

Leon 11/13/02 A

Ralph: OK, Los Gatos--can't remember what year. Where are we here? 1964 or something.

When I came to Neal's house it was 1962.

R: 1962, okay, great.

I came to Los Gatos, it was 1962.

R: So you had no job then because you had been struggling with no job and--

Yeah, I'd been, for two years I was without a job. I was just waiting to resolve the issue. I wasn't taking it lying down. And I was struggling.

R: Then it was resolved.

It was resolved. Well, actually, I got to Neal's before it got resolved. It was still--I was going to have a hearing. The first part of my punishment was eviction to Vacaville. I had a telegram from the director of the Department of Corrections. He said, "Due to--emergency? Was it an emergency or--the shortage for psychological services at the reception center in Vacaville you are hereby transferred." No more IP program. And meanwhile the next day I'm to report in Vacaville. And I can't take anything from my office, this is all state property that's marked. And I guess they were hoping I would just, they knew that I wasn't, I didn't come there for a regular job in the Department of Corrections and doing their administrative work or whatever they were doing, and so they expected I would just, I guess, hoping that I would quit. So but I didn't quit because I was fighting them. In fact that battle I won. So, we had a hearing about it, and the hearing officer, I had witnesses, and they had witnesses, and hey, what did I do to get on the emergency? The hearing officer agreed. He says, Mr.

Tabor, he's right, the reason for his transfer to Vacaville was not because there were emergency needs for psychological services but because whatever. However, they have a right to transfer him and \*\*\* Seems like he came out with a decree that says, it is true, the director lied, but whatever his reasons are they still had a right to transfer him." So this first time that far. Now what--so I am there.

R: Living in Vacaville.

No, living in Tiburon and driving to Vacaville to work. I started checking their scene. I was actually very interested. A couple of months, I don't remember this time very much but it was a couple of, not very long, a few months. And very interesting, actually, in many ways, as far as the prison and psychological services and what they're doing \*\* to treat people.

But it was during this time that the parole officer's report made its way to Sacramento again and now there is a news telegram from the Director of the Department of Corrections when I'm in Vacaville that says I'm fired for willful resubmitting as an insubordination. Now I'm fired. And so now I was still living in Tiburon and this is a couple months later and I started to fight that issue. So I say, "What did you fire me for? Your rule says I'm not allowed to associate with ex-convicts unless my assignment required me to do so. My assignment required me to do so. Here's the memo from the research director, Freddie \* who was \*\* professional job. I'm just learning what to do. We were setting up a parole follow-through program. My job--" So it was, but it took a while, but now I started to look for a job by this time, because I now wanted \*\*\*

And so that's when I got a job in San Jose in the mental health clinic and went to live with the Cassadys. In fact I lived with them until the hearing came up, and by then I already had a job. In fact Caroline went with me to the hearing. And I won the

case. The hearing officer, his name was Toussant, I remember. And he said "Mr. Tabore acted reasonably under all the circumstances." From all this testimony they had from the \* whatever. And my own testimony was true, you know. But the Personnel Board wrote just as they did about-- "Yeah, the director of the department lied to him when he said the reason why he was transferred, but they still had the right (to transfer him)." The Personnel Board now says, "Well Mr. Tabore won a moral victory," that's the words they used: moral victory. "But they don't have to take him back because they say they can't work with him because of philosophical differences." And so now instead of winning my case and getting reinstated with back pay, which is what the hearings officer, her decision was, they say now there never has to be any of that. "You won a moral victory. That's enough."

So this was, in my early days in the Cassady home, that was going on. \*\* I can tell you juicy stuff about Cassadys here but I will one day because these awful things that she keeps on saying and, uh, ah it's really awful, and it's totally \* But I don't know what--

R: I'm interested in the sequence of events that go from San Jose to Santa Cruz.

My move to Santa Cruz had nothing to do with beatniks or hip people or any of that kind of thing at all. It was a professional thing. When I worked in the clinic in San Jose there was -- the clinical director was a psychiatrist whose name was David McCathy. David McCarthy and I became buddies. We were good friends. We would have dinner and there was another, many psychiatrists in Sunnyvale living and it was a whole scene. We were close friends, involved with this. Anyway, one of the psychiatrists from our clinic, Florence Tousand, became the first director of psychiatry when they opened up the El Camino Hospital, which was the first private psychiatric facility in this area, the entire area. The only place for mentally

ill people was in Agnew State Hospital, which was a warehouse. What happened, I didn't quite understand all these things yet at that time, but there is what, there was a new facility, a new hospital, El Camino Hospital in Mountain View, and they had a department of psychiatry, and Florence was the director, the first one. And she asked me to come in there to work, not as a job, but to come in to do therapy on the ward. And they paid me a good wage, hourly wage I received at that time. And so for about a year I set up the therapy program at El Camino Hospital, and I worked with them.

R: It was a part-time job.

No, just hourly, so many hours.

R: But you were still working in the San Jose mental health clinic?

First. After that I was in my private practice in Los Gatos. Part of the week I was going there. I don't remember if it was two or three times a week, but probably two. But I had a group therapy set up on the ward for the patients and their families too. I learned some very interesting things there. How -- that's where I really -- What happened at El Camino Hospital -- Lockheed was the first company at that time that managed to get a contract that gave them a hundred percent psychiatric coverage, which was not available. And what it turned out, a lot of the patients who came to El Camino were from there. There was a whole culture of \*\*\* Hey, these were the designers of the space programs and Moffett Field and all these other innovations and laboratories and whatever were going on at the time, like computers today, and they were the brightest and most successful and their income was mostly from government contracts, defense. It was, as protection \* that's where you get the biggest money to support the \*\* Some of the executives' wives were trying to commit suicide. They would be placed in Agnew. They started a very high coverage for

psychiatric services and then people weren't going to Agnew, they were going to get the most modern place, whatever they could have. These were the people in my groups, the husbands and their wives and their young children. They were all \*\*\* A lot of it, their contracts, most of them were ex-generals or ex-high army or whatever in Washington who were dispensing the grants, they were the decision makers. When they came down to \* inspect, their wives were expected to cater to them. Their career -- they have all this opportunity to do all these things and get these things, but it depends upon how this fucking asshole further down, whether he's going to give it to them or going to give it to some competitor somewhere, it depends how he's treated. That's what was really going on. And some wives \*\*\* so that was the biggest success you could find in our society or world today, and ending up in a deep \*\* despair that \*\*\* However, they liked me. So I did a good job.

The next psychiatric facility that opened after that, David McCarthy was involved in, and Florence was \*\*\* who went up there and she talked with David and she thought I was a good man and she got me in. There was no job applications or competitions or anything. \*\*\*\* But after that there opened up a psychiatric facility with the San Jose Hospital and they had used to be -- I want to say they diabetic, but it's not diabetic -- tuberculosis -- there was a tuberculosis facility at Mount Hamilton. There were the observatories up there, \*\*\* and that was no longer active, right? There was no more tuberculosis. So they transformed this facility into a psychiatric department in San Jose Hospital, and David McCarthy was then in charge of that now. He went from the clinic to there, and so naturally I was again invited to start a program there, you know, San Jose. So there was number two. After that David McCarthy was asked to start a therapy program in the Santa Cruz General Hospital, where until that time they used to commit people, if they had to be committed whatever, until the court decided what to do, and if they had to

stay they were off to Agnew. So this was more like a temporary holding facility for this position. And now they decided they wanted to do something there, whatever. And so who was invited to do the therapy, to start a therapy program there? I was already the man who was starting all these programs, and the only private facilities that were opening up in the area. So that's how I got here. David was telling me how nice it would be, etcetera.

One of these \*\* my sister Barbara came to visit me and he invited us for dinner at the Shadowbrook to show us how nice Santa Cruz can be or whatever. So I remember that was one of the things that -- ahh! -- got me to Santa Cruz. And so that's what happened. I had my private practice in Los Gatos and I was coming in a couple times a week.

R: So at that time you were living in Los Gatos?

Yes.

R: And did you maintain contact with Neal Cassady and --

All throughout that time.

R: And any other hip or beat characters or old friends from San Francisco?

I had a group of friends from -- let's see, Neal and his friends already were hanging around with them, we would sometimes drag them along to come to see me or whatever, and there were a bunch of them. Followers kind of, young girls especially.

R: So Ken Kesey and Pranksters were hanging around?

No. The only thing I knew about Kesey, there were a few times when Neal and I went to San Francisco, and/or Marin County, wherever we were going, and I stopped a

couple times, once, at -- Kesey had moved to La Honda by then. So I had been there a couple of times with Neal, and just stopped by.

R: And Allen Ginsburg was anytime coming around or no?

No, I don't know, I never ...

R: Jack Kerouac had already passed away?

No he didn't pass away yet but there was actually -- when I knew Neal in prison, Jack was really not nice. He's actually, a lot of people feel that about Neal, \*\* always gets himself in trouble, you know, it's his own fault, don't help him and whatever. And in a certain way that is true if he were asking for help but if you're not asking for help, it's your judgment, it's another judgment, you know, they're not complaining to you about it. But it's \*\*\*\*\* then they can't deal with it. They have to make some judgment about it too.

R: So you were just doing your job in San Jose and Santa Cruz and maintained your friendship with Cassady.

I had a friendship, I never became too -- I never dropped out from my life to move into their life at all.

R: So there was like not any explicit interest in LSD, was not happening yet around California --

Yes, yes, there was an interest. I had an interest in LSD from -- My interest in LSD actually was a speech by Leary and I forget where that was, but he was through at Harvard, it was before all the \*\*\* so to speak and the most part was still a limited range of professionals for looking at it and then considering it as a professional tool that you might use, and design \*\* of it as a professional tool -- what, me, I have a tool, you know, but I became very interested. Also, when I was still in the San Jose clinic, there was a

group in Palo Alto -- Storoff was his name, I think, an engineer with Hewlett-Packard? They had a foundation. They were giving LSD to patients under careful evaluation and all these things and they were reporting some very great experiences. There was, when I was a psychologist in the clinic and David McCarthy was still chief there that I got my chance to go up there and visit and check them out and talk and it was just very very impressive stuff, very impressive stuff. So I was interested. But I was interested from that standpoint, looking as a professional \*\* wanting to get a better tool to work with. And as I remember from the early days, I offered to Leary when we started to work more, and I thought that Alpert was more -- and Leary too when they started they were more or less about it as a therapeutic tool...

R: Before they applied the therapeutic tool to themselves too much and were transformed forever.

No, no, no, before. Because of what happened. The pressure. And so they started a bunch of what I consider \*(rogue?) organizations maybe. Because there was a lot of pressure, right? Would you want to deny anybody this? No. Would I? No. I still felt, though -- I was never kindly disposed toward Kesey's group either, the Pranksters or anything. There was something about them \*\* when they left their wild \*\* out and I still feel this. So that's what notoriety and media and all these things do, but also what the drug did and I kind of felt it was really too bad, and I think Leary -- maybe Alpert was starting to put the little brakes on that as much as he can under the circumstances, with the ideas and philosophies and hopes that you are working with \* I think maybe always had before the two, he wants to kick the ball you know.

R: Yeah, sure. Well I feel that we're right at the point of something here where, you're okay, you have this professional interest in LSD, you're doing your professional work in Santa Cruz as well as San Jose.

You're living in Los Gatos, you're going back and forth. Now I've got to get from there to The Barn.

Okay, well you asked me how I got -- This is how I got to Santa Cruz. It had nothing to do with LSD, even though LSD was going on as another part of my life. But it wasn't interfering with my life. In fact it is true, I did use LSD in my private practice too, very successfully. I never felt that you just turned on or whatever. I felt, and I still do, that a lot of centering oneself and appreciating, not just, "Let's go see a movie and see how great it is." I think a lot of, you know, actually it's amazing how little -- it could have been a lot worse. But it also, a lot of the benefits are not -- I mean you can't just -- it's not \*\*\* you don't just, hey get a drug and everything is going to work fine. You are a person before and you are a person after, and who you are and what you do with, how you -- you pick opportunities, so what you do with them is more important than the opportunity. Hahaha! \*\*\* There is this thing, you go through the opportunity and it transforms you. There's a lot of disappointment that end up there because \*\* whatever. Anyway. But it is true, it was happening. And it wasn't as bad as I might have expected myself at that time, you know, like -- I would have been fearful of consequences happening if you just turn on at a party, say "Hey take some and see what it does for you."

R: So how long a time were you commuting to Santa Cruz before you actually got involved in Santa Cruz and somehow found out about the Barn or got interested in getting that space?

The Barn. Well, time elements, that's my hardest part, because I don't think--

R: Well forget the time, just give me the step by step.

When I got there I was just coming to set up a therapy program on a ward and then go back to Los Gatos. Then

Neal, who was always coming around all the time, asked me about the Hip Pocket Bookstore. In fact, before it had opened, when they were thinking of opening it, he was telling me about the Pranksters and \*\*work and Kesey and his friends would open up a bookstore and Peter Demma was the guy who was going to be the manager \*\*\*and why don't you give him a hand? you know, whatever. He was going to give him a hand \*\*too and started to do a little clerical work at the Hip Pocket Bookstore, and I would come around and talk and see what's going on and \*\*\* and whatever. And then the -- but this was not long, maybe a matter of months after I started to work in the hospital, months though, maybe half a year that I would come around the Hip Pocket. And then the Christian Women for Morality got formed at a Baptist church in Scotts Valley. And they organized a group and they started a telephone campaign. It was a battle campaign, a war plan. There was a group of women and they would \*\*\* call up 85 times a day "When are you going to take down the nude pictures?" The phone rings again. "When you going to take down the nude pictures?" And then 15 minutes later -- by this time they were manning the phone, the replacement goes, \*\*\*\*\*pictures \*\* Shit! Honestly, that's the way it was. I said, "I cannot do that again," I told Peter. Not me. You need some help.

Before that, when I first started to come to the Hip Pocket bookstore there was in back a cooler where \* (Rhonda?) worked and that was one of the ladies from the Pranksters, she designed (costumes?) and her boyfriend were always there and we used to get there and we used to smoke some marijuana there. So that was the thing, you know, I'd just go down to the Hip Pocket Bookstore and we'd go to the cooler and we'd smoke some grass. And then the Christian Women for Morality started their campaign.

I don't remember exactly when these group of poets I knew from San Francisco who were very active, militant -- the poetry scene was beginning. The poetry scene

was, I know that scene at that time. Gianpalo(?) was one of them and a guy named Steinberg or \* a bunch of people who were poets and (some of them?) I knew. And I said, "Free speech! Let's start a thing at the Hip Pocket Bookstore." I got them down to the Hip Pocket Bookstore to make presentations. There was a piece about Vietnam, I mean -- so I was involved with that a little bit. Anyway, we thought it said F \*\* They want to make a war by telephone. So if you have something to say, come and say it. We open up. Friday night's the Free Speech (night). Anybody has any complaints or questions or wants to say something, come here and just say it. And so that's how the free speech thing started in the Hip Pocket Bookstore. And they were very successful.

[Tape Side B]

R: Free Speech evening was a Friday evening and then you spoke marijuana--

Well we didn't know \*\*\*

R: But that's pretty close, so--

I hear Eric Norton(?) is opening up a coffee shop in Santa Cruz. What? Eric Norton? Coffee shop? I knew Eric Norton from San Francisco. When I first came to San Francisco and I was hanging around the North Beach, Eric Norton is the guy who opened up the Hungry Eye with Enrico Banducci which was one of the well known, popular comedy places and did very very well. But Eric North--well I didn't know \*\*\* I already knew about Eric Norton because those are the years, it was 1956, 1958, and The Hungry Eye was the name. He started a thing in the North Beach--a loft, a party loft. He said, "Hey you guys, you don't need to pay entertainment just because you want to come out and hang together and drink a glass of wine or a bottle of wine. Here. Come to my place. Use the place. Bring your own. Bring your own wine, bring your own entertainment, introduce

yourself and just bring a buck at the door just to go in. That was a new thing then, and a good thing. That was--Eric Norton was a starter. So I met him then. And I kept hearing things about him because he moved from there to Venice and he's the guy who started actually all these things that Venice later developed. He was a starter there. There was nothing in Venice. He started a coffee shop and poetry, entertainment, music and whatever, and it started to become a cultural hub. But that was later. But where I knew him, he started then just from the loft and he was an interesting person, you know. He was in Hollywood a little bit, real estate or whatever, and he was dropping out and he was living this life and doing all these creative things and encouraging people to come in. And also it turned out encouraging other ways. There were some very young girls, and he got busted for harboring runaways. I think that's what made him leave San Francisco but I didn't find out any results. But that was in the paper, so there was his reputation, you know, and that's the last I heard of him, I just knew that he moved on to Venice.

"He's here in Santa Cruz? Opening \*\*\*?" "Oh yeah, there is this woman who owns or has this place, The Barn, in Scotts Valley, and she just hired him to start the coffee shop there." I said well there is one here in Santa Cruz, there is \* once start something with Eric Norton in Santa Cruz? I said, well gee, I got to check that out, you know. So I go down there and I saw Eric Norton at The Barn and he's sitting there and he tells me, oh yeah, I'm using this beautiful big place and all that. There's this lady, this wonderful lady, she's just a manager in the telephone company but she wants to do business, she wants to open up a coffee shop, and his dreams, you know, she hired him \*\*\* just to see if he could make it work or whatever. Had to pay him a salary, you know, whatever. I said, "Wow, I've got to meet this woman. Who is this woman?" "That's the mother of my children."

R: What's her name?

(Kathy? Jackie?)

[end of recording]