

*Voices of the Violet Crown:  
Fostering Community Through Oral History*

by Susan Burneson

An oral history interviewee's question, a national oral history conference, and a Texas Oral History Association award, all during Fall 2009, have helped shape our project *Voices of the Violet Crown*. Created in 2003, it focuses on Brentwood and Crestview, neighborhoods in the heart of Austin, Texas. We gather, preserve, and share residents' stories and local history to help foster a greater sense of community. In September 2009, my husband, Rob, and I had just completed our two-hour, video-recorded interview with John and Judy Carlson.<sup>1</sup> They were among the last living original residents of Crestview, established in the late 1940s as an early Austin suburb. As we packed up to leave, John asked, "What do you plan to do with all of this information?" A month later, we attended the Oral History Association's annual conference, with the theme "Moving Beyond the Interview."<sup>2</sup> We learned about the many creative ways oral historians share what they have gathered. In November, we were honored to receive the Mary Faye Barnes Award for Excellence in Community History Projects<sup>3</sup> from TOHA for our film *A Community Mosaic*.<sup>4</sup> Completed in 2008, the film features oral history interview excerpts, local history, photographs, and maps.

## Background

*Voices of the Violet Crown* grew out of a community-based project to build a mosaic wall. In 2003, I was among a small group of neighbors in Brentwood and Crestview who created the Violet Crown Festival to help raise funds. I designed the event's Community Tent to help give neighbors a stronger sense of place through exhibits featuring neighborhood history and community resources.<sup>5</sup> As I gathered information, I visited with an older neighbor. She said there were few trees here in 1955, when she moved to one of the first homes on our street. I found that impossible to

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1. John and Judy Carlson, interview by Susan and Rob Burneson, September 5, 2009, Austin, Texas, archived at the Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, Texas.

2. Oral History Association, "Moving Beyond the Interview," <https://www.oralhistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/07/Moving-Beyond-The-Interview.pdf>, accessed May 27, 2022.

3. Texas Oral History Association, "Mary Faye Barnes Award for Excellence in Community History Projects," <https://toha.web.baylor.edu/awards/mary-faye-barnes-award-excellence-community-history-projects>, accessed May 27, 2022.

4. Rob and Susan Burneson, *A Community Mosaic*, 2008, digital video, 12:34, <https://www.violetcrownvoices.com/films>, accessed May 27, 2022.

5. Susan Burneson, "Common Ground of Community," *Voices of the Violet Crown*, <https://www.violetcrownvoices.com/2012/common-ground>, accessed May 27, 2022.

believe, with majestic trees gracing the area now. When she showed me an early photograph of a few saplings among the newly built homes, I realized I had much more to learn about our history.<sup>6</sup>

As the mosaic wall began to take shape, I became curious about the stories behind the colorful images, which reflect residents' lives here.<sup>7</sup> Tiles were created by people of all ages, including those who moved to the neighborhood when it was first established. Other tiles, created by artist Jean Graham, depict stories longtime residents shared with her. They lived modest lives and helped establish the strong sense of community that has endured, even as Austin grows, new people move to our area, and compact original homes are replaced by larger, more expensive ones. Some original residents were recently married World War II veterans and their young families. They became involved in the community, helping plant trees at the new park and school and establishing the churches in the area. So many churches were built along Woodrow Avenue, which runs through Brentwood and Crestview, longtime residents called it Church Row. As I considered recording neighbors' oral histories, I was drawn to this definition of sense of place: "Those things that add up to a feeling that a community is a special place, distinct from anywhere else."<sup>8</sup> For our project, "those things" are neighbors' stories, because our rapidly changing area has few remaining structures that could be considered historic.

## Resources

In 2007, my husband and I decided to conduct formal, video-recorded interviews with as many original residents as we could while they still were able and willing. By then, most were well into their 80s. The mosaic wall artist suggested names of older neighbors she had met. We shared news of our project with neighbors and local seniors' groups and through local newsletter articles and information tables at local events. We also identified younger neighbors we wanted to interview. The project fit well with my husband's career as a videographer and editor and my career as a journalist, archive researcher, and professional genealogist, including recording relatives and clients as I gather their stories. At the time, each of us had 30 years of experience in our work. Growing up, I was fascinated by my grandparents' stories and by Studs

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6. Susan Burneson, "Just What is a Violet Crown?," *Voices of the Violet Crown*, <https://www.violetcrownvoices.com/just-what-is-a-violet-crown>, accessed May 27, 2022.

7. Scott Robuck, "Wall of Welcome in Austin Texas," <http://gigapan.com/gigapans/3951>, accessed May 27, 2022.

8. Samuel N. Stokes et al., *Saving America's Countryside: A Guide to Rural Conservation* (Baltimore and London: The John Hopkins University Press, 1997), 192.

Terkel's and Charles Kuralt's conversations with everyday people. As a young adult, I lived in Central Illinois, not far from the small town of Royal. I was in awe of the residents of all ages who dismantled, moved, and rebuilt two large buildings there, brick by brick.<sup>9</sup> I've lived in my neighborhood for 37 years and have observed how people here create and recreate community.

To prepare for the interviews, I studied *Doing Oral History: A Practical Guide*, by Donald A. Ritchie; *Oral History and Public Memories*, edited by Paula Hamilton and Linda Shopes; *Oral History and the Law*, by John A. Neuenschwander; and *Oral History for Texans*, by Thomas L. Charlton. Online resources included the Baylor University Institute for Oral History *Introduction to Oral History* and Texas Historical Commission *Fundamentals of Oral History: Texas Preservation Guidelines*. To help provide context for my interview questions, I researched local history, as I have since 2003. I also revisited novels with themes of memory and sense of place, including Wendell Berry's *Remembering* and *The Memory of Old Jack* and Richard Llewellyn's *How Green Was My Valley*. I was moved by the words of neurologist Oliver Sacks, who wrote in his *New York Times* essay "My Own Life," "There will be no one like us when we are gone, but then there is no one like anyone else, ever. When people die, they cannot be replaced. They leave holes that cannot be filled."<sup>10</sup> Funding included two small nonprofit grants for interviews and two films and a small foundation grant to help us launch the website.<sup>11</sup> We sold copies of films and a neighborhood history booklet and received individual donations. Local churches and businesses provided space and a local media company loaned us equipment to screen our films featuring oral history excerpts. We were diligent about keeping costs low and seeking additional support. Today, I maintain the website as a volunteer.

### **Gathering, Preserving, and Sharing**

Between 2007 and 2011, we recorded 40 neighbors, ages 6 to 90, in addition to informal interviews with other neighbors between 2003 and 2006.<sup>12</sup> First, we contacted the Austin History Center (AHC), which agreed to be the repository for recorded interviews and other materials.

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9. Village of Royal, Champaign County, Illinois, "History," <https://villageofroyal.com/history/>, accessed May 27, 2022.

10. Oliver Sacks, "My Own Life," *New York Times*, February 19, 2015, <https://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/19/opinion/oliver-sacks-on-learning-he-has-terminal-cancer.html>, accessed May 27, 2022.

11. Susan Burneson, "History Overflows Time," *Voices of the Violet Crown*, <https://www.violetcrownvoices.com/>, accessed May 27, 2022.

12. Susan Burneson, "Oral History Interviews," *Voices of the Violet Crown*, <https://www.violetcrownvoices.com/oral-history-interviews>, accessed May 27, 2022.

Then, we met interviewees in person to introduce ourselves, explain the process, answer questions, and set up a convenient time and location. We conducted interviews, typically between 1 and 2 hours each, in neighbors' homes and yards, in our home, near the mosaic wall, and at the local park. I developed the questions and presented them. My husband recorded the sessions on a digital video camera, providing each interviewee with a lavalier microphone and adding lighting when needed. We asked interviewees to sign a permission form. Younger interviewees were accompanied by a parent, who signed for them.

Older neighbors, especially, seemed eager, even relieved, to tell us about their lives, and they shared rich experiences and insights. Common threads included having recent German and Swedish immigrant ancestors, living on a farm before moving to Austin (and, in two cases, living on farms here before neighborhoods were established), serving in the military, working hard and living modestly, coping with adversity, and attending church. More importantly, older neighbors' stories revealed their common ground with many of the younger families drawn to this area. They, too, are active in their children's lives and in their community, including caring for private and public greenspaces.

The interviews inspired me to do more research, expand on neighbors' stories, and share them in new ways. Bill Williamson was a World War II veteran and sheet metal worker.<sup>13</sup> Even with the G. I. Bill, he was barely able to afford a new home for his young family in 1952. Six years later, he earned some extra money, \$150, by creating the 8-foot-wide metal star that graces the top of the Texas Capitol rotunda.<sup>14</sup> We featured him in our film *A Community Mosaic*, and we began the Voices of the Violet Crown blog with his story.<sup>15</sup> Al Kirby stressed the historical value of property abstracts.<sup>16</sup> In one abstract, I discovered John Hancock, a prominent Austin lawyer. His land was developed into four Central Austin neighborhoods, including ours. The enslaved people who worked for him took the name Hancock when they were freed. One of them, Orange, is believed to have lived with his family in a log structure, now the Moore-Hancock Homestead, the only Texas Historic Landmark in our

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13. Bill Williamson, interview by Susan and Rob Burneson, October 7, 2007, Austin, Texas, archived at the Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, Texas.

14. *Austin American-Statesman*, "William 'Bill' Williamson Left His Mark With Iconic Star in Capitol," <https://www.statesman.com/story/news/2013/11/26/william-bill-williamson-left-his-mark-with-iconic-star-in-texas-capitol/10020422007/>, accessed May 27, 2022.

15. Susan Burneson, "Meet the Starmaker: Bill Williamson of Crestview." Voices of the Violet Crown, <https://www.violetcrownvoices.com/2011/meet-bill-williamson>, accessed May 27, 2022.

16. Al Kirby, interview by Susan and Rob Burneson, March 29, 2009, Austin, Texas, archived at the Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, Texas.

area.<sup>17</sup> Another, Rubin, became a landowner in what is now North Austin.<sup>18</sup> A history I wrote about Hancock Creek,<sup>19</sup> which flows through the land John Hancock once owned, was included in documentation that helped Crestview become a City of Austin Green Neighborhood.<sup>20</sup> Younger neighbor Susan Arbuckle remembered seeing what she called an “ex-slave cemetery” in an open field just north of Crestview in the late 1950s. Twenty years later, a neighborhood surrounded the St. Paul Baptist Cemetery (sometimes referred to as St. Paul’s). Today, it is protected by a secure fence and well maintained. Al’s and Susan’s stories led me to research the Black families who lived in our area before “A City Plan for Austin, Texas” was adopted in 1928.<sup>21</sup> The plan resulted in Blacks being forced to move to a “Negro District” in East Austin or to other towns.<sup>22</sup> While few grave markers remain in St. Paul Baptist Church Cemetery, I and others have helped document, through death certificates and other records, who is buried there.<sup>23</sup>

Al and another longtime neighbor, Mickey Bauer,<sup>24</sup> lived on farms here before the land became part of Austin. They remembered Esperanza School, for children who lived on nearby farms between 1893 and 1941.<sup>25</sup> Al also remembered French Rudolph “Doc” Haile, who owned a historically significant local airport from 1939 to 1948.<sup>26</sup> Mickey still lives within a few miles of her family’s farm, established in 1936.<sup>27</sup> Al and John Carlson<sup>28</sup> remembered Frank Richcreek, whose farm became the Crestview neighborhood in 1947. Al recalled sitting on the top of the Richcreek dairy barn and watching movies at the first drive-in movie

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17. The Historical Marker Database, “Moore-Hancock Homestead,” <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=100082>, accessed May 27, 2022.

18. Marie E. Blake and Terri Myers, “After Slavery: The Rubin Hancock Homestead, 1880-1916, Travis County Texas,” <https://scholarworks.sfasu.edu/ita/vol1999/iss1/15/>, accessed May 27, 2022.

19. Susan Burneson, “History of Hancock Creek/Arroyo Seco, Part 1.” *Voices of the Violet Crown*, <https://www.violetcrownvoices.com/2011/history-hancock-creek-part-1>, accessed May 27, 2022.

20. Friends of Brentwood Park, “About Us,” <https://www.friendsofbrentwoodpark.org/about-us/>, accessed May 27, 2022.

21. Koch and Fowler, “A City Plan for Austin, Texas,” <https://repositories.lib.utexas.edu/handle/2152/65853?show=full>, accessed May 27, 2022.

22. Judy Maggio, “ATX Together: Roots of Racism in Austin.” Produced by Carolyn Krawczyk. Austin PBS, January 29, 2021. Video, 28:56. <https://austinpbs.org/highlight/atx-together-roots-of-racism-in-austin>, accessed May 27, 2022.

23. Find a Grave, “Saint Pauls Baptist Church Cemetery,” <https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2171384/saint-pauls-baptist-church-cemetery?>, accessed May 27, 2022.

24. Frances (Mickey) and James Bauer, interview by Susan and Rob Burneson, May 15, 2010, Austin, Texas, archived at the Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, Texas.

25. Susan Burneson, “Esperanza: An Early Neighborhood School,” *Voices of the Violet Crown*, September 2, 2011. <https://www.violetcrownvoices.com/2011/esperanza-early-neighborhood-school>, accessed May 27, 2022.

26. Austin Explorer, “Haile Report,” <http://www.austinxplorer.com/Locations/ShowLocation.aspx?LocationID=1994>, accessed May 27, 2022.

27. Susan Burneson, “Blooming Where You’re Planted, Part 2,” *Voices of the Violet Crown*, March 2, 2012. <https://www.violetcrownvoices.com/2012/blooming-planted-part-2>, accessed May 27, 2022.

28. John and Judy Carlson, interview by Susan and Rob Burneson, September 5, 2009, Austin, Texas, archived at the Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, Texas.

theatre in Austin.<sup>29</sup> At the time, the drive-in had no individual car speakers, only a large outdoor one. John remembered his family driving from their farm to Austin once a year to shop for school. It was a slow trip in their Model T. When the family saw the large Richcreek barn they knew they were almost there. Nothing remains of any of those structures except neighbors' memories of them.

Ben Petmecky hadn't lived in our area since the 1950s and was frail when we interviewed him.<sup>30</sup> Still, he eagerly shared stories of his colorful life here and his pride at being a fifth-generation Texan and fourth-generation Austinite. After Ben died, his male partner, with whom Ben lived for more than 50 years, told us: "We are happy to have the DVD of Ben talking about some of the good old days. Thank you for it." When we interviewed Kay Ramsey, her parents, who built one of the first houses here, had recently passed away.<sup>31</sup> She said she found the interview healing, helping her move forward with her life. Ten years later, her granddaughter contacted us for a copy of Kay's interview. She said it gave her a new appreciation of her grandmother and great-grandparents.<sup>32</sup> Wanda and Emory Muehlbrad, whose grandparents emigrated from Germany, described how they raised four children and fostered hundreds more, many with special needs.<sup>33</sup> The Muehlbrads stayed in touch with their foster children as they grew up and had their own children. A few years after our interview, I told Wanda I sensed they easily could have fostered many more children. She said without hesitation, "Absolutely."

Other interviewees included five younger neighbors who founded the Friends of Brentwood Park (FOBP) in 2009 and coordinated a planting of 115 trees the next year.<sup>34</sup> FOBP co-founder Emily Wilson described how community is a continuum of past, present, and future, a view I also share: "Somebody before us planted these trees, and it's up to us to do the same, so there will be trees here for the next generation."<sup>35</sup> We also interviewed people who dedicated and helped plant trees in honor or

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29. Terry Moore and Rick Stivers, "North Austin Drive-in Theater,"

[http://www.captainchicken.org/austindrivein/north\\_austin/north\\_austin.html](http://www.captainchicken.org/austindrivein/north_austin/north_austin.html), accessed May 27, 2022.

30. Ben Petmecky, interview by Susan and Rob Burneson, May 24, 2009, San Marcos, Texas, archived at the Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, Texas.

31. Kay Ramsey, interview by Susan and Rob Burneson, January 12, 2008, Austin, Texas, archived at the Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, Texas.

32. Kristin Mitchener, correspondence to Susan Burneson, Austin, Texas, February 12, 2018.

33. Wanda and Emory Muehlbrad, interview by Susan and Rob Burneson, February 9, 2008, Austin, Texas, archived at the Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, Texas.

34. Friends of Brentwood Park, "Past Projects: Tree Planting Project 2010," <https://www.friendsofbrentwoodpark.org/past-projects/tree-planting-project>, accessed May 27, 2022.

35. Emily Wilson, interview by Susan and Rob Burneson, October 30, 2010, Austin, Texas, archived at the Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, Texas.

memory of loved ones, important since city regulations prohibit tree plaques or tags. Our film about the event features interview excerpts.<sup>36</sup> Beginning in 2008, we donated DVD copies of interviews, signed permission forms, and transcriptions to the Austin History Center, keeping a set for our files. We gave each interviewee a DVD, and we provide additional copies for a small fee. Between 2009 and 2019, we donated a copy of our film, two history booklets, and other project papers to the AHC, with another donation planned for this year.<sup>37</sup> I assisted the Friends of Brentwood Park in donating interview DVDs, signed permission forms, and a copy of the film *We Planted 115 Trees* to the AHC in 2011.<sup>38</sup> The group also plans to make another donation this year.

Similarly, I helped two longtime genealogy clients donate hundreds of copies of the four hardbound books we produced together to repositories throughout the United States. They passed away within months of their final book being published in 2019, when they were in their late 90s. *Heart of Texas: Life Stories of Richard Davis Hardin With Coleen Grant Hardin* features transcriptions of their oral histories.<sup>39</sup> The book received a first-place award from the Texas State Genealogical Society.<sup>40</sup> In 2020, an audio essay I wrote about Coleen and recorded was selected for “Common Ground,” a project of KUT Radio in Austin, and is preserved on its website.<sup>41</sup>

More recently, I was selected to be a community advisor and juror for a public art project planned for our area. Initially, I contributed local history for the project’s website.<sup>42</sup> Then, I helped select and provide feedback to artists who, in addition to having strong creative and technical skills, are committed to producing a lasting work of art that will incorporate oral and local history, reflect the unique character of our area, and engage neighbors of all ages.<sup>43</sup>

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36. Rob and Susan Burneson, *We Planted 115 Trees*. 2011. Digital video, 11:47.

<https://www.violetcrownvoices.com/5261-2>, accessed May 27, 2022.

37. Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, Texas, “Susan and Rob Burneson Recordings and Papers,” [https://txarchives.org/aushc/finding\\_aids/00141.xml](https://txarchives.org/aushc/finding_aids/00141.xml), accessed May 27, 2022.

38. Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, Texas, “Friends of Brentwood Park Video Collection,” [https://txarchives.org/aushc/finding\\_aids/00223.xml](https://txarchives.org/aushc/finding_aids/00223.xml), accessed May 27, 2022.

39. Richard Davis Hardin With Coleen Grant Hardin, *Heart of Texas: Life Stories of Richard Davis Hardin With Coleen Grant Hardin*. <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/3461940>, accessed May 27, 2022.

40. Texas State Genealogical Society, “2019 Awards Recipients,”

<https://www.txsgs.org/programs/awards-grants/2019-awards-recipients/>, accessed May 27, 2022.

41. Matt Largey, “Across Age, Class And Politics Susan Burneson Found a Friendship That Lasted Decades,” KUT 90.5, September 15, 2020. <https://www.kut.org/life-arts/2020-09-15/across-age-class-and-politics-susan-burneson-found-a-friendship-that-lived-decades>, accessed May 27, 2022.

42. Art-on-the-Corridor, “Burnet Road,” <https://www.artonthecorridor.org/burnet-road>, accessed May 27, 2022.

43. Austin Arts Commission, “Corridor Construction Program, Burnet Road, Selection Process Recommendation,” <https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=381295>, accessed May 27, 2022.

A fifth-grade teacher at a local school contacted me in early 2021.<sup>44</sup> She had assigned her students to research neighborhood history and conduct oral history interviews. I provided links to our website, where students learned about longtime neighbors and area history. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, their interviews were limited to other students. At the end of the year, they shared their impressive presentation with the school. Their teacher plans to have the students interview retired teachers and other community members for future projects. That spring, I also was invited to record a video presentation for another school's career day, held virtually because of the pandemic. I described my work as a journalist, archive researcher, and professional genealogist, and I emphasized the value of being involved in the community and gathering people's stories and local history. Videos are archived on the school's website.

Later that year, I talked with a younger neighbor who was exploring new ways, including writing a book, to help teach children the value of community.<sup>45</sup> She wanted to learn more about *Voices of the Violet Crown*, and I described the essence of our project: gathering neighbors' stories and moving beyond the interview through research, exhibits, three films, feature articles, presentations, two history booklets, regular website updates and social media posts, and preserving our work at the Austin History Center.<sup>46</sup> In December 2022, she published her children's book, a creative retelling of stories from neighbors in our community.

## Responses

Over the years, I have been heartened by neighbors' comments about the project. In 2014, a local architect told me, "I love your capturing the history of the area in a very connected and human fashion."<sup>47</sup> The neighbor who recently published a children's book said, "Thanks for [your work] on behalf of our beloved neighborhood. Your efforts will be appreciated far into the future."<sup>48</sup> Last year, a neighborhood leader wrote, "We depend on you for saving our history . . . It is so important."<sup>49</sup> According to web analytics, our site has a steady stream of daily visitors. Spikes of activity, including readers' comments, typically follow my updates on social media.

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44. Laura Beck, correspondence to Susan Burneson, Austin, Texas, April 7, 2021.

45. Lauren Cook, correspondence to Susan Burneson, Austin, Texas, September 21, 2021.

46. Susan Burneson, "Community Outreach: Moving Beyond the Interview," *Voices of the Violet Crown*, <https://www.violetcrownvoices.com/about-the-project>, accessed May 27, 2022.

47. Don Leighton-Burwell, correspondence to Susan Burneson, Austin, Texas, October 31, 2014.

48. Lauren Cook, correspondence to Susan Burneson, Austin, Texas, October 7, 2021.

49. Diane Larson, correspondence to Susan Burneson, Austin, Texas, April 13, 2022.



People outside the neighborhood also have shared encouraging words. In November 2009, when my husband and I received the Mary Faye Barnes Award from the TOHA, then-board member Cynthia Beeman said, among other comments:

*Susan and Rob Burneson, through their documentary film A Community Mosaic, have captured the soul and spirit of the Crestview and Brentwood neighborhoods by providing an opportunity for the people who built and live in the communities to tell their stories . . . [creating] a valuable historical resource that not only provides a source of celebration with their neighbors but also leaves a priceless legacy for future generations.<sup>50</sup>*

In 2016, Preservation Austin's annual historic homes tour focused on neighborhoods in our area. I contributed local history and neighbors' stories that were included in the tour booklet. In the acknowledgments, Executive Director Lindsey Derrington wrote:

*Special thanks to Crestview's Susan Burneson, of the Voices of the Violet Crown community history project, for her generous help developing this year's tour. Her extensive knowledge of Brentwood and Crestview's past formed the basis for much of the information presented here and was essential to our understanding of North Austin's postwar history. We would have been lost without her.<sup>51</sup>*

As a TOHA member, I served for three years as a judge for the Texas History Day Student Oral History Award. I was impressed by the skill of the young documentarians who entered films into the competition. I also recognized the value of encouraging them, as others have done for me, in addition to judging their work. As students shared their films and discussed them with us, their passion for and confidence in their work grew more evident.<sup>52</sup>

## Conclusion

Despite the challenges of a grassroots project, for two decades Voices of the Violet Crown has helped foster community spirit, so important in our rapidly evolving urban area. We preserve our work and share it widely, keeping it accessible to neighbors and others, now and

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50. Susan Burneson, "Recognition," Voices of the Violet Crown, <http://www.violetcrownvoices.com/recognition>, accessed May 27, 2022.

51. Preservation Austin, *Austin's Post-War Boom: Preservation Austin 2016 Historic Homes Tour*, 42.

52. Texas Oral History Association, *Sound Bites*, September 2012, <https://www.baylor.edu/content/services/document.php/177910.pdf>, accessed May 27, 2022.

well into the future. Our website will remain online for at least one more year, and we are exploring the possibilities of creating a print and/or electronic book to extend our outreach. When the project began to take shape in early 2003, at the heart of it were the stories of our neighbors. Most original residents, including those we interviewed, are no longer living, and many of the younger interviewees have moved away. We feel fortunate to have captured their stories when we did, and we are grateful to all of them for sharing so generously with us.