

QUOTES FROM THE ORAL HISTORIES

From the interview with Founders''s children; Ak is Ammi Kohn, D is Dakota, A is Aurora, H is Habib.

AK: Tell me your favorite places in Lama when you were a kid and why they were a favorite for you?

D. The first favorite place is the Aspen grove because it was so clean and clear and there was the spring there. Then you could climb far, far up and you were on top of the ridge and there was mica there, so you were gathering treasures and, at the same time, the view was really incredible and you could see all the different buildings of Lama, you could see the whole thing. Then, the tree outside of the kitchen, because often times we weren't allowed to go in the kitchen while they were making dinner. It was a perfect climbing tree. When we first got to Lama, there was nothing there and the grownups were a lot of times working, so my dog and I, because I was the only kid, my dog and I ended up by that tree a lot because that was basically the center of it (Lama).

A. I don't actually remember much of my childhood at all, but I know that we used to go up into the oak groves, and there were many of them. We would hide in the groves and we made forts. It seemed really very far away from any adult. It probably wasn't as far as we thought, but it really seemed like we were in our own little world. Also, the swing - the huge swing. We used to play on the huge swing a lot. Then we had a little burial garden for all of the little animals and we would bury the animals there. It was down near the parking lot. The kitchen was the hub. Because I'm younger than Dakota, that is the building that I remember most. The tree is right next to the kitchen. Those are the places from my childhood. I'm the only one here who has lived there since then, so I have different places that are close to my heart.

AK: When you said "we," who was "we?"

A: By the time of these memories, there were a lot of kids; Dakota, Habib, Margaret, Inayat, Savi, Shanti, Keshi, Yo, Hannah, Will, John, Jethro. By that point, there was a pack of us! [Laughter]

AK: Are you talking now about 1973?

A: Probably. I was born in 1969 so it was probably 1974.

AK: Habib?

H: It's all accurate. The tree behind the kitchen was the first thing that came to mind when you asked that question. I've probably spent weeks in that tree. If you total all the hours, it might even be months. The one behind the kitchen - the big tree. I spent a lot of time in the trees up there. I'd run around barefoot all summer. My feet got so tough that I could actually climb the Ponderosas just digging into the bark, so I'd get up to the lowest branch and then I'd just go as high as I could go until I thought something was going to break. Then I'd just stay up there for hours and just let the wind go. That was like the best meditation in the world.

AK: (At this point, Aurora is shaking her head "yes")

H: But also the buildings. I spent a lot of time all over the buildings. Under the Dome, on top of the Dome, walking around the rafters that stuck out from the Dome back before it got the eaves on it, walking around the rafters of the kitchen that stuck out, just running all over the buildings.

A: I don't remember climbing the trees when I was a kid, but I remember when I went and lived there when I was twenty-seven, twenty-eight and climbing the trees during meditation retreats. [Laughter] I gave myself forty-five minutes during the totally silent retreats to go do something, whatever I wanted. I would either go on the swing or I would climb a tree and it was something that I remember distinctly feeling like it is a really great meditation to sit up in a tree and be with the wind, so that's why I was shaking my head there.

D: In addition to all the teachers that came through, I think probably the biggest teacher for us was just being on the mountain with the blue sky and the incredible sunsets and the huge rainstorms with clashing thunder that were just so dramatic and being outside - I mean, we were outside all the time. All of the time we were outside. When we were inside, the buildings were really well planned and thought about in their simplicity. Everything went together: the nature and the teachings and being away from society and not having electricity and not having light. It all went together.

I. GENERAL COMMENTS

The basic content of the Library is now established. Except for high priority opportunistic interviews, work during the coming 18 months will focus on writing a monograph based on specialized interviews with coordinators during the next four to six months, completing Act II of the dramatic reading, and securing funding through grants and donations. See Section V.