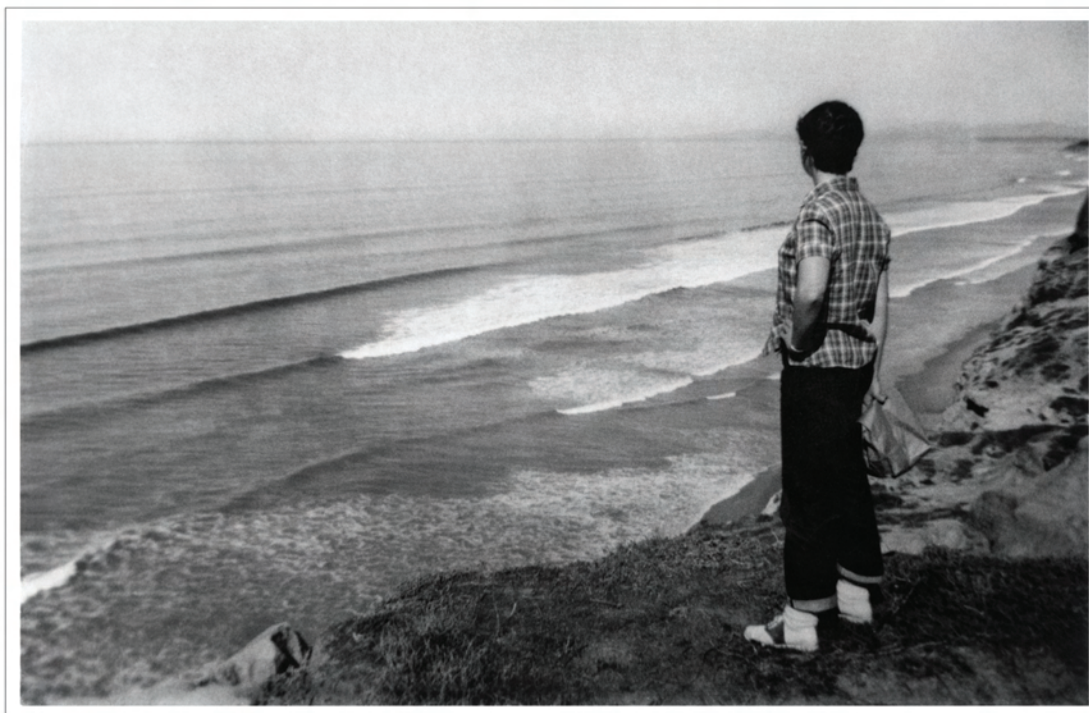




Reflections from Box 150



*Chronicles of a Childhood Growing Up on the
U.S. Horticultural Field Station near Torrey Pines
La Jolla, California*

Beverley Whitaker Rodgers



Beverley Whitaker Rodgers



Beverley Whitaker Rodgers is the daughter of a seventh-generation Californian father, Dr. Thomas W. Whitaker and her descendant of the First Families of Virginia mother, Mary Beverley Somerville Whitaker. This book of memoirs concentrates on her life before college, from birth in 1935 through high school. Her father was an ethnobotanist, researcher, scientist and agricultural geneticist, specializing in the research and hybridization of lettuce, cantaloupes and gourds. Her mother, a descendent of the First Families of Virginia, was the quintessential homemaker, housewife and socialite.

Beverley graduated from La Jolla High School in 1952, received a B.A. in English Literature from the University of California, Davis, and received scholarships to study in Guadalajara, Mexico and at Purdue University in Indiana. She also studied at the University of Oregon, the University of California, Los Angeles, and California State College, Fullerton, ultimately earning an M.A. in Comparative Literature from Occidental College in Eagle Rock, California during her sabbatical year at age 47. Her education prepared her for a professional career as an English and Spanish teacher, English as a Second Language Department Chair, counselor and teacher for the Los Angeles School District at Irving Jr. High School and Walter Reed Jr. High School.

She was the Drill Team Instructor at both schools, teaching complex, choreographed routines that took her teams to regional championships and taught the values of teamwork, leadership and group loyalty. She co-authored (with Alan Riese) the middle school educational textbook *Return to Aztlan: A History of the Mexican American Experience* (1979).

Beverley has two children, five grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. She and her husband, Gilbert Rodgers, enjoyed traveling and learning about other cultures and are proud to have visited all seven continents. They both emphasize the importance of family, and are especially happy to have traveled to see relatives in many countries, taking in local culture. Beverley Whitaker Rodgers now lives in Glendale, California and has fond memories of growing up in La Jolla. She is mindfully aware of how her childhood experiences impacted the woman she is today and contributed greatly to her academic, professional and personal success.



Beverley Whitaker Rodgers

2018

A Note from the Author



It was a felicitous meeting in the local Senior Center near my home where I, having retired after 32 years of teaching, was enrolled in a writing class called “Memoirs and More,” offered by Lifelong Learning through Glendale Community College (GCC). A young lady, Taylor Whitney, who attended for the first time that day, was obviously not in the same category as the rest of us writers in the class. Not only was she much younger, but she seemed a bit shy and tentative, especially when she spoke to us as a group. I remember, though, a few weeks later when it was her turn to share what she had composed, we were astonished by her skill as a writer. Later we discovered that she had enjoyed a career working in the film industry, specifically in the burgeoning field of film preservation. By this time however, she realized that much more attention was being paid to the restoration of major motion pictures and not to valuable cultural collections, which also languished due to inherent deterioration and obsolete technology.

To address this void, Taylor was just starting a business, Preserving The Past, that specializes in photographic and film preservation for private collections—preserving our cultural heritage. To that end, she had enrolled in courses at GCC to gain more training and experience in film editing, desktop publishing, graphic design, library research, photo restoration, and business management. As part of her business model, she also interviewed clients to document the stories behind the images, and eventually established PTP Publishing, a book-design and publishing division of Preserving The Past, LLC. By attending the “Memoirs and More” class, she had hoped to recruit members of our class who might want help in self-publishing their already-written memoirs. She felt she might be just the one to guide them in curating their stories into professionally produced books... anything that would help her fulfill her dream of opening her own business.

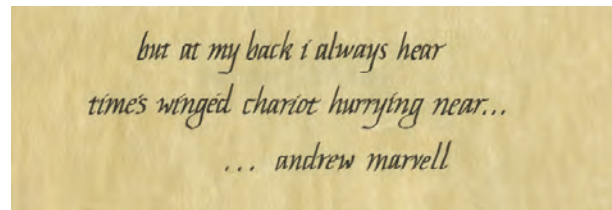
I, too, had a dream of my own—to one day publish a book on my family history, emphasizing life lessons to pass down to my children and grandchildren. I was impressed with Taylor’s elegant design style and computer skills after we had initially worked on a project scanning my Christmas letters, and publishing them in a book for my children, Kim and Guy. I realized that Taylor was the perfect person to help me with my memoirs.

Over the course of working on this project, Taylor’s input was instrumental. She suggested what photographs and memorabilia to use (from my own archives and the mounds left to me by my parents); she juxtaposed images to support the stories, obtained permissions for images that required clearance, created the design concept, and with her team, performed editing, photo restoration, page-layout and design and endless hours of proofreading. It has been a true collaborative effort.

When Taylor returned to university to earn her Master of Arts in Photographic Preservation and Collections Management, it meant leaving the Los Angeles area to study at Ryerson University in Toronto, Canada, and a move to Rochester, New York, to complete the dual-government two-year degree at George Eastman Museum. I still kept in touch with Taylor and she made frequent visits for us to work together in Glendale; however, a lot of the work has been done remotely, adding logistical challenges to the already-involved process, especially given our busy schedules. We both have extremely high standards, sometimes making it difficult to make swift progress, but we’ve managed to navigate the course and I realize I couldn’t have done it without her! Since that first meeting, I have noticed her confidence has grown and my book is definitely better because of her professionalism, commitment and dedication.

P.S. To add to the logistics matter, a pandemic, COVID-19 Coronavirus, prevented travel for the entire year of 2020. I would like to express a very special thanks to my good friend, Steven Konstantine for stepping in as liaison between Taylor and me moving my book along, wrapping it up in fall of 2021.

Beverly Whitaker Rodgers



This quote is from one of my favorite poems. I scrolled it on parchment paper for practice while I was in a calligraphy class.

Excerpt from “To His Coy Mistress” by Andrew Marvell

A Note from the Editor



*Working with Beverley Whitaker Rodgers as her archivist, editor, book designer, and publisher has been a pleasure. We met in the *Memoirs and More* writing class offered through Lifelong Learning at Glendale Community College. When she approached me to help her with the page layout and design of this book, I admired her ambition to write her stories and publish a book—initially intended for her family and friends, but ultimately for a wider audience. My role swiftly evolved into performing such tasks as photo research, juxtaposition and restoration, historical research, photo attribution, securing permissions, writing, spot-editing, conducting field trips to La Jolla Historical Society and History for Hire, enjoying many dinners (and margaritas) at Joselitos in Montrose, California and becoming close friends. During our time working together, I immediately appreciated her attention to detail and she learned to tolerate mine. Her dedication to historical research, fact-checking and mining her archives (and the Internet) is commendable. I must add a note of gratitude to Beverley, her parents, aunts, cousins and extended family for saving all the family papers, books, letters, newspaper clippings and photographs that were accessed for use in the book; without them, this book would not have had the extraordinary amount of credible illustrations and documentation that graphically support her stories. With utmost determination, Beverley adds to her stories an impressive depth of facts, figures, accuracy and historical context not always found in independently published memoirs. I have gained an immense amount of respect for her talent, humor, intelligence and sensibilities. I am sincerely grateful to her for allowing me to share in the production of this admirable publication.*

Taylor Whitney
President and Founder
PreservingThe Past, LLC



*Taylor and I conducting research together at
the La Jolla Historical Society.*

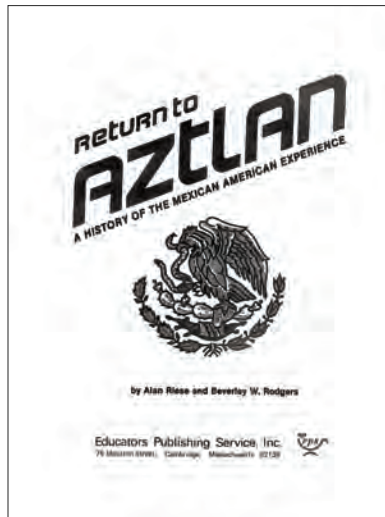
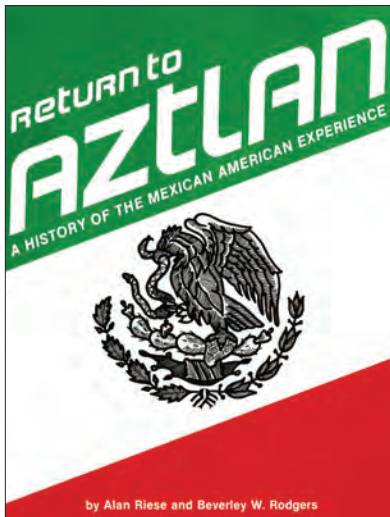
La Jolla, California

2011

Other Works by the Author



Return to Aztlan: A History of The Mexican American Experience, Riese, Alan and Rodgers, Beverley W., Educators Publishing Service, Inc., 1979



“Beverly Whitaker Rodgers is an eighth-generation Californian whose family came to California with Father Serra in 1769. For many years she has worked as a teacher in Los Angeles. Mrs. Rodgers has taught English, Spanish, Mexican history, and English as a Second Language, and has coordinated bilingual programs. She has traveled extensively in Spain and Central America, and has lived and studied in Mexico.”

“Alan Riese is an experienced reading specialist and teacher who has written many books in the fields of history and English for modern readers. His experience teaching these subjects in the Los Angeles area has enabled him to develop an understanding of the ever-changing problems of the young Mexican American.”

Other Works from the Publisher



Books available at <https://preservethepast.com/store>

Closing the Circle: Narratives of a Nonagenarian by Anne "Bunty" Loucks, 2017
Flotsam and Jetsam: Chronicles of Colourful Characters I Have Known, by Anne "Bunty" Loucks, 2012
The Brown Family Archive: Assigning Intellectual Order & Physical Arrangement to a Private Photographic Collection
by Taylor Whitney, 2006

DVDs available at <https://preservethepast.com/store>

The Prisoner of New Glasgow by Susan Patrick, a Falcon Films | Home-Movie-Classics Production, 2014
The Closet Murders by Susan Patrick, a Falcon Films | Home-Movie-Classics Production, 2013
Crash by Richard Wolff, re-edited by Susan Patrick, a Falcon Films | Home-Movie-Classics Production, 2013
Ditty Deluxe by Susan Patrick, a Falcon Films | Home-Movie-Classics Production, 2010
The Adventures of The Girls from Ditty by Susan Patrick, a Falcon Films | Home-Movie-Classics Production, 2007

Private Publications

Larger than Life: Memories of Mum (Dame Elaine Kellett-Bowman), 2014 (DVD)
Mother: A Life in Pictures, 2010
Roads Travelled: Earl Paddock Transportation Celebrates 50 Years, 2007
Memoirs of a Peacock, 2006
A Collection from a Career on Camera, (Peggy Dahl Peeters), 2005 (DVD)
Memory Book 20th Anniversary Banning High School Class of 1977, 1997

PTP Publishing

A division of Preserving The Past, LLC

Rochester, New York | Toronto, Ontario | Los Angeles, California

**PRESERVING
THE PAST**

www.preservethepast.com



In her book, Beverley Whitaker Rodgers weaves humorous, historical narratives that chronicle a childhood growing up on the U.S. Horticultural Field Station at Torrey Pines, near La Jolla, California. Beverley mines her rich family history, calling upon her mother's Southern sensibilities and her father's intellect to craft memories into compelling memoirs. Set in the burgeoning agricultural industry, in which her father worked for the United States Government, on one of the first field stations in the nation, Beverley reflects upon her upbringing using prose and vignette to delve into such subjects as war, child-rearing, disease, politics, religion and hobbies.

The writer paints a picture of a more innocent time in the United States and of how the fundamental fabric of society was cemented in the morals and values instilled in children growing up in the nineteen thirties, forties and fifties. She hopes to pass on these values to her children and grandchildren.



"An extraordinary memoir written with wit and style about growing up in America in the early decades of the 20th century. Rodgers' recollection of her childhood spent on the U.S. Horticultural Field Station near Torrey Pines brims with savvy and nostalgia, a treat for both the mind and the heart."

Carol Olten, La Jolla, California Historian



"I love this book! Beverley's personal perspective of a time in history provides the reader (and younger generations) a unique understanding and appreciation of life in the era of World War II and after. I always like to quote, 'If you can't learn from the past, you are bound to repeat it.' It was a pleasure to take this journey with Beverley to her past. Enjoy the trip. I did!"

Patricia Daly-Lipe, Author, Artist, Speaker



9 780996 611336

