

-Dr. June Brown interviewed by John Milner-

June Brown, June 29 1993 interviewes held in Los Angeles, Silver Lake interviewer John Milner.

MILNER: June can you tell me how you became interested in becoming a social worker?

BROWN: Well I decided that I would become a social worker but growing up in Los Angeles kind of getting the aids that I got interested in the world around me was in the early middle 30's when the social security program I'm sure would begin to be activated in the city and I can remember a group of young African-American women who began to go to work in social services and these were people that I knew and it would seem rather glamorous in some ways they were young excited about their jobs and in order to have a job it was preferred that you had a car a number of them had cars and for a seven year old it seemed quite a good thing to asprise to. So I think from these very earlier years I made a connection with young women making a choice to go into social services and it looked like a choice that would appeal to them and as a youngster it looked quite appealing to me. But certainly at that point in life I did not say that I wanted to become a social worker. And I didn't make a conscious decision about it until after I graduated from UCLA. I was a Spanish major at UCLA and had intended going to secondary education and become a Spanish teacher in high school. But when I graduated in order to get a creditental one had to do a year of post graduate work and I was ready to go to work. So I went out on the job market with this B.A. in Spanish and not really any skills to go along with the Spanish and I quickly learned that no one was interested about anybody who spoke Spanish skills. I really was looking for a range or looking at a range of jobs when I left with my B.A. and a million of things I did was to take the civil service

examination then Bureau of Public Assistance. I passed the examination and sometime in October in 1948 I graduated in the summer of '48. Sometime in October I received a telegram from the Belvedere district signed by a Francis Lomus giving me an appointment to come out for an interview. Belvedere district was quite a ways from where I lived and the big issue I was discussing with my friends was for this interview did they think I really needed to wear stockings and high-heeled shoes or if I could get away with a skirt and loafers and they persuaded me that it would be a better part of prudence if I wore some stockings and some dress shoes. So I tried to put forth this business image and took this long trip to Belvedere met Ms. Lomus who was quite an imposing but warm figure and we had a discussion I got not much sense of how she had evaluated the interview was she suggested that there were other people to be interviewed and I would hear from her later that was October. On November 5 I received a telegram that said she had selected me for the position and that I should plan to report for work on December 1. Well I was just sure that this was a problem operating because November 5 was my 21 birthday that I decided on a wonderful birthday present because I had been unemployed from June until November so you can imagine that I was very pleased to have a job. I mentioned this to Francis years later about what serendipity it was that the telegram had come on my birthday. And she finally told me that it wasn't zippity at all she had timed it because she had to wait until I was 21 so I could be deputized. I can remember the social work job began at \$211 a month and there were salary increments for five years to eleven the second year to 222 the third year 243 the fourth year 245 to a high up to 255 for five years.

Coming from a weekly allowance of a dollar a week when I was going to UCLA when we got rides from our friends pooled our money from lunch this seemed like total wealth.

MILNER: Rich lady.

BROWN: I was able to go to Belvedere precisely because of my Spanish major. At that time the district had the largest family case load in the district and the county. But it consisted of East Los Angeles, Montebello and Whittier and the Spanish speaking population was really a large part of the clientele but it was served so although during my job search in the summer when I was beginning to be discouraged by Spanish major was the only spelling point by which I was chosen for this position and it turned out to be the basis of one of the most interesting parts of my work life. Almost five years because I spent.

MILNER: I was interested in you saying whether you should wear high heels and a hat because I know when Arlene Johnson was Dean at the University of Whittier students in field work were required to wear hat and gloves and high heeled shoes and when she came to California in the late 1930's to head USC school she was shocked that the social workers dressed more informally. Could you tell me some of the sequence of positions that you held in social work after you left Belvedere?

BROWN: All right I stayed in Belvedere about five years I think it was about in the early 50's my supervisor, I had two supervisors in Belvedere for about a year Cortes was his name and mother had been Sophia Vantisse was one of the early luminaries in child welfare from Columbia University. And Mr. Tisse carried an aura of social work that you would find absolutely admirable. So I worked with him for about a year and then I was transferred to the unit of Lucy Nesson. Mrs. Nissen was an African-American with great

charm, great strength and she and I bonded very very firmly. So after about three years she began to say you got to move on you got to take supervisory examinations if you don't you'll sit around, you'll sit around until he is your supervisor. You better take this exam and move on. So I took the supervisors examination and I was into four or five years with my work in the bureau and I passed it and in time I was transferred down town to the metro south district and Adams and Grand and I supervised and ADC Aid to Dependent Children five or six years there until about 1959 I took the leave to go to the school of social work. I had worked for the bureau about 11 years that's when I decided to get my degree.

MILNER: Excellent. Were you pleased with school after you had practice did you find school helpful to you.

BROWN: Very pleased with the experience I think very few people have gone through the school of social work at USC without the dual experience of feeling very benefited by what was taught and learned but in addition to that what has characterized the school historically was the sense of privilege of working with the caliber of the people have been a part of that faculty. Certainly I came away with a sense of much pride and having had the exposure not only to do educational experience but to the faculty who as I look back in retrospect we have evolved from these finders to student teacher relationship eventually collegial relationship the fact cruncher and I don't think that is unique to the field but most people who had had the experience getting into social work experience in that school seen the experience as more than just education. I think it is central to my sense of pride and privilege as a social worker but really as a person.

MILNER: Was Arelene Johnson the dean of the school at the time you entered?

BROWN: No, it was the transition. She had just resigned and Malcolm Spenser his first year and I went to the school on an accelerated program we began in January as I remember. Spring semester and two summer semesters where we did our first year and I was placed at the Profts. Then the second year we did in the traditional time and I was placed in the California Youth Authority.

MILNER: I think I used to call it that the hot death program.

BROWN: And Lisa Macgreve taught most of the first year classes every college she taught the grad year and we began to refer to ourselves as Lisa MacBrown social workers.

MILNER: What was your thesis topic?

BROWN: Well now you should remember that cause you were my second member. As I'm sure you knew Norris was my chair and Mrs. Norris Clatch who was the chair he probably gave me the topic of how he was and I looked at it this morning before I came over here to clear my memory and sure enough the topic was the juvenal's offender perception of his day in court. From my placement at youth authority I interviewed ten boys with a questionnaire on how they had perceived what was the charge or what were the charges that led them to court how they remembered the court experience and some assessment what how the juvenal court is perceived by a minor in relation to its intended.

MILNER: Following getting your masters degree in social work what did you do?

BROWN: Well I didn't have much choice, its funny how every era has its own burdens in that time as I look back now there was such social sanction for social work and that social sanction was expressed by the support of the society it gave to people who were making this choice. I suppose that society boardly even then didn't quite understand why people

wanted to become social workers. But if you wanted to do this they did recognize in a way that I don't think society recognizes today the contributions that social workers have made. I was in the position to make to the society so social work education was adequately subsidized in those days certainly not lavishly so that you could make the choice to follow this profession and that the education was made accessible so when I came to school I came on children's bureau which took care of SC's school of tuition and provided us a stipend. Now the monthly stipend was not lavish but since you were so busy with your school responsibilities it was quite enough because it took care of shelter and basic needs and you didn't have time for much else. But of course and that original stipend on the original social security act was supposed to be available only to people who were going to do child welfare in rural area. But they had been able to interpret that within Los Angeles County there were indeed rural areas. So in that way I was able to qualify for one of the children's area scholarships and the expectation was that we worked in child welfare agencies for one year each year in education so I moved immediately to finish school. I would be going to the Los Angeles County of Division of child welfare services.

MILNER: How long was it before you decided to go on for an advanced degree?

BROWN: Well I worked for the agency from 1961 and did not resign until about 1968 but I got my MSW in 1961. Harriet Erickson was the director of the agency and Marion Peterson was the associate director. And the division of child welfare services had been organized about 1956. Before 1957 there was a child welfare unit in every district office in the bureau of public assistance but because they represented some many different models of administration the child welfare services really reflected the individual notion of the district directors of what child welfare should be. Some years before 1957 the county

reorganized the child welfare services into a separate division and so Erickson and Peterson were given the administrative slots and they had a child welfare service that was located geographically each of the 11 districts in our county but instead of them representing the whole range of administrative styles of various directors the 11 units were under the same election as women. And the reason why I mention that is the first thing that they did when they organized the new division which was a part of their public assistance literally a part of the department of chairs but it moved to its own administrative structure the first thing they did was to request consultation from the US Children's Bureau and the child welfare as to how their plan accorded to motion standards of practice. The first study was done in 1957 by Edmund Hughes of the Child Welfare League of America. She found a few areas that needed correction in order to meet standards that gave them a provisional membership and they had until the next year to meet the standards and by 1958 and we have in the archives the school of social work library those two studies from 1957 and 1958 an adaptation. From 1958 until about 1968 that agency was one of the few public agencies that was a fully accredited member of the child welfare league of America meaning they held the standards of professionalism in terms of program facility and personnel. So I feel that I was really in quite fortunate to have gone into that service at a time when its standard of professionalism would match the standard of practicing in child welfare.

MILNER: That encouraged you to go on for an advanced degree.

BROWN: I worked for the department till about three years and then I went to the state department of social welfare and worked there for about a year in a half.

MILNER: That was in Sacramento?

BROWN: Sacramento and at that time California had been one of the first eight schools established public adoption so I worked with the adoption heart of the department as well as the child welfare part. Lucille Kennedy I think was the head of the adoption service and Margaret Billard was the director of child welfare services. And that was when the state was very active and supervising the 58 counties to assure that there was not at least a minimum of standards. Of course in those days the children's bureau still was in charge of child welfare grants. Had only granted money for children in child welfare services if the programs met their standards so in the '50s until the late '60s there was federal account pools. There were federal standards and its accountability that the states supervision accountability you got the local agencies working autonomously in relation to their own needs but there was a strong modicum of state actively in supervising the quality of the program and the federal government bureau time to time. After a couple of years I really decided that that supervisory role I didn't like that much and I decided I got home sick. So I came back just before I had to resign from the county and went back to the child welfare service system and that second time I went to McClarin Hall was a very beginning of the child welfare agency setting up its own shelter care of care program. McClarin Hall now is a huge facility then it was a tiny little place that barely had been part of Sisters Kenny polio treatment. And if the police had to pick up children in the middle of the night they would bring them to McClarin Hall we really had to remove them from that institution setting to foster homes within 72 hours. So I worked with them for about years and you know I was pleased with that and it was not going to be terrible scholarly perfect but I don't know why I was working on a committee that was doing something for the

school and I went over in the afternoon to take a reporter something and I'm sure I hadn't been back at the school since I graduated in this meeting and I was sitting there waiting for the meeting to begin and Nora Class came out and said come back here I got something for you. So I went back and said I've got this scholarship from the children's bureau that you can have to go back for doctoral studies. And I said I don't even know what doctoral studies is and I don't know what kind of jobs I can aspire to after. She said that doesn't matter you've done this practice long enough and I have this scholarship and its yours. Well as we all remember Nora of how positive she was. I don't think it was his scholarship but he did know that he claimed a lot of things. But evidently Anne Lee Sandusky who had joined the children's bureau in the middle '50s. Mrs Sandusky was an African-American social worker who had come out of the Atlantic School of Social Work and joined the Children's Bureau and there were three things that were feign to characterize her career as a leader. I looked at her with such awe in those days but I didn't ask her much. In later years had read her writing and coming out of social work education and evidently it seems to me and you would notice better because she was a colleague of yours it seems to me that she brought the social work educator prospective to the children's bureau the notion that it was very important that the child welfare curriculum reflect the need of child welfare practice she seemed to have been very concern with enriching or expanding through child welfare children's bureau scholarship expanding the child welfare faculty resource station wide. So she evidently was wanting to use those funds to locate people who would be willing to go into social work education but to take child welfare with them. The second thing that I gather was concern was the fact that

child welfare had been a very meager resource for children of color African-American children American- Indian children, Latino children and Asian children had received very little of services particularly from the private agencies. If we look and know that the center of the system had been the eastern sea board and pretty much organized to serve European children certainly in California, we didn't have a large system of private agencies so her concern not only to expand the resource of child welfare concerned faculty in schools of social work but she was looking for people who would have a particular interest in expanding child welfare reach or protection and help to children. So I suspect that Nori assumed that we had a good argument to why I should have those scholarships. And as I read it the third thing it was about which was close to where my thinking was coming was that public social services were a fast untapped resource enabled families to stabilize and to be safe and motrium environments for children which her writings indicate that she was very focused toward including services to children who were only homeless as a component of child welfare practice. But the time I had practice for a number of years I had I certainly didn't have a sense that there was not place for an out of home kid but I did have a sense that the compliment of services to determine a family the capacity to grow as an American dream place for its children and to hopefully strengthen that potential was as important to practice as to the skill of foster care was denture care so it was the opportunity to go into doctoral study that hit where I felt saw friends so unlike many people it wasn't decided that I wanted to be an academic kind of

MILNER: An accidental

BROWN: An accidental and I happen to be sitting there when Nori Clance walked out of his office and said here I got something for you. And indeed it turned out an opportunity I had to appreciate it.

MILNER: Would you plead for the doctoral training without doctoral education

BROWN: Again it was different they wouldn't even talk to you about that program unless you could quit your job and come full-time and it was a Children's Bureau fellowship that made that possible. I think there were ten of us and we worked together for two years, we had all the same classes. If you, know in some ways you feel the same exposure to the same group it gets to be a bit much at the same time there were bonds that were forged in those two years. The instruction again was not as new to me as it was to others but the fact that that I knew what to expect. The doctoral study was different. We did different things and the old relationships that I had with Norris and the TA with Lisa and Pearlman and Helen were just rather decent and it was an opportunity and I certainly did take the opportunity to learn the basics and to appreciate social work in a way that you are not taught to appreciate it in the masters program. I think in the masters program you're taught how to do something in the doctoral program you are really, I got the sense of how social work has evolved in the effort and the success that has gone into its building from which to teach people how to do it.

MILNER: Your dissertation subject?

BROWN: California Adoptions 1870 to 1969.

MILNER: An interesting subject. What were the great differences between early adoptions that you discovered?

BROWN: Umm.. the early adoption law was just to complete the codes in California. It was just a legal strategy to give legal standing to the rare instances people adopted. What evolved to be pretty clear was that adoption law required adoption services and so really tracing a century of the evolution of the law and the complimentary evolution development in social services including the problems and I believe in adoption was what really in California until World War II adoption was completely a private agency and adoption which in all those years was looked at the best of service that could be provided on a dependent child was really restricted to a very small group of white infants who could pass psychological tests in six weeks assuring the adopting parents that they were not psychologically and mentally impaired that they were psychically perfect, that they would be psychically matched generally to a privilege group of adoptees the two agencies that served one was a voluntary agencies and agencies of volunteers the other was a private agency but it was staffed and by World War II the agency that was staffed entirely by volunteers had pretty much disappeared from the scene and so we really had the children's home society as the only agency. At the same time social change had occurred that terrifying babies was just a state's gamble and it was determined that no minority children getting access legal alternative so with these two serious fallow in adoption there was a state wide study eventually recommended the establishment of public adoption services in California. I think that California was one of only three states that by 1947 had broaden the access to adoption clause establishing

MILNER: Almost seemed unbelievable that slow to do that and that slowly we were pioneers in the country. In your dissertation did you do any writing related to it in articles.

BROWN: One or two.

MILNER: Can you say when this were published

BROWN: I think in social work papers we did them in place of adoptions and contemporary child services and I don't remember the year but

MILNER: And more recently you completed writing a book.

BROWN: Not writing it I shared with a colleague Lee Wilde and all the members of the faculty who taught in the second year of the family services concentration contributed it and what it is, is our prospective what child welfare service ought to be given the current status of the American family and the consequences of this of their children. And a description of the curriculum as we have taught it since 1980 in preparing people for practice in this way in response to the needs of contemporary ideas.

MILNER: The title of the book

BROWN: "Family Practice"

MILNER: Yes that is and its is published by the publishing company

BROWN: Child welfare legal company

MILNER: And in what year?

BROWN: 1992.

MILNER: Good.

MILNER: June do you feel that the system provides services to families today has improved or has it decline?

BROWN: Well I think nation wide it is fairly broadly acknowledged that child welfare services public or in an particular are in crisis and has been at least through the '70s and the '80s there is some question as to what obsticales may have existed to act like this. I

think when the nation moved to accept child protection child responsibility in the end of the 19 century that move reflected a sense of deep concern that children should not suffer cruelty and neglected and that it would appear that the society had an obligation a hundred and twenty-five years later we probably thought that was an easier path to resolve than it turned out a lot of complaints but by the time I went into practice part of the task that we dealt with was clearly a near force. We were really replacement agencies. Harriet Erickson and Marion Peterson were just beginning two pilot women to do protective service. By and large child welfare had been out of fenicad and we did very little about helping families in early phases but much of what is talked about in terms of practice now in terms of permancy and continuity as you know we always need children probablity in their lives. And so in so far the define task was organized the agency did a really committment to quailty so I didn't see an obsticals carrying out that function in time but as we moved into the sixties and there were major amendments to the social period and the expansion of the task from the small child welfare case to the boarder issues of child protection the quality instead of our being able to build on the quaility that existed the quality was sacrificed to the boarder scope of self. At the same time as I remember the late sixties there was a great deal of status accorded to the neutral adminstrator that the administrator need not know the program in the industry what he needed to be was an affective adminstrator good at measuring cost effect and affective in the fiscal ring.

MILNER: Its a business person

BROWN: A business person and as the task expanded the adminstration and the leadership of social services shifted to the people who were adminstrators in social work and one of the major occurances that added that this complexity was the discovery of the

batter child syndrome the kind of the uncovering of child abuse has been maybe more common number of society the increase in reporting and the version of the case. So you get a system that of services that is weakening in terms of standards and a circumstance where families are more and more stressed the requirement of reporting been emphasised case load is increasing rapidly and the structure of the agency leads to respond the case load in a professional way really being bridged and I think from my view of my career the biggest disappointment has been to watch the system that was evolving not being allowed to build on strenghts but being dismantled into something that abandoned the notion of the quality of standards for services.

MILNER: The quality was side tracted

BROWN: Absolutely side-tracted and abandoned. And we have seen with nation wide that the accounts of the tragedy heard result of this but apart from the head line what we can refer is the service of thousands of children seriously thousands probably millions of children. So my opinion is that it is tragic never to have had progress but it is more tragic to have problems and I think particularly in California a large part of our social service inudation and service has been in the public sector to have lost a great deal of that 25 years to me has been probably the biggest discipline.

MILNER: You see any hope for change in regard to this?

BROWN: Well, I think this is parellel in a time when our country has rejected the notion of the tie between public responsibility and individual well being that notion of securing for families job opportunities housing accessible health care the kind of anchors that every family needs the degree to which the country has abandoned that the degree to which the econimic necessity is that two parent work have put burdens on family that simply didn't .

And so we see incidents of the nurturing of children our family, black community and schools really being reduced to the point where many children are not receiving the guidance that predict optimum results. We see an increase in consequential problems and although legislation in 1980 really prescribed a comprehensive social service response that began with presenting services to enable families to stabilize remain together through the provision of protective services for trouble families through the provision of out-of-home care as a corrective measure and the mandate for a permanent plan for children who have to be separated from their families although this was prescribed the complexity of the task of implementing such services was such that really professional knowledge based guidance is necessary. But this task was imposed on agencies that by this time have very little professional precedence and so we almost have a lay implementation of a very, very complex task and one does not want to be critical without knowledge but the sense is that the society has to recognize that the child protection is essentially child service and it needs to be designed planned implemented supervised and held accountable by people who understand what the standards and the qualities of social services are and are committed to this kind of presentation. It seems to me the task of the future. Human ingenuity has often been able to rescue serious problems and resolve and I think those of us who have invested our careers in this have to believe that what we learn in the past will be used to adapt to be adaptive to the present future needs so that American society particularly California have had a rich tradition of seriousness in people will return to that I have recently agreed to be a member of the Children's Service System Issue

representing Ivonne Brickmen in that position. I don't know about Net Will I have no idea

MILNER: The State Commission the county

BROWN: The commission that gives oversight to the Department of Children Services in 1984 with the hope of extracting child welfare publicly would give the agency a change to build a comprehensive of accountable services I don't know and can't make a judgement at this point as to how the agency operates. I'm looking forward to some participation.

MILNER: Did you say I would be your volunteer service. You discussed in your early career was in the correctional field and seems to me that here again social workers moved away from active interest in corrections would you like to comment on that?

BROWN: Yeah, I think that really is a serious loss I remember going to youth authority with a lot of reservations these were added as a major delinquency who had blown through county probation and been found seriously enough delinquent to go to a state facility and what you found there the boys responded well to try and structure to reasonable rational discipline and to a model life that they could follow and the youth authority in those days particular where they sent students was concerned with a careful diagnosis of what appeared to be a family child farm and within the facility the youth authority to address these problems there was a treatment center right there on the spot boys it was just an available to boys it was only able to boys who could remain and you saw the potential again as child welfare services were treated on the investment certainly corrections the supreme court decision that stipulated state offenders the youngsters who were really misdemeanor and fraction has left that good with state offenders to because juvenile corrections at that time was self - defined with minor schools and not with minors who ran away to do the kinds of things that indicate the props really or not a juvenile and

it seems to me the task for child welfare services is to become a lot more relevant to troubled adolescents that they shouldn't have to a law enforcement judicial correctional system on the problems that remained of growth development and behavior. Child welfare has historically not been a resource to troubled adolescents and I think that is the most past head for child welfare is to have put themselves to deal with the development of issues drug abuse among adolescents, pregnancy, delinquency and in that what ever the expression that adolescent development we get all carried away with the teen pregnancy, drug addiction but the bottom line is the developmental task and I think that child welfare in really quick and focused to deal the adolescent in the developmental .

MILNER: You recognized what you have to say in the improvements of adoption agency over the years how about the institutional care of children.

BROWN: That probably worries me in the extreme. There institutional care and this will go back to that institutions are not accountable and the state really withdrew funds for the supervision you leave the individual institutionless to their own devices. Some do well some are absolutely committed to quality but I feel very, very strongly that is a part of public obligation to provide or to articulate standards to provide supervision to see that many minimal standards and to provide consultation so that agencies see the importance from moving minimal care to excellent care and its a matter of being equity. I think that every child best protection is the family that functions well and for those children who temporarily or lose then it is the social service componet that deal with putting together an alternative and it just occurs to me that when the state moving towards this epic of minimal government really abandon the standard setting supervison consultation that is essential to the licensing function. We have left many children the whole issue of equity

didn't get into fine agency's are fortunate but the children who do not have and I think the whole issue of equity and the standard of care and whether we are talking about services to children in foster homes to children adoption the issue is public obligation leads to equity and the problem and I think residential treatment is probably the best care. Fine agencies other areas of care.

MILNER: Recently you retired from the University of Southern California and you told me once you retired you were going to find a true and said ungood. Have you found that tree.

BROWN: Not even a tree in my yard now

MILNER: No trees in your yard. Are you enjoying retirement so far. Its been how long.

BROWN: Be two months in the 9 of July. Graduation was on Friday May 9 I woke up Saturday morning and it struck me that I don't have a job and I don't even belong there and for a couple of hours I felt just lost and a little teary and then I had to go and do an errand and I came back and I don't know why I had to look at my calendar and I had written about two or three weeks ago everybody in Inglewood where I lived received a notice that Maxine Waters and the Major of Inglewood having a public meeting on Saturday at 1:30 so I wrote it down in case I could go and I happened to look and said oh my goodness I happen to forget this. That is to bad it is too late I can't go I forgot all about it. And I thought I can go. So the sadness and the teariness left and hasn't returned I've been almost obsessed with the notion of cleaning the clutter out of my house and my life so I am still working on that I have worked through the books and sort books from work and I had gotten books away from home to make room for those coming and I finished that and now I am working on my papers and that is really old but when I finished

papers then I will have a few eyes it help a lot when you are getting old and you don't remember everything is. So I haven't really noticed much difference other than I am doing this when I should be doing that it has been relieved and I am looking forward time to use as I choose to.

MILNER: Has the changes over the years occurred in the school that you look as being positive or possibly negative? As they reflect social work education.

BROWN: I think it is very important for people to realize the one thing I have tire to share with my students in terms of social decisions is that the single thing that characterizes any condition is dynamic change and if you resist that then you find yourself just trying to push back the clock and I really value or at least as I taught social policy look at the 20 century as I understand it in relation to the whole sweep of human progress as historians tells us that it evolved as a very unique time and I think that you and I have discussed that as children we were probably among the most fortunate largely because we were beneficiaries of those people who laid the foundation for child welfare care. The children from ordinary families that looked forward to an education who could look forward to freedom and the help to develop your potential and really chose from a variety of life paths. And I remember going through what some of those major century reforms for children which indeed were the work of those early child welfare leaders and once students raised their hand with this kind of insight and said my goodness that was a break from ancient tradition. And I think that is true because we were not with hobbled children the handicapps that had just hovered over and certainly in American child growing up even in California when there were many imitations of what they aspired to be but then there maybe was a question as you got grades you could go the UNIversity of Californian

at the our community was making an investment in the school. It was spectral that they didn't learn. Even with the limitations of segregation the assumption of a decent house a good neighborhood good schools higher education and a job were just givens but I think we were very fortunate in that .

MILNER: There is always opporunity and hope.

BROWN: There really was and you could plan your life, make certain choices you could expect to achieve this sort of thing. So I think as I look back we were fortunate of padre of children I don't see life as this stable for children but again you have to have faith in the capacity of people to solve problems and I have to believe that leadership will emerge that they'll put the country back on track in connection between social decision and the potential of development of individuals.

MILNER: An eternally optimist.

BROWN: It is hard you have to just believe in this capacity that people have shown over and over but I don't see it now. I have to assume that it will emerge again.

MILNER: And you cleaning house so far? If you find paper of photographs or literature in any kind that reflects on the history could you remember to save it and present it to the school.

BROWN: I surely would. Two things that I have gathered that are the most important and I already gave them to the library and that is the two studies that the child welfare made of the child welfare services describing the componets of the program and evaluating them, the provisionary accreditation and the year later was the completing study that did it for the agency. I just think it stands as important not only achieved but a statement of what can be achieved in public services that in Los Angeles County both the child services agency

and the adoption agency were not just provisional measures but they really had no standards it seems to me that is an on going challenge to the public services and it can be done. So I already contributed that always with an eye to the archives.

MILNER: Going to be history.

BRWON: I wrote to the child welfare league at the time my department was forming and they said normally they didn't share those documents but given the significance of it they were kind enough to send us a copy.

MILNER: Thank you is there anything you'd like to add?

BROWN: NO , other than to say thanks to you and to many people along the way who contributed I look on a career that was a privilege and a pleasure to pursue.

MILNER: We are proud of you