

## UCSC Is Recording County's History

# From Henry VII To Transistors

By Margaret Koch

It's a big historical leap — from Henry VIII of England in his satin knee britches to early-day Santa Cruz county woodsmen.

Making the leap — with transistor tape recorder in hand — is Elizabeth Calciano, Radcliffe cum laude history graduate whose childhood fancy was "captured by the Tudor kings and queens."

She is recording Santa Cruz "grass roots" history for the library-to-be of the University of California at Santa Cruz. The logging industry is first in the series which will include other early-day industries and, eventually, will cover all areas of the county.

The taping project was originated by Chancellor Dean McHenry and Librarian Don Clark, both of whom are greatly interested in preserving the history of the county which is going to contain the new university.

"At present we are concentrating on taping the recollections of living people," explained Clark. "Later on we hope to cover social as well as economic aspects."

Mrs. Calciano sets up interview dates, does reading, research, and prepares sets of questions ahead of time.

"Interviews usually last about an hour and a half," she said. "But occasionally several sessions are required."

The tape information will be typed, edited, indexed and cross-filed before being re-typed, bound and placed in library archives at the University of California at Santa Cruz.

"We plan to preserve five or ten minutes of the original tape — merely for the 'flavor' of the voice," she added.

The University of California at Berkeley has conducted a similar

historical project for the past ten years, according to Clark.

Mrs. Calciano's part-time job of recording local history grew out of talks with Dr. McHenry, after hearing him speak last year at Watsonville.

"History has always fascinated me. My mother taught it for a number of years. I wrote my undergraduate thesis on the Scottish Reformation," she said.

She is a native of Ames, Iowa, where her father directs the atomic energy commission laboratory. After graduating from Radcliffe she earned her master's degree (also in history) at Stanford University in 1962.

Her husband, Dr. Anthony J. Calciano, is a practicing physician who also teaches one day each week at Stanford. And in between tape recorder sessions, Mrs. Calciano is the busy mother of 18-month-old Andrew.

"I believe that being a newcomer to Santa Cruz county has made me more keenly aware of the importance of recording its historical information," she said. "This work has certainly made me feel a part of the community already."

Many newcomers to California — and to Santa Cruz county in particular — know next to nothing about its colorful past. But if they are interested in finding out — local information will be available at the library of University of California at Santa Cruz.

To quote Simeon Strunsky: "The years by themselves do not make a place historic. It is men who give the color of history to a place by their deeds there or by merely having lived there."

These are the men — and women — Mrs. Calciano is seeking out.



Santa Cruz county history "on a tape" — that's the first step in a local operation project recently begun by University of California at Santa Cruz. Mrs.

Anthony J. Calciano of Aptos, housewife-history major, is making the tape recordings with a small transistor machine that measures about 6 by 8 inches.

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