fry:** Did they ever build a levee?

**Carty:** Yes, on this side we built levees from Saticoy clear on down to Ventura Road and we had to fight for three votes on that. That saved us, or the river would have been right through Oxnard. And they all finally realized it. More people came to me afterwards and said so!

And I kept telling them, "You're getting enough value now so you could get the army engineers in here to do something." But nobody championed it. Somebody's always got to go in and see the thing through, but he can't do it by himself. He's got to have a lot of support from other people, but somebody has to follow it up, and they didn't do it.

Afterwards, the man who is head of St. John's Hospital said, "I just wanted to stop and tell you that I've been to a meeting in Ventura with all these men and your ears probably burned because they said, `If we had done what Carty wanted us to do, we wouldn't have had all that damage.' "

The same way with the sardine deal. I tried to convince them just to leave the little fish alone, because then they would have reproduced and we would still have the sardines, which also affects the game fish that live on the sardines. The big eat the little. Those are the things that happen, that could be avoided if they would listen.

**Fry:** Afterwards, your point is proven in a very tragic way.

**Carty:** That's right. That's right.

— 80 —

**Fry:** Tell me who you were able to get together to support your $7 million in federal money for the port.

**Carty:** Richard Bard and of course the people I knew that were here during the war.

**Fry:** Oh, Richard Bard is the man you mentioned to me—he was a descendant of old Senator Bard from the early 20th century.

**Carty:** That's right. And he's the one that I got Earl Warren to appoint to the board of supervisors here when one of our supervisors died when Earl and I were at the inter-government relations meeting in Portland, Oregon.

## Democratic Nominee for Congress

**Fry:** I wonder if you could enlarge a little on a clipping that I saw in your scrapbook in which you were the Democratic nominee. This was when you ran against [Timothy] O'Reilly [mayor of San Luis Obispo] in the Democratic primary, but [Charles McKevett] Teague won the election (1954).

**Carty:** Yes, he ran against O'Reilly after the primaries.

**Fry:** Was this for state senator?

**Carty:** No, Congress. The Democratic group here had a bunch of women that endorsed O'Reilly up at a meeting in San Luis Obispo, and they didn't endorse me. And up in Monterey, I mean it got vicious. You know, filth. They said things like I was running houses of prostitution here. I went up there and was going to sue this fellow.

**Fry:** You were going to sue O'Reilly?

**Carty:** No, no, no. These other birds who were putting out stuff like that, talking in bars, et cetera. I couldn't sue O'Reilly, only the people that were saying it, and then there's no satisfaction. What can you do? You know, personal suits like that can be very expensive and it would have been my own money. Nobody else ever put money up for me. The minute you seek money from people, you're under obligation to them.



**Fry:** Was this when you could file on both tickets in the primaries?

**Carty:** I just ran on the Democratic ticket at that time. That would have been in the `fifties, 1953 maybe. [7]

**Fry:** Oh, was this Teague's first term?

**Carty:** Yes, he's been in there for ages. Sixteen years or more ago. After the primaries I supported him; they were surprised that I came out for him because he is a Republican. But I'd known him for years and they're an old-time family here. And this guy, O'Reilly, I knew he wouldn't have a chance to be elected after that. The way they treated me! I wanted it fair for anyone to run, but, no, this handful of people ran the endorsement. They were running it, but they never ran a winner. The papers all said, "If Carty had won the primary, he probably would have been elected."

But it's the best thing in my life that it didn't happen, because that's a miserable life to lead back in Washington. With my liking to hunt and fish and travel, it would have been the worst thing that could have happened. It's like going to a country club. The senators and congressmen, they go there to live, and that life! I've been back there so many times and watched them. I got a letter from Earl Warren saying that it's the best thing that ever happened because it's a miserable life and every two years you have to run again. And it's getting so that it costs $50 to $75 thousand to even run. It's stupid—the whole deal. And we wouldn't have been able to do the traveling that Mama and I love so much.

**Fry:** It would have ended your wild game hunting.

**Carty:** That's right, and seeing the world. It's a different type of life, which I wouldn't care about.

**Fry:** How did you get started in the primary?

**Carty:** Oh, because [Commander John B.] Cook and a few fellows came to me and wanted me to run, but I hesitated about even going into it. Then, when I got into it and saw the mudslinging and all in the primaries, I just



kind of gave up the ghost anyway. I didn't want it. I thought, "Why did I let them talk me into running for it?"

So it was the best thing that ever happened to me when I got out of the race. And I've been thankful ever since that I never got into Congress.

**Fry:** Did you have the support of the Democratic committee in the county?

**Carty:** Yes. When they had the caucus up there, it was forty-three votes for O'Reilly to enter the primary. And I wanted to keep it open. You know, in other words, let any Democrat run who wanted to run.

**Fry:** Oh, and they all voted for O'Reilly?

**Carty:** That's right, and as a group. Then they came back to me and wanted my help then after all this mudslinging developed about the way I made my living and made my money.

**Fry:** Oh, you mean they wanted your help *after* the primary?

**Carty:** Yes, sure.

**Fry:** And then you switched to Teague?

**Carty:** Yes, I switched to Teague then.

But that's life. But the other jobs, I never had to run for them in the first instance.

**Fry:** Were you appointed county supervisor to start with by Earl Warren?

**Carty:** That's right. When Richard Bard moved out of the district, who I had Earl Warren appoint, when I was on the intergovernment relations board.



## V Summing Up

**Fry:** I think that about covers everything; there are just a few details I want to be sure we have.

About the League of California Cities—how did that presidency come about?

**Carty:** Because I was the mayor of the town, and I was elected by the directors of the League of California Cities. The president of the coastal division, and then all the divisions of the state, they go north and south and rotate each year.

**Fry:** The presidency rotates?

**Carty:** That's right. So, I was elected by the board. Then I was elected national president of the National Association of Municipal Legislators in New Orleans. Those are elected officials from all over the United States. There are over fifty thousand of them in ten thousand cities; most

of the city managers and all the other officials are included. They had offices in Chicago, and I was the first president of that group.

I don't know if it's still going because it's hard to keep elected officials together. But it was the biggest job I ever had. Nothing locally compared with this. I was president of the city councils, and I'd go back to Chicago a few times for meetings with the city managers, and they all tied together.

**Fry:** So, you sold insurance and that started you on your way.

**Carty:** That started me. Then, I got into real estate and developing my home ranch here, Carty tract one, two, three, four, and five. Then, I was a building contractor. So, I built a lot of houses, too.



**Fry:** Was this out in the country there?

**Carty:** Sure, sure. That's it. We built the motels because the traveling men wouldn't stay in the old hotels that used to be downtown. They were old fire traps, see. So they talked me into starting to build a little place, which I did.

Then, the restaurants—you had to go clear down to Fifth Street to get something to eat. So I got a little drive-in deal started. Then this fellow had two or three of them, and they started stealing him blind. Then Bud Smith came along and was interested in buying this deal and adding on to it.

We'd go down to the roast beef places in Los Angeles, on Sunset Boulevard and La Cienega, to get ideas.

**Fry:** Oh, and he was visualizing something similar to that?

**Carty:** Yes, that's right. Then, I built on that wing and a barbecue for him. Then he kept adding after that. Boy, he was a go-getter. That's Smith, that's a picture of him there in the newspaper. He was in Mexico at that time. But, that man is worth ten or fifteen million now. He's the one that built the Lobster Trap Restaurant, the Casa Sirena Hotel, the Villa Sirena Apartments, and many other things here.

I got the harbor there and he developed it.

**Fry:** That brings me to another question. When you went to try to get the money from Washington to develop the harbor, who helped you do this?

**Carty:** Richard Bard, he's the one who owned a lot of property in Simi and a lot of land in the harbor area. Then, Pete Needham, Commander Needham, who had two tours of duty through here at the seabee base. Then we went back to Washington.

**Fry:** Where did you go for that money?

**Carty:** Well, we got into the Navy Department through Pete and all the officers he knew. Earl Warren was there.



And I had entertained, right here in this den, dozens of them; every change of command I would have them here for a barbecue dinner. I got twenty-five dollars a month being mayor and it cost me $500 a month for liquor and food, you know, the entertainment costs.

But when we went to Washington those fellows were all bigshots there. We didn't have to sit on the doorstep anyplace. And the erosion was coming along, and Mugu was started and it was eroding clear down to Mugu. See, when they built the entrance to the channel in 1939 they started the eroding.

**Fry:** That was done by the government, wasn't it—

**Carty:** That's right.

**Fry:** —the entrance way to the channel. So, they *caused* the erosion?

**Carty:** They created the erosion. But Oxnard already had started as a district. Ventura wouldn't go into it. It was just south of the river that we built the harbor; so we actually caused it. But the minute the war started, the government took it away from us.

**Fry:** As a seabee base?

**Carty:** That's right. We had a bond issue for over a couple million and the mistake we made was that we didn't call the bonds and pay off the bonds. The money that they paid, we have to retire the bonds as they come due right to this day. We couldn't call them because it had already passed.

So it was 1941 or 1942 this harbor was enlarged and they made a four and one-half day boat turnaround here. That was a record, for a ship to come in and load up and get out in four and one-half days because they built it very moderate. They kept everything back from the docks, the warehouses and everything, and they could get the ships all in and loaded up. They were second to San Francisco in shipping war materials out to the South Pacific. Fifteen hundred acres of storage space. Everything was stored there and they could shuttle it right into



the ship being loaded and it would be right on its way.

Fellows like Leo Carrillo used to be making speeches for every place—he'd come here to duck hunt with me at the club. There was a fellow that was a wonderful guy; he died of cancer. I watched him die down in Santa Monica, where he lived. But he entertained people, thousands of people. And he'd stand here at Christmas time and get all the kids from the neighborhood around recite for them. He was really wonderful. He would recite for all the little kids in the whole neighborhood. Then he would go duck hunting with me.

There are so many of my friends who are gone.

**Fry:** Well, you mentioned that Earl Warren was in Washington, too, at the time that you asked for funds for the harbor. Did he help you?

**Carty:** Well, this was after he was Chief Justice but people that he knew, for instance, sure made it easier. And all the men that I knew, too.

**Fry:** He served as an entree?

**Carty:** Yes.

When we were trying to do something about the Hearst Castle, I got Earl [as governor] to intercede. I was president of the Mission Trails and we were trying to develop travel out here on the coast. All these people go to Europe to see a castle and here's one all set up. And the Hearsts were going to give it to us for nothing. Of course, it meant something to them from a tax angle, too.

Then, of course, I knew Joseph Knowland, who was chairman of the Park Commission; he's passed away now. And Leo Carrillo was on the same board. I knew all these fellows. And I flew to San Diego and Sacramento, trying to get everyone to take this. Then, Earl interceded. It's a gold mine now. About five or six hundred people a day at $2.50 a piece go through there.



**Fry:** What did Earl Warren do?

**Carty:** Well, all he had to do was talk to them. In fact, Knowland, as head of the State Parks Board, had been a friend for nineteen years. I went with them to the hundredth anniversary of the discovery of gold at Coloma; that's when I got on the Centennial Board and didn't even know I was on it.

**Fry:** You mean, you forgot you'd been on it until the 125th anniversary luncheon? [Laughs]

**Carty:** That's right. There's so many things that you get on that I forget one thing or another.

**Fry:** I have one more question, about the gas tax battle. Dick Graves has told us that the main issue at the beginning was whether to use state gas tax money for the highways inside city limits. Were the ones who were fighting for using the money inside city limits you and Ben Hulse and George Hatfield?

**Carty:** Yes.

**Fry:** The reason I wondered is because they were both rural senators and I thought they wouldn't really care too much about the cities.

**Carty:** Yes. The other day when I was in the senate I bumped into one of the oldtimers, thirty-two years, Vince Thomas. I was fighting with him and fishermen from San Pedro. He was in for thirty-two years.

**Fry:** You mean about the sardines?

**Carty:** Oh yes. He was always working for the fishermen, you know. And I was just on the opposite side, to control them a bit.

And Gordon Garland, I met him there.

**Fry:** Do you remember that gas tax struggle?

**Carty:** Earl Warren was the champion of this highway deal way back.

**Fry:** How did Warren feel about the cities getting a share of the gas tax funds for local roads?



**Carty:** I'm trying to remember. What's his name from Northern California—the highway senator that's still there?

**Fry:** Randolph Collier?

That was my only other question. We pretty well covered everything.

**Carty:** Remember, as you get older, you don't have so much faith in your memory.

**Fry:** Well, we have the important things about your experiences with Earl Warren and your own offices on the League of California Cities and the Fish and Game Commission.

End of Interview

Transcriber: Marilyn Fernandez

Final Typist: Mary Millman



# Footnotes

1. *Oxnard Press-Courier*, July 2, 1948
2. See feature from *Peninsula and Harbor News,* Nov. 29, 1972.
3. See Appendix 3, Carty's letter to Wallace R. Lynn, May 23, 1950.
4. *Fortieth Biennial Report of the Division of Fish and Game for the Years 1946-48.* Department of Natural Resources, State of California.
5. See news story with Warren interview about this event, appendix 4.
6. There was statewide interest in small harbor development at this time. See legislative reports of Joint Interim Committee on Marine Affairs (1953) and Assembly Interim Committee (1955-57) in the Bancroft Library.
7. 1954

# Appendices

## Appendix I

### Correspondence from Earl Warren July 3, 1954

Supreme Court of the United States Washington 13. D. C.
CHAMBERS OF
THE CHIEF JUSTICE
Mr. Edwin L. Carty
326 South A Street
Oxnard, California.
Dear Ed:

Thanks for your letter of June 28th. I have intended to write you for some months. However, the work on the Court has been so demanding that my personal correspondence has been sadly neglected.

Concerning the election, I believe you will be much happier in Oxnard than you would have been in Congress. The life of a Congressman is not to be envied. The work and the emotional strain are tremendous, and he is always in a campaign. In the case of California Congressmen, they are in campaigns three thousand miles away from home, which is most unsatisfactory.

I am sorry that we did not get a chance to see you on your way to or from the Caribbean cruise. You should have a wonderful trip with Don to Norway and Spain. This time of the year the country in Spain is very much

like some of our Western country, and I know you will enjoy the greenery and the coolness of Norway.

Nina and I are leaving for California Tuesday morning, and will be in touch with you when we arrive. It is very thoughtful of you to invite us to use your beach house, and perhaps sometime during the summer, when you are not occupying it, we might be able to accept your invitation. It would certainly be a fine place to have a real rest.

The venison which you recently sent was delicious. I had a luncheon for the pages of the Court, one of whom was graduating, and they were very pleased to have the steaks. I hope we can have another hunt this season, and I will talk to you about it when we are in California.

Bob is going to UCLA summer school, and I will tell him about the venison because he will probably want to have a luau.

Nina joins me in sending best wishes to all the Cartys.

Sincerely
Earl Warren

## September 22, 1964

Supreme Court of the United States Washington 13. D. C.
CHAMBERS OF
THE CHIEF JUSTICE
Mr. Edwin L. Carty
326 South A Street
Oxnard, California.
Dear Ed:

It was good to hear from you and to see the picture of your prize fish. I can hardly imagine battling with anything of that size. This makes our little old 160 pounders of La Paz look like minnows. I suppose that you consider this fish the one to end all fishing. If I caught one like that I never would try to exceed it!

Nina and I went to Norway this Summer and did a little salmon fishing. There were no 500 pounders and the salmon were not particularly hungry, but I did catch a number of them and it was an exciting experience.

I hope this finds you and Doris well, and also that we may have an opportunity to see you one of these days in the not distant future. I have been so busy with the work of the President's Commission that I have not been able to get to California this Summer, but I think possibly in another week I might fly to the West Coast and have a brief visit with the children and grandchildren. If I do, it will only be for a very brief period.

With love and best wishes from the Warrens to the Cartys

Sincerely
Earl

## June 14, 1965

Supreme Court of the United States Washington 13. D. C.
CHAMBERS OF
THE CHIEF JUSTICE
Mr. Edwin L. Carty
326 South A Street
Oxnard, California.

Dear Ed:

I just received your letter from Sun Valley and envy your being there. However, I am not doing badly either because Nina and I are leaving for California on Wednesday, and from that time on will be at the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco.

I am looking forward to a Summer of fun in California, and maybe you, Wally and some of our boys might put something together.

Nina and I send our love to you and Doris.

Sincerely
Earl

### April 2, 1964

Supreme Court of the United States Washington 13. D. C.
CHAMBERS OF
CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN
RETIRED
Mr. Edwin L. Carty
PO Box 547
Oxnard, California.
Dear Ed:

It was good to receive your letter of March 7th on my return to the office, where I am now functioning on almost a full-time basis.

I am happy to know that you and Doris had a splendid Winter at Palm Springs, and that you are preparing for your Spring fishing on the McKenzie.

Wallie will tell you, I am sure, that we had the poorest duck season since he has been in the rice country which goes back a quarter of a century at least. There were plenty of ducks and geese in that part of the State. However, because of the unusual rains, the fields were covered with water and the ducks stayed in the Preserves.

You may be sure that if I am in the neighborhood of Oxnard I will be very happy to see you. We did enjoy visiting with you and Doris on the trip down to Mazatlan, and trust we may repeat the experience in the not distant future.

Nina joins me in sending our affectionate regards to the both of you.

Sincerely
Earl

## Appendix II

### From Edwin Carty to Wallace Lynn

May 23, 1950
Mr. Wallace R. Lynn
2048 Market Street
San Francisco 14, California
Dear Wally:

Finally, I am back in my office again trying to settle down and do a little business. This playing gets into your system. Doris and I are planning to build on our lot up on the Rincon, between here and Santa Barbara, and put a week-end place on our Ojai ranch, fix up the swimming pool and put in the bath house and barbecue as soon as I can drop a few more of these public jobs I have—water boards, Mission Trails, etc.

The Governor called from San Diego last Friday to inform me that he will attend our dedication of the San Antonio de Padua Mission on June 4. That is between Paso Robles and King City. We are expecting between 20,000 to 30,000 people for the barbecue.

We certainly had a wonderful time in Honolulu. I have about 1400 feet of colored film which turned out swell. We are planning a trip back next year, possibly for a month.

The Pacific Coast Board of Intergovernmental Relations meets in San Francisco on June 8. Doris and I may possibly be in San Francisco at that time.

Our appeal on the duck case is going up. We put out $2,500 the other day. Attorney Edward C. Maxwell, one of the members and secretary-treasurer of the Ventura County Rod and Gun Club for years, is insisting we go through with it regardless of the cost.

When Hugh Worcester tells you that I am the only one who wanted to go to Court, he does not know the bunch of Irishmen who belong to that Club—all of the McGrath family, Douds, McCormicks, etc. None of them are going to put up with a bunch of vicious liars, and my Irish ancestors won't be quiet either.

If it were not simply a matter of law and honesty in prosecuting the law in the case, we would never have been in Court. As the law now reads, no one has a chance. Practically every club in this State is subject to arrest including your setup and, brother, don't think they won't rap you too. I think we came awfully close to getting it last fall by the boys when we were up there shooting. The bigger the name, the more cheap publicity they get.

I am enclosing a clipping that you might not have seen from Drew Pearson's article last week. There were plenty who called it to my attention. I have congratulated Judge Coleman for his standing. I am enclosing a copy of my letter to him.

Also, I am enclosing a copy of my letter to Hugh Worcester which was never acknowledged and which will speak for itself. He was one of the chief advisors behind Bud Elder in the case in Los Angeles and probably was one of the boys who figured up the fury trial angle. Bud Elder's crack after the trial was, "What do you suppose we got a jury for?" The jury did not know a walnut from a bean. One colored member, parking lot attendant, on the jury figured they could not let off a bunch of big shots.

I don't know where Hugh Worcester gets the martyr stuff as Drew Pearson's article shows there are other places in the United States besides California that figure it is a "no good law". Hugh Worcester called me collect late in the afternoon before I left for Honolulu. I figured that I certainly could not settle anything with him over the telephone. It was not a question of paying for the call; it was a question of having someone who would hear what I would have to say. I don't trust him any further than I do Bud Elder after seeing him in action in this case.

I had a lot of respect for Hugh Worcester. That is the reason I wrote to him, and he is the first one I wrote to in regard to this matter. He has never seen fit to drop me a line in regard to it or make any comments in writing. Now he runs around and makes a lot of statements which are still not the truth and which I can very easily prove. I would like to have the statements that he has made to you in regard to the various phases of this case and I will endeavor to show you where he is wrong and why. The 80 sacks of grain he talked about is the total number of sacks bought by the Club, approximately half of which was put out before the season opened and the other half between seasons.

If you get down South, run up and spend a night or two with us. If June is along, bring her. We would like to have the opportunity to reciprocate all the kindnesses that we have received from the Lynns.

We have talked a little about taking a trip to La Paz to do a little more fishing. Ruffo's partner was up while I was on the Rancheros trip. Donald Douglas entertained him and Stevenson had him up at the Simi ranch. They called me on the Rancheros trip, and I had a visit with him over the phone. They are anxious that we come back to La Paz for another fishing exhibition. I told Steve to line one up for June and have been talking to him since I returned.

Doris and I may fly East to pick up a Fleetwood Cadillac, then drive out the Northern route and meet our friends, the Bud Woods, in Glacier National Park. They are going to spend a month there with our friends, the MacFarlands, who have a dude ranch on the Flathead River. That is the place where I have gone a couple times to hunt grizzly and was successful on both trips in getting a grizzly.

I just wrote to Gene Bennett and sent him copies of these letters also.

Hoping to see you before too long. Doris joins me in sending our kindest personal regards to you and June.

Sincerely yours
EDWIN L. CARTY
ELC:wp
Enc.

# Appendix III

## Earl Warren at the Cartys

IT WOULD BE difficult to put into words just what it is makes you sure you are in the presence of greatness, but there is no mistaking the feeling when it occurs.

Over a span of years it has been my good fortune to have the feeling several times, but at no time was it more apparent than during a few minutes spent chatting with the late Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Earl Warren.

The comfortable, informal exchange took place in the beachfront home of Edwin L. "Nick" Carty about 12 years ago. The Chief Justice was a longtime friend of Carty, a hunting and fishing friendship that began when Carty was one of the state's most active sportsmen and a member of the state Fish and Game Commission.

Mr. Warren came to Ventura County as often as possible and hunted frequently on the off-shore islands. On the occasion of more than a decade ago, he had come to hunt and fish and to relax. Carty was capable of providing the setting for all of those.

A number of Carty's friends were invited to the beach one afternoon for a barbecue and refreshments and one of the guests, as unpretentious and country as any of the others, was Mr. Warren. He was a man easy to smile, appreciative of humor and capable of genuine conversation on all manner of subject matter.

For a while after we had eaten, we happened for quite a period of time to be the only two in the front room of the Solimar Beach home and for a fraction of a second I suffered inner panic: What do you talk about to a personage of this magnitude? I needn't have worried. "Nick tells me you got him launched in local politics," Mr. Warren said, and I agreed, relating how I had talked Carty into accepting an appointment to the Oxnard City Council about 32 years ago, after which he was elected mayor.

From that start, the conversation went leaping from subject to subject and afterwards I came to realize the Chief Justice not only had a wide variety of interests but was an expert at obtaining a look into other people's

feelings and thoughts. He seemed to want to know what others believed and stood for.

But mostly he impressed me as being good folk. He was a very warm, human sort of guy and he very quickly made those around him feel at ease. There was a great deal of "family" feel about him.

We talked for what must have been 15 minutes and I must say I have been in conversations that lasted for hours without covering as much ground. For one thing, we discussed some basic differences in human make-up that make hunters and fishermen of some. He was a true sportsman; I never considered hunting or fishing to be attractive pastimes. He understood and appreciated my feelings and I his with the important factor being he obviously did not feel a necessity to label one viewpoint right and the other wrong.

IT WAS, OF course, a subject that could not be gone into in a matter of minutes, but Mr. Warren was quick to come to the defense of the nation's press. He felt very strongly about its freedom.

Compliments are always easy to take, but I did not get the feeling he was bringing it up just to have something complimentary to say when he offered a good word about community newspapers and specifically The Star-Free Press. "The smaller newspapers across the country are for the most part doing a much better job than is generally realized," he said. "Your newspaper, for example, has a fine reputation and your Mr. (Roy D.) Pinkerton is well thought of well beyond the borders of Ventura County."

Others came into the room and we moved off in different directions. We shared a quick parting handshake when it was time to go. The next I heard of him, he was involved in the preparation of the Warren Report after the assassination of President Kennedy. It was easy to see how the man in the front room of the beach house rose to meet that gigantic challenge.

As I began, it is difficult to sort out those things about a person which make you know there is greatness within, but whatever they were, they were present in Earl Warren and those around him knew it at once.

## Appendix IV

### From *The Ventura County Star-Free Press,* Wednesday, July 10, 1974

Warren: Many happy Ventura County hours

Retired Chief Justice Earl Warren, who died Tuesday night in Washington, spent many days of relaxation and fellowship in Ventura County during his three terms as governor of California. from 1942 to 1953.

In fact, he was on a hunting trip to Santa Rosa Island with his long-time friend, Edwin Carty of Oxnard, when he first received word that President Eisenhower had an "important assignment" for him. The assignment turned out to be Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

In an interview with the Star-Free Press last year, Warren recalled that he was having "a most pleasant time" on Santa Rosa Island when his office in Sacramento contacted him. Herbert Brownell, President Eisenhower's attorney general, wanted an appointment the next day on a matter of extreme urgency.

"So we called for a plane and came ashore, had a barbecue that night at Ed Carty's beach house, and then I returned to the capitol," Warren recalled. "The next day, Mr. Brownell arrived and said the President wanted to appoint me to the Supreme Court, and asked if I would be interested in leaving the governorship immediately.

"I said that I could arrange to do so. A few days later I went to Washington, expecting to be appointed an associate justice, but when I met with President Eisenhower he said, `Earl, I want you to be the chief justice.'

"You could have floored me with a feather," Warren said.

Resigning the governorship as his third term drew to a close, Warren turned his affairs of state over to Lt. Gov. Goodwin Knight.

Carty's friendship with Warren extended from the days when Carty, as president of the Southern California Council of Conservation Clubs, and later president of the Federated Sportsmen in the 11 Western States, made frequent trips to Sacramento in the interests of outdoor sportsmen. He invited Gov. Warren on hunting and fishing trips in Ventura county, and they participated in scores of outings over the years. They were frequent guests of Martin V. "Bud" Smith, Oxnard developer, on his cruiser, the Dry Martini, fishing in channel waters and near Santa Catalina Island.

Last fall, Chief Justice and Mrs. Warren took a cruise to Mexico aboard the M.S. Island Princess, a trip sponsored by Commercial & Farmers National Bank, with several hundred Ventura County residents aboard.

In the mid-50s, Warren appointed Carty county supervisor to succeed Richard Bard, who moved from the fifth supervisorial district to Somis and surrendered his seat. Carty served 14 years on the board.

"He was a wonderful friend, a great man," said Carty today. "I wrote him only yesterday asking him to join Mrs. Carty and me on a cruise to the Caribbean this fall. And then last night, I heard that he was dead. It was a shock, and a great loss to me and to the country."

## Photos

Chief Justice Warren reminiscing with Ed Carty in his game room at Oxnard

Earl Warren deer hunting

Earl Warren deer hunting on Santa Rosa Island

The Carty's beach house, near Oxnard

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