

Billie Russel Bowland

Loucôme

Audio Files = 801_0063 - 0068

magie noir

Family arrived 1912 - From China

G. Father Sleepy Eye Mimi → LAava ↑
1890

Father's oldest Brother (Uncle Charlie)

GG - 1890 -

Father - Robert 1897 in Monrovia
9/16/1897 *

July 7, 1930 Willa Jean Russell -
born @ 102 S. Madonna in back
bedroom -

Dr. Parrot - named after Dr's wife

Billie -

Roberta - 1921 sister in Brea

Dean - Born 1925 @ Home.

→ Built 1923

→ Grandfather James E Russell -

one of the first businesses - Russells
jewelry - he was a watch maker.

Grandma Sadie - Had music Store

Father had a pet bobcat he caught -
~ 15 years -

Grandma - founder of Congregational
Church - 1913 - Passed in 22/23 -

John & Howard

Unit 102 S. Madonna -

They had a very successful jewelry store -
Grandmother sold sheet music & instruments

Grandpa smoked cigars - 6' 2" } Big size
Grandma - 5' } difference

Had 6 sons - lost 2 - all big boys -
Key photo in PTA - (quite involvement
in Library)

Yelvin - repaired jewelry

Lolita

Whole family living in church -

Parents had small house on Ash which
burnt from Gas leak -

Issac Craig contractor. 1923 -

City tore it down in mid 80's -

Father borrowed 4000 to have made -
(maybe Calhoun Valley.)

* Married - (1949 -

Mother died 1986 -

1951 - 439 S. Orange - 1st Home
Billie Jerry *
Population \$ 3,000

walked to Laurel - Williams Police
chief walked her across street.

1935 -

Laurel
Brea Grammar
Brea H.S. (Buch)

Long Beach Earthquake -

3/3/38 - Flood -

Jerry's dad - orthopedic of Spadra -

5th - 8th Brea Grammar School -
Tennis Cts -

Deadora was mispelled & was actually

Billie loved to read - had a friend
Janney Mastregnan

mud pies / hats out of mulberry leaves

Brother took dolls of lute on fire -

Programs in May on Front Porch of school -

Square Dance -

Laurel * Cite Flying Day -

Jack & Boop shoot marbles -

5th grade -

Practice house @ Graner School 7th & 8th

Cool - first hour - Sew - serve tea

North Main Building

Always part of curriculum -

Likes to sew -

In chorus - learned to dance

Favorite subject - none - Eng -

Favorite Teacher Flora Beck Sagg -

* 8th grade * they had a genuine desire to teach - they cared -

Jewell Brown 8th grade -

Olave Amney - High School English *

Booties for Sandy - daughter -

Jerry & Bonnie in 8th grade -

Billie invited him Sadie Hawkins -

Freshman - / wore short skirts -

Girls League had a hog girl dance *

Questions -

- 1) Parents stayed in house until when? ^{Sgt -} 1983?
- 2) where is "teddy" now?
- 3) How large was your yard @ 1025. madrona x Ash
Do you remember what later became
Pioneer hall?
- 4) why was kindergarten in separate bldg?
Was it a full day?
- 5) Ask Vannoye how long her house lasted
on Madrona, was it demolished during
redevelopment?
- 6) Only two main roads that you remember?
- 7) Check into "May Festival" @ Laurel School.

1/2/21

Mom's father - married - 1918 - Blythe - lived for work -

Father

Union oil - stayed until 62 -

Worked as meter reader - in the hills -

Mother worked w/ sister - Valvita (Hunts)

Sister worked @ Douglas Aircraft - enjoyed -

Sister work @ Calarco - Dates & Limes

→ Dates grown in Coachella Valley - brought via train.

Mother very active Tongue -

Belle enjoyed sewing -

Father - preferred to be outdoors -

LA Examiner / LA Times -

Yard 50x150 / Fish Pond - Cactus Garden

Built house in 1923

water tank North of J. High -

House had cesspool -

Sewers ~ 1935 ~

Built cellar - cut arm on cellar door -

Block full except for 1 lot across from you -

alley between Madonna & Leelanos

Near Delany Bldg.
Went to highway on Date -
Crossed Imperial -
Garbage & Trash (Recycle)

She & Vannoy would search for treasure
Toys / jewels / books /
Did OK during depression -

House - shedrooms + porch
@5 = converted 1/2 porch into bedroom
Living Room / Dining Room / Kitchen
Big Bench window.

Built in's Buffet -
Fireplace in living Room
Closed after Earthquake -

Floor Furnace
Jwf Gas to city -
Use wash tubs as pool
Swam @ the Plunge -

Rode bikes - Randolph Hill -
Rode on Imp to Olinda during High School

Big Statues inside Red Lantern -
Judy Garland came to visit -

Raffles - line shows / cooking show -
mother won her store -

Servello - gas Refrigerator - won @
another womens club event.

Gaffer & Statler - store - won @ Ted Fenton

Saw wizard of Oz
Frankenstein Dracula
Abbott & Costello

3 Stooges

Gone w/ the Wind.

Double Feature / Cartoon / News reel

- Series - went after -

~1946 - Price increase during Jap. High -
New Maxine Spagne - loved - younger

- 1941 -

Vannoy - 1045. Madonna -

next to her was Rental -

Dr. Jarvis - dentist -

late Jap. High / High School -

1 Train / day - Evening brought mail -
Train scales were left /

Station was boarded

Hailman -

Hailman got off block before station

Hailman got off

stopped @ Pading house

Machine Shop

< Colquhoun - West >

- Parents to Big Game -

see
then

Hailman

American Legion

Bowling Alley - during High School -

East side of Street

In Yearbook - 1947/1948 -

Tasty Freeze

Imperial Cafe -

Salisbury - So of Ash on Great Blvd -

North of Sans Place -

Sans Place - notorious during

war by afraid of chickens -

Telephone in mid 40's -

Wed
10th
121

Father had of hearing / use of phone -
- Helen Skated -

People used backdoor more than front.

Had Pets - cats / Dog (Fox terrier ~ 16)

* High School Song Leader * - Senior / class -
Practice House - - 1947/48

Bruce Skyped small utility oil company open
leases -

1965 - started driving -

Ident daughter worked @ Jacks Shoe Store - @ 12 -
Drove to CA to do buying -

2nd daughter worked @ shoe repair @ 11 -

Moved to Elm 1960 / St College did not go
Hall wasn't there yet -

12/23/

Billie - still has teddy bear gotten for 2nd Christmas by Parents - Velveteen & stuffed w/ wood chips -

Fireplace sealed ← 1933 -

Gifts would pile in the fireplace -

Used metal tunnel -

Tree lots - got Douglas Fir -
1 week before -

Fuelly decorated & lit's -

Once wrapped into the fireplace -

Baked cookies / Fruit cake - -

House decorated - not so much outside -

Played Records on Victrola - 78's -

- Mom liked Bing Crosby -

In the cellar -

Sister 9 years older Brother 5 years older -

went to Mom's family - sometimes 50 people

< one of 10 children >

Christmas dinner w/ immediate family.

Relaxed day - wore PJ's

⇒ Shilby Temple - doll - met her favorite.

Shared gifts w/ Yanny -

Sister married w/ 13 - Brother in
Marines - Amphibious tractor - injured

continued service State side -

Sister had baby 15th Dec -

* Cottage hospital Fullerton - 72 /

Brother married Olive Gil (Collins) 6th Dec
Christa Church / Ash St.

1949 - Dec 24th Married in Yuma Az

Aunt Fay - Mother's Sister - Yuma

Parents car / 1936 Ford -

watched them build the car - Terminal Isl

Drove back in Texas on 12/26th -

2165 Sierra St - Grandmother - then to
Long Beach - tell Brother -

Daughter Chevrolet - neighbors -

Stayed w/parents on Madonna until
1951 - Sandy 1st daughter born -

April 1951 - *4395 Orange * Phone

* American Legion contacted - I got 1 year back pay to buy house - *\$5-6,000 house*

Sister - Dorsey

Brother - 439 S. Stevens -

Christmas Day - his family -

* 1955 Christmas @ home - 3 kids - 1950, 1952, 55
< 60, 61 > boys

Bowland - Tradition -

Painted window nativity scene -
Tree in the window / gets under the tree -

25th

50th - Renewed our vows

→ Cooked /

2016 - @ Youngest daughter 12/23 - Walnut -

→ Belie went to Austrian Church then
Congregational Church

* 1954 - Revival - Denominational
Started a faith-life -

Wesleyan Church -
Wesleyan College in Pasadena -

Student @ Tulare Elementary -

Flora Bell Sage - June / Sept - Teacher

* Wed 1/4 - 10:30 -

1/4/17 Willa Jean Russell Bowland
Apr 28, 1939 -

Shared w/ the City

married 67 years - open heart / closed mouth -
overlook things

Billie saw the model

Choose to return to Brea -

Jerry - Parents ^M19 / ^D42 - 2nd marriage -
separated -

left by Dad - w/ maternal grandmother -
1944 - Brea Junior school - worked in fields
worked in 1/2 picking lemons - 12 years old -
15 - decided to NOT return to migrant work -
out on his own -

Freshman year - showered @ school

Meat Shop - near Red Lantern -
worked @ anything available -

Shoesline man

1 Japanese Family Hideo Kitioka near
Wadsworth - Interned -

Stayed in Brea -

12 Basic Families

1948-Yearbook Ad.
Bowling Alley (So Side, Rich)

Small town feel seems to have disappeared
Could walk anywhere -

Brea has suffered social transitions

Former Students - keep them grounded -

Jerry

Dine In - Imperial/Brea Rd.

→ ~~East~~ ~~West~~

Theatre / Sweetships / Barber /
Shoe Shine

122
n. Brea

Renell
Jewelry

Dine Store - Jeanne's Yardage -

Bill Logan -

Dump in the hills -

3/3/38 - Flood - Orthopedic / Harbor -

Harbor

Brea Volunteer Fire Dept -

→ Water Tower / Behind Brea Jr. High -

Or. Grove -

Swimming Hole / Stewart Park Farm -

Union Oil offices - Billie had a garden Victory
Coyote Creek - Central / Brea Pl -

Arroyo Vista Park - Dump / Fir / Walnut -

1960 - Still burning trash -
Note where trash was dumped -

As Parents - children had

Pioneer Hall - No RRx Presidents Homes
bes Slaughter - Scout Master - 1940-1942 -

2 Story Randolph School -

- Plane crash lands in Brea -- P39 -

Black Out Curtains
Raid on LA by Japan -

Bygone
Performs -

1/18

oilfield rail bank (1928 photo) shows
back of Nazarene Church -

when the bank crashed - you got a
small percentage -

The Plunge - Jerry worked w/ Dick Tucker as
asst - 1961-1968 - 1968-1978 Dan -
slide was put in during 60's

Jamies Yardage - sew, knit, crochet,
sew all girls clothes -

Karen & Joe Gadden - squirrels dressed alike -
Tom Boys -

Jackson Auto Supply - 1953 - Whitten
Brea was 2nd store -

Jerry lived in Roastable -

2nd hand store across from Hotel - ~1940, 41

upholstery store took 2nd hand store bldg.

Schaffers -

Bud Schaffler - 1936 Coupe -

2147. (114)

madrona

Albertsons - where Guitar Center.

Alpha Beta Imperial of

Schaffler Toolworks -

Don Schaffler - wife ?

Her sister Winnie Pennington - husband was Flyer
(Don's sister-in-law) was Station.

- Imp - Hwy - 4 gas stations

Ummi - Bob Johnson married Miller
(La Vita Hot Springs)

(Howard)
Vannoy - brother is married to Ina Miller -
who was related -

"12 Basic Families"

- Ummi sold 1800 acres - mid 60's -

Kirkhill - after war - 1950's -

Dr. Wilbur - St Jude -

Dr. Jackson - homeopath - doctor -

Calvin Gill - Adolphe Doctor (Hospital.)

*Contact Eric Griffith - get city info?

2/1/17

Back to John about Bowland permit in color.

6/5/50 - Eloped to Yuma - 12/24/49 -
my parents (Billie)
grandmothers (his)

June - 1950 - original plan - - 4/10/50 -
Counthouse - 1936 Ford - (bought new)

Jerry was working in service in capacity he
loved -

< - 12/25/50 - 1st daughter >

Had job waiting
Chuck Russell (no relatives) Chicksan
Machinist - (experience in military)
< on Lambert >

Billie - worked @ Calawaho - Dates
w/mom -

w/in 6 months - Jerry hemorrhage
9/1950 - + 6 mo's -

1952 - partial leg removal -

439 S. Orange * (1951) - Bought w/ \$
from VA - each part

Didn't work for 4 years -

1955 - Factory Hotrod -

1950 - Sandy

1952 - Michelle

1955 - Karen

1960 - Kevin

1961 - Mitch

1954 - Attend Church of Nazarene -
Spiritual Renewal

1954 - Mill right of Iron Worker
Nash Ford Equipment Co.

Jan - 1957 - Pasadena Nazarene College -
June 1987 - Retired.

Billi returns to work @ Montgomery Wards
"steer crazy" - works P/T - auto center - Records
club - Invoicing - works to 1987 -

Both Retired by 1988 -
Travel - Canada -

Downtown - Oil Field Town -

City tries to revitalize - car club
Car show all over town. ~ 20 cars -

Close off Birch Promenade - No car traffic

* (New Police & Fire Dept - } more involvement

< Wm Wed >

gemmatos - kitioyda
2 Japanese

Plague - after 48

Variety store late 30's -

2/3

Googes } mid - west side Brea Pl -

Stw John Re: Vanoye + what car is she
she w/ride w/ Jerry + Buelie

Nov 15th - 1930 - (1923)

Bill Jerry crecto blacksmith shop 12/7/41

Brea Grammar - 5th - 8th -

ASH

playground

- Laurel Heights School -

Casa Brea Cash/orange

Vanoye moved

Bacon grease during war - brought to
butcher

Birthing Center - Brea Pl - / Elm -
B.B. -

Harrie (Gloria) 2nd owners of Sam's Place

Bagival Ranch.

Audrey (Smith)

Kirkhill - Pete (Vannoy husband)

Lucy Waly - 2mo's-

2/15.

B- 2/7 July 1930 - @ home - 1025 Madonna
5:30pm -

Dr. Parratt

Grandpa - James E - Russell - 1912 - watchmaker.

Russell's Jewelry -

Sarah - Grandma - / She ran music store in
juiler

Congregation Church - (1913-14) attended

Pomona - moved to Flower x Date

1st Brea Cong. Church Dad - Ursi -
Schaffers attended

Uncle Melvin Polita - took over business -

✓ 11/14/1930 - Madonna 104 S. ~~Barnes~~
Miller

3 older brothers -

Garwood, Howard, Reighton

Christian Church / Ash St. (* Log Cabin)
Married there twice.

P Dad - Oahlid → Olvide / Oil worker
Brene / Brea Gannar -

1948 - Graduated / Married, started oil field.
Peter Weiner

2 - Terry & Jane -

Dad worked in oil field - GP -

J- 4/28/1929 - Northview Mo. Com@home -
2 Full brothers - Charles - 1933 - socialist
Paul - 1931 - punned

Father - 1st wife died during Flu Pandemic
1915, 1917, 1919 - adopted - Denver Co.

Farmer - 2nd Marriage 1928
Sustained Farmer - (Milk Route)
Cantaloupes -

No church attendance

1935 - Arkansas - to 1938

6 moved to California -

1938 Moved to Iowa -

B- Dad - Rep } voted - not active -
Mom - Dem }

V- M - no vote disinterest

D - Radical -

S- Dad hated FDR because of some New Deal policies

M - no interest

1960'S

B- not activist -

V- Hated Haters

J- young news opportunity limited / no experience

1929 - 1st Annual

WMT (Truman) - join Navy to avoid
draft into Army -

- 4/10-1950 - Separated from Navy -

Terry Hart - Vietnam -

1 Citicoka's -

** German POW's - in Brea - (where)
Stationed @ High School -

Slendorn ordiance? -

B- Central - School
Country Hills / Tanning / Olexda

V Very Fortunate to live in Brea -

S Lois Club bought 1st games -

(*)

3/9/17 - Borrowed Historic Walking Tour
Brochure from Vannoy.

*

Rolled Brea Grammar School - Return
to Vannoy.

* In 1929 Jusher (pg 40 & 41)

Sweets Perhaps ~ 30000 families that
Ryley made up the core of Brea

① { Varnoye - Her Kids - / Banking Career.

B - Long, Long marriage - 5 Kids - 5g. 8gg -
67+ years

~~J - (Brielle - illness)~~

= Less Secure -

Berry -

mid 60's - oil fields opened land for sale -

Slant Drilling

⊗

30% - Quarterly (- Framed -)

3pm - Monday -

714-671-3601 -

Oral History Questions for
Willa Jean (Billie) Russell Bowland & Gerald Bowland

1. When and where were you born?
2. How long have you lived in Brea?
3. Were other family members already living in Brea?
 - a. Who were they?
 - b. When did they arrive in Brea?
 - c. Tell us about Russell Jewelers.
4. What about you Jerry, when and where were you born?
5. How long have you lived in Brea?
6. Were other family members already living in Brea?
7. Billie, Brea was incorporated in 1917 so you grew up in a relatively young town; tell us about it.
 - a. What did it look like?
 - b. What were the most prominent features of the town?
 - c. What about traffic?
8. How did the Great Depression impact your family?
 - a. Did your family ever speak about how the city pulled together during that time?
 - b. Did your mother have any special "Depression Era" recipes?
9. Do you remember any natural disasters or severe weather conditions growing up?
 - a. You would have been 3 on March 10, 1933 when a 6.4 earthquake struck off-shore Long Beach. What do you know about that event?
10. What was it like in Brea during WWII?
 - a. Did you have a "Victory Garden?"
 - b. How did you prepare for air raids?
 - c. Were you part of the air watch group?
 - d. Did the community work together?
 - e. Did the war impact your older brothers and sisters differently?
11. Who was your best friend?
 - a. Where did she live?
 - b. Was your friendship based on proximity or common interests?
 - c. What was a typical summer day like growing up?
 - d. What were the major sources of entertainment?
12. What school did you attend?
 - a. Were you a good student? Did you like school?
 - b. Jerry?
 - c. Were you involved in extracurricular activities?
 - d. Tell us about high school
13. When did you and Jerry meet?
 - a. When did you begin dating?
 - b. Were there other boyfriends/girlfriends before?
 - c. What made you certain he/she was "the one?"

- d. What did you do immediately after graduation? Billie? Jerry?
 - e. When did you get married?
 - f. What was early married life like?
 - g. Where did you live?
14. What was it like raising a family in Brea?
- a. How many children do you have?
 - b. Do any still live in Brea?
15. What kind of careers did you both have?
16. Where did you work?
- a. For how long?
 - b. What career came next?
17. From the Navy to Chicksan, to Brea Junior High; tell us about that journey.
- a. How did you complete your degree?
 - b. Did you want to teach in Brea?
 - c. How long did you teach?
 - d. What accomplishments are you most proud of during your career?
18. When did you retire?
19. How do you fill your days now?

Form No. 2
1920

MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING
WRITE PLAINLY WITH UNFADING INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD
READ THE INSTRUCTIONS ON BACK OF THIS CERTIFICATE

PLACE OF BIRTH, Dist. No. 3051 STATE OF CALIFORNIA 237
(To be inserted by Registrar) DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
County of Orange VITAL STATISTICS
City or Town of Brea STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH Local Registered No. 43
or Rural Registration District (No. 102 S. Madrona St.; _____ Ward) (If birth occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME instead of street and number.)

³FULL NAME OF CHILD WILLA JEAN RUSSELL (If child is not yet named, make supplemental report as directed.)

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

¹ SEX OF CHILD <u>Female</u>	² Twin, Triplet, or Other (To be answered only in event of plural births)	³ Number in Order of Birth	⁴ DATE OF BIRTH <u>July 7</u> 19 <u>30</u> (Month) (Day) (Year)
⁵ FATHER FULL NAME <u>Robert David Russell</u>		⁶ MOTHER FULL NAME <u>Mabel Florence Sachs</u>	
⁷ RESIDENCE <u>Brea</u> City <u>Calif.</u> State		⁸ RESIDENCE <u>Brea</u> City <u>Calif.</u> State	
⁹ COLOR OR RACE <u>White</u>	¹⁰ AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY <u>32</u> (Years)	¹¹ COLOR OR RACE <u>White</u>	¹² AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY — (Years)
¹³ BIRTHPLACE <u>California</u> (State or country)		¹⁴ BIRTHPLACE <u>Kansas</u> (State or country)	
¹⁵ OCCUPATION (a) Trade, profession or particular kind of work <u>Oil worker</u> (b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed (or employer) <u>Oil Producing Co.</u>		¹⁶ OCCUPATION (a) Trade, profession or particular kind of work <u>Housewife</u> (b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed (or employer) <u>Home</u>	
¹⁷ Was a prophylactic for Ophthalmia Neonatorum used? <u>Yes</u> If so, what? <u>Argyrol</u>		¹⁸ Number of children born to this mother, including present birth <u>4</u> ¹⁹ Number of children of this mother now living <u>3</u>	

²⁰CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN OR MIDWIFE*

I hereby certify that I attended the birth of this child, who was born alive at 5:35P. M. on the date above stated.
(Born alive or stillborn)

(Signature) O. S. Parrett M.D.
Dated July 17 1930 Physician
(Physician, midwife, father, etc.)
Address 107 S. Wallace, La Habra, Cal.
²¹Filed Aug. 11, 1930 Grace L. May
Registrar or Deputy Registrar

Given name added from a supplemental report _____ 19____
Registrar _____

Family came in 1912
Grandfather had one of first businesses in town
Watchmaker

Father was a young teenager
Roomed the hills
Found a bobcat for a pet
Married in 1918
Went to work for Union Oil Co. in 1920.
Resided in small home on back of lot
Burned in 1922
Built larger home on same lot
102 So. Madonna

I was born at home
Attended Laurel School from K to 4th grade
Met future husband in 3rd grade

During WWII parents grew "Victory Gardens"
Raised chickens and rabbits
Mother preserved much of crops
Home had blackout curtains in major rooms

Major sources of entertainment were the
Plunge and Saturday matinees at theater

Army unit was stationed at the High School
Air watch group on roof

High School was small - 200 students 1944-48
No lights on football field
Games played in afternoon
Jerry was football captain
Billie was cheer leader

Few students had cars
Jerry had a 1936 Buick - King of the Hill!
Dated Billie and her best friend in it

Class of 1948 crowned Brea's first Homecoming
& Queen.

Chosen by football team

Crowned by Captain Jerry

Billie on 5 girl royal court

During high school years Jerry worked

Lighting smudge pots in groves

Service stations before and after school.

Jerry joined Navy after Graduation 1948

Married Billie in December 1949

After discharge from Navy, went to work
at Chiksan Co.

Went to college in 1957

Taught at Brea Junior High starting 1960

Jerry formed the second model rocket club
in county

Needed permission from city and county.

Also allowed first girl into shop programs