

Excerpt from Oral History Interview with Catherine Mulholland

Catherine Mulholland was interviewed by Jack Kranz in 2007 for the Center for Oral and Public History. Mulholland, a notable San Fernando Valley native, wrote books on her family and the development of the San Fernando Valley. In this clip Mulholland discusses her experience moving back to the San Fernando Valley and a neighbor being aggressively ageist towards her.

Transcript:

JK: This is just what I was talking about Catherine this is not only [unintelligible] an environment of nurturing to an environment of [unintelligible]—

CM: Loss and, and, and, indifference to a neighborhood-- for instance, I've lived in this neighborhood, little cul de sac, uh, for 28 years now. Nobody speaks to anybody, nobody, as far as I know. One woman, I actually had the experience when I was moving in here because of my white hair, which I had twenty years ago, uh, of one young woman said "are you moving in here?" and I said "yes" and she said "well, you're too old to live in here be— we're young fun loving people." I— I— I still sound as if I'm paranoid or making it up I— I— I couldn't believe what I was hearing, and I was then in my late 50s, 60s, early 60s, I'm 84 now. And I had felt almost an avoidance of me, by most of the young, younger people on this block. "Oh that old lady that lives there" had no more idea who I am than, you know, and I find out, and then I find the whole digital revolution, the computer age, it's further, it's creating more commun— more interaction and communication, but it seems to me it involves a degree of isolation and alienation along with it.