

DONATED ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION

PAT CODY -- HER CONTRIBUTIONS IN HEALTH, PEACE, AND POLITICS

An Interview Conducted by Alice Hamburg, February, 1986

(In fulfillment of requirements for Soc. 48A, Code 0398,

Advanced Oral History: Beyond Theory, UC Berkeley/Vista College,  
Instructor, Elaine Dorfman)

PAT CODY--HER CONTRIBUTIONS IN HEALTH, PEACE, AND POLITICS

Interview with Pat Cody

Date of Interview : 25 February 1986

Interviewer: Alice Hamburg

Transcriber: Alice Hamburg

## PAT CODY INTERVIEW

This interview is in fulfillment of the requirements for Advanced Oral History, Soc. 48A, Code 0398, offered by UC Berkeley/Vista College, Elaine Dorfman instructor.

I chose to interview Pat Cody because of the contributions which she and late husband, Fred, have made to the Berkeley community. This included their efforts to interpret and communicate the needs of the large numbers of youth drawn to the city by the student uprisings of the 60's and early 70's. The Codys also served as mediators in the student/hippie confrontations with the Establishment.

We have here, also, the story of the beginnings and development of Cody's Books. Included as well are the contributions which Pat, herself, has made. Here we see Pat Cody as one of those who helped organize Berkeley Women for Peace, and who led the campaign for health and other services for the transient population. Her personal involvement in DES Actions as well as other feminist concerns are likewise told here.

It is my hope that the interview will prove helpful for students in health and women's studies.

Interviewer: Alice Hamburg

Interview with Patricia Cody, Interview I.  
Date of Interview: 25 February 1986; Berkeley, California  
Interviewer: Alice Hamburg  
Transcriber: Alice Hamburg  
Begin Tape I, Side A

PATRICIA CODY: HER CONTRIBUTIONS IN HEALTH, PEACE, AND POLITICS

Hamburg: I am Alice Hamburg. I am in the home of Pat Cody in Berkeley, California, Tuesday, February 25. I am about to interview Pat about her extremely interesting life. I'm really anticipating finding out all about you, Pat. I'd like to ask you something about your early life.

Cody: I'm the middle child of eight children: I have three older sisters and three younger brothers and a younger sister. Catholic family, brought up in New England which was a wonderful heritage to have. I think the success of the book store had something to do with being brought up by a frugal parent in a frugal part of the country. I skipped a grade when I was a kid so I graduated from high school when I was sixteen.

The only free college in Connecticut was a teachers' college, so I went to teachers' college even though I didn't want to be a teacher. It coincided with the start of the Second World War which meant that it was much more possible for a person to work their way through school and get part-time jobs than it would have been had it been in the height of the depression. So I went there and we were on an accelerated program

Cody: because of the war and the shortage of teachers. That meant we went through the summer and I graduated in December of 1943. I didn't want to teach. I wanted to go to graduate school. So I didn't get dragged down into taking some teaching job in a little town in Connecticut. I went home and lived with my parents in order to save money and I worked in a war factory, the Electric Boat Company where they made submarines for a year as an electrician, saved my money, and in February of 1945 went down to Manhattan and into Columbia Graduate School.

Hamburg: Pat, you are telling me a great deal about your life. And if you don't mind I'd like to go back just a little ways. I'd like to hear about your parents, about your family.

Cody: Sure. My father worked for the New York-New Haven-and Hartford railroad as a telegrapher initially and then he became a freight agent. He was also from a poor Catholic family; very, very bright person. In fact, he got an appointment to West Point from his county in upper New York State but could not take it because he had to go to work to support his widowed mother and his sisters. And my mother was the middle child of five children from an Alsatian, which is really more German than anything else, background. My father's background was Irish and Scottish. As I said, I was the middle child and my formative years were during the Depression.

Hamburg: What about your political background?

Cody: My father was a Republican, very, very strong Republican. And my mother pretty much was one of those kind of homemakers who left politics to her husband. So once I got away from home and

Cody: once the rest of us did--fierce political arguments all the time. Because when I went away to college and then I came back after one year of college I came back a radical, that upset my parents a lot. And I was told that if I did not stop my communism and my atheism that I would not be allowed to go back to school.

Now, I was supporting myself, so they weren't giving me any money. And I was of age by then, or I would have been by the time I started my sophomore year in college, I would have been just eighteen. But it was sort of the moral suasion, or force, you know, the parental stick. So I just quit for a while, quit giving out my opinions at home, at least not when my parents were around. But I did try to influence my--

Hamburg: How about your siblings?

Cody: Yes, you got it. (Laughter) Especially, of course, my younger siblings, because the older ones weren't at home and I was the brash younger sister to them. But to my three younger brothers I had a lot of influence on them, I really did. Which is very gratifying because they have all turned out to be wonderful people. (Laughter)

Hamburg: Was there ever any reconciliation with your parents?

Cody: Oh, yes. We just--afterwards, especially with my father, we just agreed to disagree, as it was, and we used to argue all the time. But it was loving argument. Political, it would rage hot and furious, but not in a sense of any disrespect on either side. And my father would just laugh. We'd make some statement and oh, he'd laugh. Then he'd say something that we

Cody: thought was totally ridiculous--and we would just go at it hot and heavy a good deal of the time.

Hamburg: That's interesting. I think that unless you want to tell me something about the environment other than just your family, because I am interested in how you developed your ideology.

Cody: Oh, well then, I would say that I was always a very avid reader. And when I was a little kid in this town in Massachusetts--it was a little town called Oxford about twelve miles south of Worcester, in central Massachusetts--the public library was my window on the world. It was the most important thing in my life, and that's why I've always had an almost religious fervor about libraries ever since then. It was only open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, and you could only take out two books at a time. So there I was, on my way home from school, get my two books--I would read them through that night. Wednesday morning I was all ready but I couldn't go back until Thursday afternoon. By the time I was eleven I had read every book in the children's section. Not that that was too huge. Of course, as soon as I knew words I was also going to be a writer--that was something else I was going to do. And when I was in high school I was the editor of the high school paper. I had a little family newspaper. My maiden name was Herbert and I had a family newspaper called the "Herbert Herald," which I used to laboriously copy and send off to relatives. I read a great deal.

Hamburg: Did you win any early recognition?

Cody: (Laughter) Oh yes, I well remember that, I think I was eight years old. The newspaper had a Saturday page for children and

Cody: I sent in a poem and I won 50¢. Well, can you imagine seeing yourself in print for the first time? And I will give you the first two lines of that wonderful poem. "'Twas a lovely evening in September, the lake was clear and still / A sweet young maiden came and stood upon the grassy hill." (Laughter)

Hamburg: No wonder you won the prize.

Cody: It's so derivative; it's so terrible. Oh, it makes me blush. See, that just shows you how relaxed I am with you that I can tell you such terrible, terrible poetry.

Hamburg: No, it's lovely and of a great deal of interest to us. So, unless you think that there is something significant in your very early life that you've left out, then we could proceed, perhaps, to your--

Cody: Well, there's just one thing that I would say, since you're talking about how does a person get their ideas and how do they change, and so on. When I was twelve, we moved from the town that we lived in where I had gone through all these years of school with these kids. And we moved to another town because my father got a better job still within the railroad system. Maybe I was thirteen or fourteen--which is such a critical time, as anyone who has raised kids knows, so my first year of high school was spent among a bunch of strangers. And then, and everyone in my family absolutely hated that we had moved, as kids do, at the end of that year my father got another opportunity to bid on a job down in Mystic, Connecticut and did do it and we moved again, much cheered by all the members of the family. Because we attributed our unhappiness to the town we

Cody: had come to rather than to the move itself. So then we moved to another town. Now I entered as a sophomore in high school, not knowing a soul.

So my high school years were very unhappy, miserable. Because there were all these cliques that were already established. And I became very conscious, not only the cliques that you become aware of, but without being able to articulate it, I knew it was a whole class system that was operating. And that the kids who were in the college track were the upper middle-class kids, because this is 1938-1939. The whole class system was so apparent even if I couldn't put my finger on it. I think that that made a deep impression on me, the injustice of the whole thing.

Hamburg: Was that true, do you think, throughout your high school career?

Cody: Oh, yes. I felt a misfit. Part of it now, I recognize, was that I felt out of place, not only that we moved there, but I was younger than the other kids because I had skipped a grade. When I graduated I was sixteen. Many of my colleagues were eighteen and they were going to get married. I hadn't even gone on a date yet. There was a social immaturity in a sense, you know. And also I was a bright kid so there weren't a whole lot of people who were on my peer level then. And I just felt like so many kids do, you know, like I'm the odd one out.

The other factor is, which was very important, is my next older sister, my sister Nora was the family beauty, and she was

Cody: just so--and she was very charming also--but so pretty. She had dark brown hair and big brown eyes. Well I was blond and blue-eyed. So people would say, "Are you Nora Herbert's sister? You don't look anything like her." And I always took that to mean--because she's so pretty and you're so homely. So I was going to compensate for that by putting a real chip on my shoulder. People who were worthwhile didn't look at looks, you know. Plus the fact that we were poor and my wardrobe left much to be desired. So all that created, you see, a sort of angst that is very common with adolescents.

What I'm getting at with all this is that when I went away to college where nobody knew my family, I was on my own, and after I initially got over being homesick for a couple months, I was so happy. I had found at last what I had been looking for. I was like a sponge in water to be getting all this learning which I never really had a chance to in high school.

Hamburg: Would you tell me again of the college?

Cody: It was State Teachers College in Willimantic, Connecticut, a four-year college. You get a bachelor of science in education degree. And I had some great teachers there and some of them were radicals. And they totally turned my ideas around. When I went to this college I was Catholic, I was Republican--picked up all this from my family. And by the time six months went by I was through with religion and I just became increasingly radical. That's where I got radicalized.

Hamburg: But you had not attended parochial school?

Cody: Oh, fortunately no. Right. They didn't have them in small

Cody: towns. So, and even if they had, I don't know how my folks would've afforded it with eight kids.

Hamburg: So we come to your graduation. Do you want to tell me about that?

Cody: So I went through Teacher's College and had a very happy time, really, in the school, despite the fact that the war was on. So life was exciting in many ways. It was distorted from being a normal life, of course, when the country's at war. For one thing, to a young person there aren't a lot of young men around. And that sounds kind of crass to say that when there are so much bigger issues. But still, you only have your youth once. So I graduated and, as I said, I came home and worked at the shipyard for a year, did my best to try to institute radicalism there. I know I worked with an electrician and we worked on the communications system within the submarine and that involved testing.

Hamburg: What community was this where you were?

Cody: In Groton, Connecticut. It was a small town near Mystic, Connecticut where my family, my parents live. And when it came time to do the testing of the equipment when we had wired up this submarine, there were these loudspeakers in every single room of the submarine. The guy I worked with was the most unimaginative clod you ever heard of and he would say, you know, "Testing, 1-2-3." But when I got on that mike, well: "Fellow workers," I would say, "we are soon coming up to a presidential election which is very important that Franklin Roosevelt be reelected." Or else I would go on some spiel

Cody: about how it was important for us to do our work so carefully because all the allies were depending on us. (Laughter) But mostly it was a boring job and I was just doing it to save money to get to--

Hamburg: You were not reprimanded for spouting your philosophy?

Cody: No. Nobody took it seriously because I was a woman, and women had all the low paying jobs. I got 96¢ an hour, and women never got up to be a journeyman.

Hamburg: But you had no difficulty getting a job?

Cody: Oh, heavens no. It was during the war. They were desperate for any warm body. They were getting cost plus. They didn't care. The more people on the payroll, the better.

Hamburg: So, what was your next big move, after you quit working?

Cody: I went to New York and I went to graduate school at Columbia.

Hamburg: When did you go to New York?

Cody: February of 1945, just three months before VE Day.

Hamburg: And you entered Columbia?

Cody: Right.

Hamburg: Tell me about your studies there.

Cody: Because I had come from a teachers' college which at that time, and maybe still today, is not considered as good an education as a liberal arts college, they wouldn't immediately let me into graduate school at Columbia. So they said, well, the best way for you to do is to go over to the graduate school at Teachers College, which was affiliated with Columbia, and take courses there and then we will give you this graduate record exam. And if you pass it satisfactorily in the field

Cody: you wish to major in here, we will credit you with as many courses as possible from over there. So I took courses from Teachers College, Columbia. For instance, I took courses in sociology and courses in economics, and so on, rather than just courses that had to do with education, because I wanted to transfer all those credits over which were costing me my life's blood of my savings, you know.

And I got a job working for the Navy in an office part-time job to pay for my room and board while I was at Columbia, and my savings went to pay Columbia's tuition. And so I had one semester there and one of the courses I took was given by a very gifted teacher. And I now realize how rare it is to find a really gifted teacher, and it was a course in economics. And it absolutely blew me away because I'd never had economics courses in college. This is what I want to do. I mean, it was so clear to me that this was what I wanted to study.

So I took the GRE (Graduate Record Exam) and they had told me at Columbia that if I could get the same score on that that a graduate from a liberal arts college got, then they would have no problem accepting me. So I did. So then I went over and started my M.A. program at Columbia. In the meantime the war ended so my job with the Navy ended. And I still had to have a job. So, I remember, I went to some of my teachers at Columbia and one of them was Bernhard Stern who was a Marxist and taught sociology and anthropology and was the editor-in-chief of Science and Society which is still being published, a Marxist quarterly. And they needed somebody in their office--

Cody: it was the most piddling little part-time job you can ever imagine. A scholarly quarterly--they had a room that was about the size of this room. I'll never forget, down on East 20th Street. They were awfully nice people, those editors. And so I did that job and--

Hamburg: How long did you work there?

Cody: Well, I worked there until I had finished all my course work at Columbia--so it must have been a couple of years. And in the meantime, of course, the most important thing in my life was, right around that time I met Fred.

Hamburg: Oh, that's interesting. Tell me about what he was doing.

Cody: Well, he came from West Virginia and he was in the Air Force and he had had money taken out of his pay all the time he was in the Air Force, so he had something like \$1500. And there was the G.I. Bill, you know, and he did not want to stay in West Virginia where he had been a newspaperman, so he came up to New York.

Hamburg: He must have started very young as a newspaperman.

Cody: Yes, but he was seven years older than I was. So he graduated from college a year before I graduated from high school. He graduated from college in 1939 and immediately went to work on the newspaper there in Huntington, West Virginia. And when he was at school and at the newspaper both, one of his friends was a man named John Dunbar. Now John was also in the Air Force but John came out earlier and was in New York and I met John through a mutual friend. And that's how I met Fred--through John Dunbar. And John Dunbar and his wife Ruth live

Cody: in Berkeley now, and I just had dinner with them the other night. So it's lovely the way--

Hamburg: Can you tell me just very briefly about the difference between being in Manhattan and where you had lived up to that point?

Cody: Well, I had read Thomas Wolfe, The Web and the Rock, which is all about New York. It is the most romantic picture of New York City. He wrote that in the mid-thirties. And I had read that when I was seventeen, when I was a freshman in college, and I was absolutely mad to live in New York. I could not wait. That was to me the be-all, the end-all, the mecca of my life so that to actually do it was--well, you can see the vision that sustained me for a year while I was working in that shipyard. And I worked the swing-shift from 4 o'clock in the afternoon until 1 o'clock in the morning intentionally so that I wouldn't be tempted to spend my money and would save it for my goal. And it was a pretty boring life.

Hamburg: That was the first year?

Cody: After I got out of college and was living at home and working in the shipyard and saving my money. As they say, the old Puritan delayed gratification, that vision of going to New York was what kept me steady in that for a year, that very boring thing. So when I went down to New York--those were the days when the subway was a nickel, you didn't lock your door. That was the halcyon days of New York City, plus we had won the war. The world was going to be safe for democracy. The allied powers, the Russians and the Americans were going to be friends. We had the United Nations coming into being. Every-

Cody: thing was totally rosy. It was such euphoria.

Hamburg: Did you notice any of the negative features of New York at that time?

Cody: Not to me, no. I didn't find any negative features. But what was I, twenty? See, when would that be--I was twenty-one when I came there. So I wasn't in a position like someone with a family or this, that and the other. I had nobody to look after but myself. I found these little jobs. They just paid me survival. I couldn't buy clothes. I remember when I worked for Science and Society I made \$22 a week.

Hamburg: You were probably pretty fortunate at that in those days.

Cody: Well, this was right at the tag end of the war so it was still full employment.

Hamburg: It was still pretty good.

Cody: I think my room was \$7 a week. So I had the rest for my meals and going to the movies and whatever, so it was enough. I wasn't a clothes horse.

Hamburg: So then, let's move forward to your meeting with Fred.

Cody: I met Fred in--

Hamburg: It must have been really electric!

Cody: Well, no it wasn't, it wasn't like that. Fred had come from being in England. He was in the Air Force. He came home in early August, 1945. And he was on a train going from Boston down to Fort Mead. They had a week's home leave. He was on a train going from Boston down to Huntington, West Virginia and at Providence a newsboy comes on the train. Fred was the only one that bought the paper--August 8. And Fred was so excited.

Cody: He was smart and political. And he tried to rouse his associates and say, "Do you know what this means? We are not going to go to the Pacific. The war is going to be over." "Aw, go on, we're never going to get out." He had nobody to share it with.

Hamburg: Was this a troop train? Were there a lot of servicemen on it?

Cody: No, it wasn't exactly a troop train, but it was loaded with guys--oh, yes, it was more or less a troop train. Except that people were going on leave for a week. So that was August 8. So he went back home for a few days and then he had to go to Fort Mead to be demobilized officially.

Hamburg: The orders had come through then?

Cody: Oh yes. They didn't want to keep on paying them housing and taking care of people. And everyone was itching to get out.

Hamburg: Not all servicemen got out.

Cody: No, you got out on points, remember? You got so many points for whether you were married, etc., but the main points you got were for how long you'd been in the service and how long you'd been outside the United States. Well, Fred had been in the service for four years, well, almost four years, and he'd been in England and he had different commendations for his unit, so forth and so on. So no problem, he got out right away. He couldn't wait. He hated the military. He was very much in favor of the war effort but he's the last person in the world to want regimentation on that free spirit. Oh no, he hated the military.

Hamburg: What rank was Fred?

Cody: He finally, being in there long enough, I think, he got to be staff sergeant. He refused to go to officer's training school. So he was a staff sergeant.

Hamburg: He was ushered out, then?

Cody: Right. So he was only home a couple of weeks when he came up to Manhattan and one of the first people he looked up was his friend, John Dunbar. And John and two other guys lived right around the corner from where I lived. We were good friends, used to stop in there practically every day to see them. Coffee pot was always on, you know. It was just a little circle we had of radical kids. And so that's how I met Fred.

Hamburg: What was John up to at that time?

Cody: He was going to Columbia and he did go for their Ph.D. in the history program. Fred didn't know exactly what he wanted to do so he started just taking some courses in a kind of a vague way.

Hamburg: Fred enrolled at Columbia?

Cody: Right, on the G.I. Bill. But he didn't quite know what he wanted to do. So in the meantime, I was working at Science and Society and I was taking my courses at Columbia in economics and then I was settling on my Masters Thesis which I wrote on The Decline of Competition in the Motion Picture Industry. And that was a very interesting topic. I had met Fred in September of '45 and we were married the following August. I knew somebody who had this little apartment that they didn't need, which was very rare. Apartments were very hard to get.

Hamburg: You didn't tell me anything about the romance, whatsoever.

Cody: (Laughter) Well, I don't know that that's very kind of

Cody: germane.

Hamburg: I guess what I'm interested in, because I knew Fred and I knew him as a very dynamic personality. And I've always thought of the two of you being together and I've sort of wondered what really attracted you to each other.

Cody: All I'd say about that is that it was my first meeting with Fred and first going out with him was very refreshing because up to that time most of the men I'd met were, well, we used to have the word 'wolves', I don't know what they say nowadays, but that's what we called them. Somebody was a wolf who just wanted to get you into bed. And these were the days, of course, long before the pill, plus of course this Catholic upbringing. I wasn't Catholic anymore but I was still pretty inhibited. And I didn't like any guy who would move in on me so aggressively. No one likes that.

Fred wasn't like that. He was so sweet and so gentle and just seemed to enjoy being with me and we'd go to things. I went to the first opera in my life. Fred had been a music critic and was a great music fan. It was Wagner, Die Meister-singer. And we went to plays together and we did a lot of different things before he even kissed me and it was very unusual. I was so intrigued. What is it with this guy? You know? (Laughter)

I think it was Christmas. So he would come down to the Science and Society office and help me wrap up the packages to get the bulk orders out when it came out. And I think it was really the New Years Eve party in the apartment of John Dunbar

Cody: and these other guys. And it was a big party, there must have been twenty people there. And there were a couple of guys there that I knew and that started paying me a lot of attention. And that really got Fred going. And I had never seen him act like that, sort of jealous. And that's more or less when everything kind of fell into place, that we were going to be more than just going out on dates.

So after that we just went out with each other, exclusively. And then in June, when the term was over, he was going to go home for a week to see his parents. And I had a brother working in West Virginia but in the other end of the state. And all of a sudden I developed this big need to go visit my brother. And so then Fred said well, as long as you're going to be in West Virginia why don't you just come down and visit me. You know, you deceive yourself with these little transparent maneuvers. So that's what happened and when I was visiting at his house was when he proposed to me. And then we didn't take too long. That was the end of June and we got married in August.

Hamburg: What was the reaction of your family?

Cody: Well, my parents were, really, considering that they were fairly rigid Catholics and Fred was Methodist and he wasn't church-going anyhow . . .

# # (End of Tape I, Side A) # #

Interview with Patricia Cody, Interview I.  
Date of Interview: 25 February 1986; Berkeley, California  
Interviewer: Alice Hamburg  
Transcriber: Alice Hamburg  
Begin Tape I, Side B

Hamburg: I'm talking to Pat Cody and this is side B of Tape I. And we've just gotten Pat and Fred Cody married. Now I want to know, had you completed your work for your Masters?

Cody: Well, I had finished the classwork but I had to write my thesis and that is what I set out to do. And Fred decided that he didn't really feel at that moment that he wanted to continue with graduate school. And the U.N. had just decided to establish itself in New York.

Hamburg: That was what year?

Cody: This was 1946. And in fact it was out at the former Sperry bombsight or gyroscope plant out at Lake Success. So Fred got a job out there in the Information Department. And right around that time I had a friend who worked for the United Electrical Workers Union--their national headquarters was there in Manhattan on East 51st Street--and he was the director of their publicity and publications. He needed an assistant, what would nowadays be called an administrative assistant, and so I applied for and got that job. And that was a full-time job. And then I did my research and my writing and my thesis in the evenings and on weekends. And so now here we are, two young people, both with our jobs and living in this little apartment.

Hamburg: But Fred eventually went back to school, did he not?

Cody: Oh, yes, he went back.

Hamburg: I'd like to know about your work.

Cody: So I was in school and Fred was working for the U.N. and then the U.N. had a trade conference in Cuba. And it was supposed to be a six-week trade conference and Fred was asked to go down there and work at the conference as one of the staff. That was in '47, November '47. So he did and this six-week conference-- we were so naive about international conferences--turned out-- this was the week before Thanksgiving and it was supposed to be six weeks which would have brought him back the first week of January. He didn't come home until March 29.

Hamburg: And you weren't with him?

Cody: Oh no. And one of the reasons we did it was because he was given a per diem allowance for hotel and meals and we would put his pay in the bank and save for being able to do something we wanted to do with it. Because already Fred was talking about maybe going to school some place else and combining traveling with--

Hamburg: Was he in the employ of the U.N.?

Cody: Right. He worked for the United Nations. So that four months that he was there gave us the money, because I just put his check entirely in the bank, didn't touch it, gave us the money for launching ourselves. Money may not buy happiness but it sure buys opportunity. And when he came back--in the meantime I was finishing up on my dissertation. And so we had very, very close friends of ours. And he wanted to be a medical

- Cody: student and could not get into American medical schools because of the quotas on Jews, finally got into a Mexico City school.
- Hamburg: Do you mean there were quotas at that time in the eastern part of the country?
- Cody: There were always quotas on Jews and, I'm sure, on Catholics, and Blacks couldn't even get in, I'm sure. And he applied to seventy medical schools--7-0--and this is a brilliant, brilliant cardiologist, he's practicing in New York now. So they went to Mexico.
- Cody: Well they started writing us letters: "Why don't you come down here and go to school." And with the G.I. Bill and one thing or another. In the meantime, I had this job which I liked a lot and I was finishing up on my degree.
- Hamburg: You were still with the magazine.
- Cody: No, I was with the United Electrical Workers Union, working full time in their publicity and promotion. And when they had a strike we would put out all kinds of materials and so on.
- Hamburg: How long did you work there?
- Cody: About two years, I think, maybe. Then, through a friend of mine I met a doctor who was a specialist in Cerebral Palsy. And this was when not much was known about it. And he wanted to set up the Cerebral Palsy Association. And he was very impressed with me and wanted me to be the executive organizer of this thing, which is now this humungous national organization with big fancy offices and everything. And this was the very start of it. And I was tempted by the offer.

Cody: But, first of all, it wasn't anything political and I was very political and I liked the job at the Union for that reason. And we were active, like, in Henry Wallace's campaign. And my goodness, and by this time we had gotten out of our little New York apartment and we were living in New Jersey in the bedroom community called Dumont. And we were ringing the doorbells for Henry and going to all the rallies and so on. Because, of course, I didn't say it but I would think it would be self evident I would never have married anybody who didn't have politics similar to mine. Though Fred was not as radical as I was. He was never as radical as I was. But, anyhow, close enough. So, as I say, I was sort of tempted by this job and I was flattered by it and it would have been a great opportunity just in terms of a career. But it wasn't political.

And Fred was getting more and more restless at the U.N. because he was not able to get into the kind of work he really wanted to do. And the siren call of our friends in Mexico got stronger and stronger. And then one day Fred said, "Okay, this is something I really want to do and if you don't want to come, I'm going to do it anyway."

Hamburg: Very interesting. I'd like to go back and ask you just one question about your radical philosophy. Do you trace this to your professors or was it sort of a life-long thing that you came to because of what you observed in your high school days? How do you explain your philosophy?

Cody: I think this kind of--the fact that I was brought up to be--my mother was obviously a woman who did like children and she

Cody: still liked the baby when she had eight of them. And she was a very loving and nurturing woman. So I have that kind of feeling for people plus this whole class thing that I observed without really being able to put my finger on it when I was in high school. And then when I went to college and got exposed to radical ideas everything fell into place. It just made so much sense to me. And that's when I really got radicalized.

Hamburg: How did World War II fit into your scheme of thinking? Did that help or did it radicalize you?

Cody: Oh, well, I was so committed to the anti-Nazi cause and so gung-ho about defeating fascism and so on, that I was totally, as you know yourself, it was very different from the way people felt in this country during the Vietnam or the Korean wars. The nation was pretty much united. During the Second World War there were plenty of people who were only out for the black market and what they could get out of it personally. But it wasn't like there was any big opposition to the war, as you know. The Second World War was really supported by the people of this country very strongly, and I was one of them. I was just fully in it.

Then when the war was over the cold war began, as you remember, in 1948. There was the Fulton, Missouri speech of Winston Churchill and Truman. Coming right along with that was the Marshall Plan. So I began to, once more, have a brief honeymoon from politics, but it didn't last very long. And you can see the need to be active and Fred and I were active.

Hamburg: Where did Fred fit in? You were both working for Wallace

Hamburg: during the '48 campaign and you were about ready to go to Mexico. But, for instance, was Fred satisfied that the U.N. was doing its job?

Cody: Oh, no. He had a lot of criticism of things because you could see the whole political situation there. And within the U.N. itself, when the people working on the staff wanted to form a union and one of Fred's close friends there was fired from the U.N. for organizing the union and Trygve Lee was really a big union buster. And so that was another thing that was a great political education, and that was very disillusioning too, for Fred. So, all in all, he was restless and ready to move on. And it was a great thing that we did, although I was not as adventurous as he was.

Hamburg: How did you resolve this business of Mexico?

Cody: Oh, did I go? Indeed I did. And went across the border with a dictionary on my lap with this old beat-up car that we bought to drive down there.

Hamburg: And that was what year?

Cody: That was September of '49. So Fred went to Mexico City College and got an M.A. in history there and I got myself a job working for a little tourist newspaper.

Hamburg: Had Fred had any Spanish?

Cody: No, we learned Spanish and everything else all down there.

Hamburg: And these courses were in Spanish?

Cody: Some of them were and some were in English.

Hamburg: And what were you doing?

Cody: I got a job working for a tourist newspaper.

Hamburg: And how was that as a job?

Cody: Oh, it was great because I got to be very--it was a little throwaway paper that was put around at the hotels and supported by the advertising. And what I did was to get all the copy from Reuters in Spanish and retranslate it back into English again and pick out what were the key news stories and put them in the middle of the paper that were surrounded by all the ads. And then I'd take stuff that was from tourist books that was about Mexico. I'd take little sections of that and put it in. It was a job you could do with your eyes shut. But it was nice.

Hamburg: It was an editing job though, really. Was that when you started your literary career?

Cody: Oh no, I had done writing when I had worked for the union. But the G.I. Bill was \$105 a month and even though in Mexico that went a long way, still it would have been a rather tight squeeze if you wanted an American standard of living. So my working brought in the equivalent of another hundred dollars a month.

Hamburg: That was pretty good for Mexico.

Cody: Oh yes. We lived modestly, but we were okay. We were there two years and Fred got his M.A. Then he said, "Well, you know, I've always wanted to go back to England." And he still had two years of the G.I. Bill. And he said, "Let's go to London and I'll get a Ph.D."

Hamburg: Before you go to London, I think I overlooked something. I'm interested in your educational and intellectual development. And I didn't ask you--I know a little bit about your work with Science and Society, the magazine, but what about your

Hamburg: union work? I don't think I've asked you about that. What did that consist of?

Cody: Oh, the U.E. job? Well, I was assistant to the man who was in charge of all the publications of the union, and that would be all the different pamphlets we put out. And when there was a strike going on we were responsible for all the press releases and all the material that would go out to the locals about the strike. That sort of thing.

Hamburg: All right. And the U.E. was known as a very radical or progressive union?

Cody: Oh yes. And I was at the U.E. when the big split came where the C.I.O. kicked them out because the U.E. would not knuckle under to the anti-communism of the C.I.O.

Hamburg: That was what year, roughly?

Cody: Oh, that had to be '48, I guess, because I left that job in '49 when I went to Mexico. So it had to be 1948, I think, '47--'48, yes.

Hamburg: All right. Well, that satisfies my interest right there, I know what your job was.

Cody: Do you know who else worked for the U.E.? Eleanor Salkind's husband, they both did in fact.

Hamburg: The Salkinds?

Cody: They worked in Ohio, I think, for them. So he has a lot of U.E. history. And he knows some of the people that I knew from those days. So, then--

Hamburg: Forward to England.

Cody: Well, we had six weeks in America before we went to England.

Cody: We went up to my parents' house and when I got there I found that my father was in the hospital having had surgery for a very serious stomach ulcer. So we had six weeks there.

Then we sailed on the Veendam which was a Holland-America line. I'll never forget that, ocean travel. Eleven days, it cost \$157 and the meals were something else--Dutch ship, wonderful, wonderful cooking, great meals. And we played bridge all the way across. And even though we weren't such good bridge players it was a pastime.

So we landed in England and we didn't know anybody. But we had the name and address of some people we looked up, friends of friends. And that eventually is how I got my job. Fred, of course, started at the University of London, majoring in Latin American history. And I eventually got a job working for the Economist magazine which combined my interest of economics and my interest in writing.

Hamburg: Was that the London Economist?

Cody: That's right, which is a fairly right-wing magazine. At the same time I learned a gigantic amount from working there. And it was a very interesting job.

Hamburg: What were your duties?

Cody: Well, when I started there--they have a thing called the American survey, which is a special department--and when I started there my job was to go through the American press, The Times, The Herald Tribune, Wall Street Journal, American magazines, and clip out everything that was of importance from the economic point of view, clip it and file it under appropriate

Cody: headings. But I did get a chance to do writing later on, and they trained me in writing the Economist style and I'll tell you that was an education, a valuable, valuable education.

At the same time they were just starting up a business research division. Because when the war ended and the British Empire was in shambles, there were many business firms that had ties with these countries, Malaya and India and all over and they kept saying to the Economist, "Well, what's the situation there?" Because the Economist had correspondents all over the world. "We want to know when we can go in, when can we start up our business, what's happening there?"

So somebody had the brilliant idea of setting up a business research section which would issue reports on various countries in the world that people could subscribe to and this has since become practically the tail that wags the dog. It's a very important money-making enterprise.

This was just getting underway when I went to work for the magazine. And since we had just come from Mexico and I was the only person in the building there who spoke and read Spanish, they first approached me to--if I would do an economic report from Mexico, because I just lived there. And this was separate from my other job and I got paid separately for it. So--and I had to do it on my own time, too, of course. But since Fred was very busy with his work evenings and weekends, he was pretty tied up, and so I was easily able to do this.

So one thing led to another and before long I was doing about five of these reports. I was doing Colombia, Ecuador,

Cody: Venezuela, Central America, Cuba, Haiti, The Dominican Republic. And so we had a very pleasant life in England, a very productive, busy two-and-a-half years when Fred worked on his thesis and I worked with the Economist and made good friends that we're still in touch with. I just loved England. I was terribly homesick at first, but I have never gotten over my love for England. We both loved it.

Hamburg: You have gone through great changes, I should think, living in Mexico, coming back to the States for a brief six weeks, and then going on to Britain. Do you want to talk a little bit about that?

Cody: Well, what I would say about that is, this was the time of the deepening, deepening, darkening political situation in the United States, so we were not sorry not to be under the whip of McCarthyism and not to be experiencing a whole lot of things that were going on, and not knowing, you know.

Hamburg: Were you hearing from friends?

Cody: Oh, sure, and of course we read the papers all the time. We knew what was happening.

Hamburg: I was just wondering if it touched you immediately.

Cody: Oh, well. And then, living in Mexico there were a number of the Hollywood writers that came down there.

Hamburg: Albert Maltz?

Cody: Yes, and Hugo Butler and Jean Butler. There were a lot of people down there.

Hamburg: And the newspaperman from the Guardian came down there?

Cody: That was later [Cedric Belfrage], that was later. But there

Cody: were a lot of American leftists who came down because they were convinced things were just going to hell in America and they wanted to get out, they were scared. And there were middle-class people who had money.

There was the whole atmosphere of fear about what was happening in the United States. So we were just as happy. And then there was the whole business about the Rosenbergs and we were in England when the Rosenbergs were executed. So the whole sorry business of the HUAC [House Un-American Activities Committee] and everything that was going on there. In fact, when we came back to the United States, somebody who had been a friend of ours in New York we surmised, correctly, had gone to --well, this person had married somebody from Poland and this was the thing they used to work on this guy to get him to talk about his friends who were radicals.

Well, we know he talked about us because when our passports expired and when Fred went to the Embassy in London in September of '53, they would not renew our passports. They wanted us to sign statements. They wanted me, in particular, to sign statements. And Fred refused and said that he could speak for me, I wouldn't want to sign either. So then they tried to scare us and make us quit. And Fred was only six months away from completing his work. Legally they couldn't do this, you see. But they wrote the letter in such a way that you would think that you had to leave because you didn't have a passport.

Hamburg: You mean this would be from the U.S. side, not from the side of Britain?

Cody: Yes, correct.

Hamburg: And if you didn't come back then you might be without a passport?

Cody: Well, they worded it in such a way, but if you read it carefully, which I did, they couldn't force us to go back, we hadn't done anything wrong, we were U.S. citizens, we were there on a legal passport. They were just being nasty. So, when Fred finally finished his dissertation and his thesis and he had his orals and everything, we went down to the Embassy and they gave us a passport that was good for six days.

And when we arrived in Manhattan--we came on the Queen Mary--we came back and there was a terrible storm, a terrible storm. And when we arrived, I remember it was so cold. We got there at 8 or 9 o'clock in the morning at the dock--this giant dock. Those were the days when the liners were still going and the big letters for your name so you go over to the letter C. Well, absolutely everybody on that ship, 1200 passengers, they were all gone and we were there.

And they went through our stuff with a fine-toothed comb. And they had already the night before, immigration came on the ship. They had taken our passports away with a very meaningful smirk. I know they went through like the pockets of our clothes that were in our trunks and everything. Everything was gone through. We hadn't done anything. It was just more of this intimidation campaign.

So we visited with family. We had met some people from Berkeley in England, Bill Rouverol, and Bill was a professor

Cody: of engineering at Cal and gotten to be very good friends with them. So they had written to us while we were there: "What about coming to California? Fred would have more chance to teach Latin American history in California." And since we were thinking we were going to set up our family and wherever we went was where we were going to be.

Well, by this time I was getting the adventurous spirit-- never been to California, neither one of us. What the heck, let's do it! So we came on the train because in those days airplanes were, you know . . . and you could also take more-- we had these trunks, one or two trunks, with all our worldly possessions and \$843. We arrived in Berkeley on about the 3rd or 4th of April in 1954 down at the old Santa Fe Station that's now a restaurant. And the Rouverols met us and we went and stayed at their house for a couple months.

And then we got an apartment in San Francisco. Well, now, the job situation. When we got here he had not realized the Levering Act where you had to sign a loyalty oath; and Fred, as a matter of conscience and principle, would not sign that. So, in the meantime, I had continued my contact with the Economist, their business division.

Hamburg: You were on the staff?

Cody: I was doing these freelance reports that I was telling you about for all these Latin American countries. So that made a sort of a cushion for us that we wouldn't actually starve, although we couldn't live on it, either. So Fred picked up various part-time jobs, office work and things like that. We

Cody: just were sort of floundering around a little bit trying to find out just what we were going to do. Then, through the Rouverols we met a fellow who had started a paperback book club down in Palo Alto.

Hamburg: That's where I met you. What was his name?

Cody: Fisher. Dick Fisher. So he offered Fred a job doing publicity and promotion for this book club. And that was Fred's job. So we then moved down to Palo Alto. And I had wanted to have a family for some time but had put it off because of our traveling and everything like that. I mean, it was one of my long-term goals; I don't mean I was frustrated by not having a child right away. I was happy not to. I was happy to be able to travel. But I was thirty-one.

So, my first pregnancy ended in miscarriage and so then, that made me all the more anxious and all the more unhappy because you know that whole mind-set you get. You're not quite a person if you're not successful at having children. And naturally the more nervous I got, and I was always irregular in my periods so I couldn't tell exactly when I was fertile. So the more nervous I got the less chance I had of getting pregnant. You know how that is.

So, my neighbor across the street had a true infertility problem because she had blocked tubes. And she had to go to a specialist and have them unblocked and they would be good like for forty-eight hours that she would have to get pregnant with. She went to this wonderful doctor in San Francisco and she took this wonderful drug called DES.\* So I went up to see her

\* diethyl stilbestrol

Cody: doctor and before I went his nurse said that I should start using this basal temperature thermometer so I would be able to chart my pattern. And I got an appointment for three or four weeks from then and by the time I got there I was pregnant. Because I had used this little chart, you see, and done it at the right time. "Well, we don't want to lose this pregnancy, so I'm going to give you this wonderful medicine." And this is two years after the articles came out showing that it was not effective for pregnancy maintenance.

Hamburg: You weren't aware of these articles?

Cody: Oh, of course not. I was just the average person. I didn't read the American Journal of OB-GYN.

Hamburg: American Journal of what?

Cody: OB-GYN. So here I am pregnant and we're down in Palo Alto. Fred has the job with the book club. I continue with doing my economic articles right up to--and I didn't tell the office in London that I was pregnant because they were very macho, male chauvinist and they would think, "Oh, well, she's a mother, she's not going to be able to work." In fact, I think I had three kids before I ever told them I had any. Those are the things you did in those days to keep your job. So then, Martha was carried full term, I had no problems with the pregnancy and she was born thirty years ago today.

Hamburg: Oh, her birthday!

Cody: Yes. And when she was six weeks old Fred came home and said, "Well, the place has gone bankrupt, I've lost my job." And then he said, "You know, I've thought it would be nice to have

Cody: a bookstore. And I've learned a little bit about it and now paperback books are coming out stronger than ever and I think that's where publishing is going to go in this country. And I think it would be a great thing to do."

So, at this point Fred is thirty-nine, has a Ph.D. in Latin American history, and so I was, you know. He said, "You've got all the business sense in the family. I know books. We'll make a great team." So I agreed. We wrote to five friends and got each one of them to loan us a thousand dollars. Fred went traveling around Northern California. I can remember, well, he went to Santa Cruz and talked to the people there. And the public library said, "Well, you know, we have the highest per capita library usage in California and that's because we have so many retired people here. This is not the place to open a bookstore." And we ended up, as you know, in Berkeley. Because our friends who lived here said, "The only store that sells paperbacks is U.C. corner. They're not intellectuals, they don't know what they're doing, you would do a terrific job." So that's how we happened to end up here.

Hamburg: On the north side of campus.

Cody: Fred went around looking and that was a vacant store.

Hamburg: What is that now?

Cody: It's now part of LaVal's Pizzeria. The walls were broken through to make it be part of LaVal's Pizzeria. But that's where the first Cody's Books was. Oh, and then there were decisions, what should we name the store, you know. Some people would suggest cutesie names like The Book Mark or

Cody: something like that. Forget that. We wanted it to be just Cody's Books. So Fred came up here and I stayed down there with Martha and he lived with our friends. And poor Fred, who is the most inept, the most unhandy person you ever saw, somehow built the shelves for that bookstore with all our borrowed money.

# # (End of Tape I, Side B) # #

Interview with Patricia Cody, Interview II  
Date of Interview: 25 February 1986; Berkeley, California  
Interviewer: Alice Hamburg  
Transcriber: Alice Hamburg  
Begin Tape II, Side A

Hamburg: This is Tape II, Side A. I am Alice Hamburg and I'm talking to Pat Cody about how she and Fred started Cody's Books in Berkeley back in '54?

Cody: '56.

Hamburg: And you were telling about Fred starting the store in a tiny location on the north side of campus.

Cody: Right. In a little store that was 21 by 24 feet, and I think the rent was \$135 a month, and we did it on borrowed capital. That was July of '56 and we were there a little more than five years.

Hamburg: How did you work--?

Cody: No, it wasn't quite five years. And it was a time that we were continuing with our family because our son, Anthony, was born in 1958 and this store, this little tiny store. So I did the books at home, the whole office of the store was at home. And, of course, with the children I couldn't get away anyhow, they were very little. And, just as now, childcare then was even more of a problem. I had a woman who came in one day a week for a whole day and she looked after the children and she also did some housecleaning. And that was the day I went to the library to do the research on my economic reports.

Hamburg: So you were continuing that through all these years?

Cody: Oh yes, all these years up to 1972.

Hamburg: While you were raising your family.

Cody: Right. And while I was running the bookstore I was doing economic reports. Right. And, in fact, that income was very important to us when we were first starting the store because we never could've lived on that store, believe me, those first five years. Well, that part of town is very much a neighborhood shopping area. Telegraph is what you might call a regional, because you get people coming from other areas to come and shop--other towns--or from other parts of Berkeley. But Euclid, that part is strictly people who just live around there who come there or who go to school on that side of the campus. And it never could be very much because the space was too small.

Well, this was very frustrating because Fred was a person of great capabilities and it was like taking up artists and giving them a 4 x 6 inch canvas and telling them to do a great picture. And it was difficult. Of course it was all an apprenticeship. We didn't know anything about business. We didn't know anything about the book business and we learned. And I figured later that we were working for a nickel an hour or something or maybe a nickel a day. Because it never really --it barely kept afloat.

What we did, we paid back all our loans, that \$5000 that we had borrowed. I started paying them back as soon as we opened the store. We did pay back our loans. At one time we

Cody: had some part-time help, but the store was not really prosperous.

But still, in the autumn of 1960 when I was pregnant with Nora, and I'm always very euphoric when I'm pregnant, I never felt better in my life than when I was pregnant. And walking down Telegraph I came across this empty storefront. And I remembered reading about it, it had been an old grocery store. And it had been empty for some weeks now and I know that that makes landlords nervous. And it occurred to me that the University had opened the dormitories on this side of the campus and that had drained people--students--away from our side. And we had noticed it. Our business was so small that if we lost fifty customers, that meant a difference to us.

So I saw this empty store and I took down the phone number and I called up the realtor. And Fred and I went and looked at it and they said--and this was in a ramshackle old building which was torn down. It's where Moe's is now, 2476 Telegraph. And talked to the people there, and they were so eager to have a tenant that they took us who had no credit rating. I had to go up to the Coop Credit Union, and bless Maudelle Shirek. On my signature I got a \$750 loan, which paid the first and last month's rent on that place. They didn't ask us for any financial statement. We couldn't have given them one, we didn't have one. And we signed a five-year lease and you might say that we never turned back after that in the business sense.

Hamburg: Did you have to refurbish the building?

Cody: No. They offered us a deal. They said, "We will put in sheet rock on the walls and we will put in vinyl on the floors and we will put in fluorescent lights and the rent will be such and such. And if you do it the rent will be such and such." Well, we couldn't do it, no way. So we said, "No, you do it, and we'll pay this \$50 a month more," or whatever it was. And so, we opened right around the 9th of December or something like that, just in time for Christmas. We brought over a lot of our stock from the other side. And well, we did very well there. And every year after that the business just boomed. Because it coincided with the growth of the paperback publishing industry and we did very well there.

Well, a young man that worked for us was, unbeknownst to us, his father was very wealthy. And this young man, Steve, really had the same philosophy we did about the bookstore. And we were outgrowing the space, even though it was much bigger-- it was 24 feet by 85 feet, so it was a lot bigger than the other place, but we were outgrowing it. Fred had all these ambitions taking French books, German books and looking around for another space on Telegraph Avenue, and the only other space was the Lucky Market across the street, which is now some kind of a Mexican restaurant. But we heard they were about to give up the space from being a Lucky Market. When we went to the owner we found out that somebody else had an option, somebody who was going to run an Italian restaurant had an option on it. So that was out the window.

Well, then, there was a Shell gas station on the corner

Cody: where Cody's is now. And a sign appeared on it one day: "This Lot For Sale." Well, to cut a whole year and story short, Steve's father bought the lot and then got the construction loan. And Steve and Fred helped a building designer design the building.

And at that time the City Masterplan was that there was going to be a turn-off on the corner of Haste and Telegraph for traffic going west. So if we had built the building right out to the sidewalk level we would have had to chop off the corner of the building. So that is the reason for the set-back. Because that was the masterplan which never came into being. They did it on Dwight. It was exactly the same kind of thing that they did on Dwight they were supposed to do on Haste. I don't know why they didn't do it. But that's why Cody's was set back. It wasn't because we had this huge community spirit to give a free stretch of sidewalk there and plant trees. It was because of that masterplan.

And then the building was sold to an investor because Steve's father, very wisely, did not want to be his son's landlord. So, in other words, he used his father's credit to get the lot, to build the building, and then it was sold to an investor on the grounds that Cody's would have a twenty-year lease there. Never sign a twenty-year lease. (Laughter) Lessons you learn that you will never have a chance to use again. So then we moved there, that was in December of '65 when we moved there.

In the meantime I had not only had Nora after we moved

Cody: there but then I had had Celia in 1964. So now we had four kids. And I was continuing to do my economic reports. And at Cody's at last we had an office. But I still did a lot of the work here at home. We had bought this house in 1963. And there's a back room that was sort of like my office because while the children were little and I couldn't go down there I couldn't really use the office at the bookstore. So I continued to do all the business here at home. It wasn't until Celia got to be nursery school age and I would have every morning free that I began to be able to work at the office at the bookstore.

Well, during the first five years of Cody's, it was the Eisenhower years; it was the hangover from the McCarthy period. Students at Berkeley were very quiet, there was no political activity. The first signs of political activity came with the influence of the South, the freedom marchers and all that. Influence of the Civil Rights Movement on the white kids who then--and one of the very first things was the campus politics started to stir with a group called Slate, which was a mild, what now looks like very mildly liberal. But up to that time it had just been rah, rah and fraternity boys running for the student government. It hadn't been anything.

Now it began to get a little bit political. And then there was the Chessman case, we had HUAC\*coming to the city and kids getting washed down the steps, and now things began to step up. Had the Kennedy, had that whole election campaign and had Kennedy winning so there began to be a more liberal spirit

\* House UnAmerican Activities Committee

Cody: after the Eisenhower years in this country, Nixon in exile. And things began to just poke around a little bit, burble along politically. And I well remember that in 1961 was when the Women for Peace started and that was after Kennedy came back from being in Berlin with his "Ich bin ein Berliner" and came back and was urging everybody to have their own fall-out shelter in their backyard. And that was when it really struck home, because I had sort of taken leave, taken a sabbatical from politics.

Hamburg: There were four children? And your business.

Cody: Well, there were three children at that time and the business, and my articles. I didn't have time for anything, you know. So the Women for Peace was really my coming back into political life. And that was in November of '61 when we had our demonstration. I well remember a woman who came out of the city hall, she was working for the city, and said how much she supported what we were doing. And one of the things we had on our list of what we were wanting Washington to pay attention to was to withdraw the 20,000 American advisors in Vietnam. And she said, "Where is Vietnam?"

So that was such a staggering triumph, we had no idea we had touched such a chord with people. It was very exhilarating to find. And so we had that meeting at Willard and I remember so well Frances Herring. I think she chaired it.

Hamburg: Yes.

Cody: And she said we just intended this to be a one-day thing but everybody is saying we can't stop here, and how many people want

Cody: to go on? and so on. So Women for Peace was born right then and there. So the next year I was fairly active in it. I went to all the meetings, I took part in things, in between everything else. And Hiroshima Day commemorations. Then as the U.S. got more and more involved in the war in Vietnam I continued to be involved in Women for Peace.

Then there was the whole Free Speech Movement and that was in '64 and then beginning in 1965 began the heavy duty peace movement kind of stuff. When Johnson was reelected and he started accelerating American presence in Vietnam then that's when the peace movement here and the whole anti-draft thing, everything began to go. And so, it was in 1968 really, that was kind of the year, '67-'68. Well then you had '67 was the summer of love and the hippies and that whole thing, the whole drug culture and all that. And Jerry Rubin running for Mayor of Berkeley.

The merger between the hippies and the politicians as it were, not merger, but the reaching common ground between the hippies and the peace movement. All that took place then. So in 1968 all these kids were coming, they were listening to all these songs about come to San Francisco with a flower in your hair. And there were thousands and thousands of kids coming to Berkeley. And of course many of them were turning up on the Avenue, the scene of the anti-war marches and the University, the FSM already hallowed ground and so on.

So there were some graduate students in social welfare who had a student project: "What Were the Needs of This Mobile

Cody: Transient Youth." And they came and they interviewed Fred. And that's when a whole lot of things started, because out of this interview with Fred and the kinds of questions he discussed with them that they should ask, and what needs to be done, and do a survey and find things out. Out of that came-- and then Fred got very interested in trying to bring some of this about and he tried to get some of the other merchants.

And they got a Telegraph Avenue Concerns Committee and this was 1968. Now at the same time all of these other things are happening. May of '68 was the French students' strike which paralyzed all of France. You remember that whole huge thing. Then Peter Camejo, who at the time was in the Socialist Party, I think, was a student activist, decided to call a meeting in honor of the French students. And it was to be held June 28th, and they were going to have this meeting and this demonstration and they tried to get a permit for it from who--over was Chief of Police--Beale, I think, maybe, and they could not. So then they came to Cody's: "Could we use this space in front of the store?" Well, yes they could.

So they did and that was the first Berkeley riot because there were thousands of people there that couldn't be contained on that narrow space and they naturally spilled over into the street. And at nine o'clock the bull-horns went on: This is an illegal assembly, you must disperse! And then the tear gas came down and so on. And then we had curfew for a week.

Hamburg: Did you tell just what the cause? Just too many people? How did it get out of control?

Cody: Well, there were just thousands of kids there, thousands of people there. Well, the police wanted it, they were dying for a confrontation. They hated these long-haired hippie radicals who wouldn't go to Vietnam while their kids were getting drafted and you know, there was just, talk about your generation gap and your political gap! So they were just itching to go in there and crack heads and that's what they did.

Hamburg: Were your windows broken?

Cody: Not at that time. No, not at that particular time.

Hamburg: Was there other damage done?

Cody: Not then, I don't think so. I'd have to go back and read the Berkeley Gazette because all these things begin to merge after a while. There's so many of these.

Hamburg: Oh, I know. I know that very well.

Cody: No, but we had a curfew and we had a like a state of emergency in the city and you couldn't be out after 8 o'clock at night for a week. And then people petitioned the City Council. They wanted to have a--close a street on the 4th of July and have a celebration there. Ron Dellums was on the City Council and Bernice Hubbard May, and she was the swing vote that we got to change her mind. First she voted no and then we got her to-- Well, it took some doing and the City Council continued to meet into the next day, came back again on Wednesday night, finally agreed to allow the kids to have--and the merchants, the Telegraph Avenue Concerns Committee went to the City Council and said they would monitor it, they would see that--and keep the police away from there. And that's what happened.

Cody: There were 15,000 young people with rock bands. And Cody's brought in thousands and thousands of ice cream and soft drinks to give out to people.

Hamburg: (Laughter) Cody's did that? Fascinating.

Cody: Yes. So that was really something, and it was peaceful. But then--that was '68 and remember that was when Robert Kennedy was killed. That was when L.B.J. said he wasn't going to run again, Martin Luther King was assassinated. And then you had the Democratic Convention in Chicago and then you had TDA, "the day after," which was a riot in Berkeley and a lot of places.

Hamburg: The-Day-After?

Cody: Yes, T.D.A. in a number of cities, including Berkeley. Well, you remember that was the "Chicago Seven," you remember that whole thing about all that?

Hamburg: Oh yes.

Cody: Well, you see, that sort of spread, the contagion and the protest against it spread to a number of communities including Berkeley.

Hamburg: And this is the protest against the treatment of the--

Cody: The marchers, the peace marchers, yes.

Hamburg: Who were demonstrating about the Democratic--

Cody: Convention and about the--you had to get an anti-war platform, they wanted Humphrey to pledge himself to an anti-war platform. So this--

Hamburg: '68 was an unusual year.

Cody: Yes. And then of course as we know that was Nixon's first

Cody: victory. One of the things he decided to do was to crack down on the anti-war movement. And of course we had Reagan here as governor, you know, '66, so that was something too. And then February of '69 was the Third World students' strike. And that was more riots. And that was when our windows did get-- not only did our windows get smashed, by the time of the riot. Well, first the windows didn't get smashed. There was a riot and the cops came and they tear-gassed people. And Telegraph Avenue was quiet, everybody had dispersed. And this cop had one of these rocket-launchers from the Vietnam War that they were using. It was a new gadget to test for tear gas.

Hamburg: They were using it to--

Cody: For tear gas, right. He was way up the street from Cody's and he had one more and he wanted to shoot it. There were five people standing around near Cody's. There's a faucet there that Hassan uses to keep his plants growing. They were getting water for their eyes because of the tear gas. Now, were they threatening anybody? He lobbs this tear gas thing and it smashed through the window and landed inside Cody's and, of course, it immediately started going off.

Well, an hour later, when a guy from the glass company who was going up and down the avenue putting plywood up on all the windows and they'd leave you a little notice: If you want your glass fixed, call us. Came to Cody's, he went inside to get to put the glass in and he took the cannister and he put it outside. And a cop came along and said: "You put that back inside." Oh, they hated Cody's! They hated Fred.

Hamburg: I can imagine.

Cody: Oh, they were a bunch of fascists!

Hamburg: The cops, huh?

Cody: Oh, yes. So that, of course, meant that the store smelled so badly that we couldn't stay open an hour the next day. And then we just had to keep the doors open and try to figure out ways to get the tear gas off of everything, to get that stink out. So that was February. So then I remember Fred went back East. I think he went back to visit his father and he probably went to New York to do some--go around to the publishers and everything--it was really kind of like a vacation for him.

Because he was away when they started digging up the ground for Peoples Park. And I remember when he came back that was one of the first things I had to tell him about. Then we got involved in all of that. Then Fred was on the negotiating committee. Oh, this Telegraph Avenue Concerns Committee, as I mentioned earlier, they made a report to the City Council. And this committee was set up after that June riot. Ron Dellums and some of the other people on the City Council said: "Well, we ought to set up a committee to investigate just what is happening and what is needed up on the Avenue. What can the City do to respond to this kind of situation?"

And one of the things they said in that report was that the University and the City together should have what is now Peoples Park become a park because the University had no money to build the dormitories for which they bought the land in the

Cody: first place. And it was just a muddy parking lot and an eye sore and we desperately needed some kind of park space up there because of the heavy concentration of young people.

Well, if they'd only done everything in that report, they would have averted a great deal of difficulty. But, anyhow, so then we had the whole Peoples Park thing with the National Guard in here and everything like that. But before that happened there were so many--Fred was never in the store, he was at meetings all the time. There was the Communications Council, or something like that, it was a citizens committee of some sort. Ruth Hart was the Chair of it and a number of people were on it and Fred was one of the people who was on it, trying to avert this catastrophic show-down atmosphere between the Establishment and the kids. So then, you know, we had Peoples Park and we had the--

Hamburg: Shooting?

Cody: We had the guy blinded and we had a guy killed and we had the fence put up around the park and we had all that business. And then that summer we knew that thousands of people were going to come to Berkeley, it had become a mecca for young people now. And so Fred worked with some other people to set up the Telegraph Avenue Summer Program to provide all kinds of activities for all these people.

That's when the Free Clinic got started, the Free Food Project got started. We had classes there, we had a free library where people brought in books and other people could take them out. We had a free store where people brought in

Cody: clothing and other people could come and get them for nothing. We even had a free childcare program. All this on a--and we ran a--we had a sort of affair to raise money for all this activity and we raised \$2200--it was at LeConte. And, oh, those were just exuberant days in a lot of ways. And Fred became the Chair and I was the Treasurer of the Free Clinic.

Hamburg: Oh, the Free Clinic, yes.

Cody: And I was the Treasurer of the Telegraph Avenue Summer Program. Anywhere that money was involved I was there to manage it because I could trust myself. (Laughter) I knew I wasn't going to abscond with the funds.

Hamburg: Oh, gosh, what an involvement!

Cody: And so.

Hamburg: Fred's attitude was what? Was he critical of the students? Did he try to keep them acting within bounds or what was--

Cody: Oh no, he was really very much on the side of the students and he was trying to--but at the same time, because he was an older person and so on, he was trying to explain the students in language that the older generation, the establishment, would understand, especially the fringes of the students, or the young people, the fringe element were incomprehensible to the older generation and to the establishment. And Fred was trying to explain the one side to the other. And then vice versa. He was a bridge between the two groups. And then the years that followed '69--'70, '71, '72. Do you remember the continued anti-war protests? There was Cambodia. There was Kent State.

Cody: We were having a terrible time with the bookstore because they tore up Telegraph Avenue in 1970 to put in the widened street, and the brick, and everything like that.

Hamburg: That was 1970?

Cody: Yes. And when you have something like that, of course people can't park. And they tore the street up, it was right down to the dirt. And we had--and also, because of the reputation of the riots, we just had a terrible time as far as business went. We lost money and I went off the payroll and we just tightened our belts. And we just really had very difficult times.

Hamburg: How long did that last?

Cody: That lasted until about--it slowly began to improve, maybe, in '75. Oh, it was very rough.

Hamburg: Well, that was really a bad time for all the businesses around here. Some of them went out of business--

Cody: Oh yes, no question about it. A lot of places had difficult times then. In the meantime, the guy who had become our partner was not able to stand all the tension. Although he was sympathetic with the students and everything that was going on. But it was just too nervewracking for him, so he just walked out, which--well, we would not have signed a twenty-year lease if we had known, because we didn't see ourselves staying there until 1985.

And we had an agreement which was put in at the instigation of his father who didn't want his son to get obscured by these older people. And it was fine with us to have this agreement. But after ten years, and this was in 1975, Steve

Cody: would take over the management of the store and we could gradually phase ourselves out, but he walked out in 1968.

Hamburg: Oh, this was Steve?

Cody: Yes. So he walked out and that left us holding the whole shebang ourselves. So as time went on we got more and more fed up, and wanting out. And we just couldn't see staying there until 1985. We wanted to do some other things while we still had some energy. So, we knew that in order to sell the store we would have to improve its performance somehow. So, in addition to the general slight improvement because of the street quieting down and people coming back gradually, we started an inventory control system. It was a precursor to a computer system. But it did let us know much more accurately which books were being sold so that, in turn, we could replace them, and therefore improve our sales.

So the business was looking up and we began to get people interested in buying it. But they weren't able to come up with the right terms for us. So finally in 1977 we were able to sell the store.

Hamburg: Was it a fairly favorable deal so that you could live?

Cody: Well, we could've lived modestly. No, it was not--we didn't make a lot of money out of it. But you see the problem was this, we wanted to get off the lease. We did not want to sell to somebody where the landlord would still have us be on the lease and we would be, in effect, subletting. If we would have that worry we might as well not sell it, we might as well run it ourselves. So it had to be somebody with a good enough

Cody: financial rating that the landlord would take us off the lease. And in order to get somebody--Fred said, and he was absolutely correct. The only person who is going to buy this store is a young person with inherited money. And as our accountant also said: Anybody who has the kind of money to buy that store could put that money into a bank account and live on the interest without having to work, or not working much.

And so, in order to sell it--like, as he said, and it's so true: Any buyer does not care about the blood, sweat and tears that you went through. That is not germane. You cannot get a price for that. They will pay you for the good will and they will pay you for the inventory and that's it. And that was what we sold the store for. So we did not get a lot out of it, no. And so then, after we sold it, within a month I was over there--

# # (End of Tape II, Side A) # #

Interview with Patricia Cody, Interview II.  
Date of Interview: 25 February 1986; Berkeley, California  
Interviewer: Alice Hamburg  
Transcriber: Alice Hamburg  
Begin Tape II, Side B

Hamburg: So you sold the store. This is Side B of Tape II, still  
February 25th. I'm talking to Pat Cody.

Cody: Well, to get to the theme of political involvement in the  
community--but all these years, especially after 1969, we  
were both quite active. We were both in the Free Clinic and  
then I continued to be the treasurer of the Free Clinic for  
five years and went to board meetings and so on. I was one  
of the people who started the Older Women's Clinic at the  
Berkeley Women's Health Collective, and I was active there  
for a couple of years until I got working on the DES  
(diethyl stilbestrol) action stuff and then I just didn't  
have time for so many things. I had dropped my work with the  
Economist in 1972 and it was just that the store was getting  
too much and the kids were getting--everything was too much.  
And I thought, well, I don't need it anymore, I can stop that  
now, and so I did.

Hamburg: You had been with the Economist for how many years?

Cody: Twenty years.

Hamburg: How did you get into the DES movement?

Cody: I was one of the people who started it.

Hamburg: You started it.

Cody: Right.

Hamburg: Where?

Cody: The beginning was when I found out by an article in the paper that it was the Chronicle for April 22, 1971, that was a report on the article in the New England Journal of Medicine that linked the use of DES to a rare cancer in the daughters. And I remembered very well that I had taken it because I had taken it every day for seven months. You don't forget something like that.

Hamburg: You took it with one pregnancy?

Cody: Yes, just, fortunately, just with my first daughter. And so, I cut that clipping out but I didn't do anything because it said it was a rare cancer and I figured that any doctor around here wouldn't know any more about it than I did, anyhow. But it wouldn't stay buried. And in 1973 Martha was by now seventeen, I did not tell her why I was concerned. I said she was a young woman now, which was true, and it was a part of every young woman's health check up to have a GYN exam. Then I found a woman GYN here in Berkeley, and I went to her ahead of time and I explained to her what my concern was and said, I don't want Martha to know. I just am telling her that she's getting a check up. So this doctor didn't know anything about--

Hamburg: Hadn't read about this?

Cody: No. And she didn't know about this special DES exam, which I didn't know about, either. So she gave Martha a regular pelvic and she said: she looks fine, everything is okay. Then

Cody: the following year, in 1974, a little article in MS magazine said that there was a special exam for DES daughters and that every daughter should have it. I found out a doctor in Oakland who knew about this and gave this exam, had Martha checked out, and then I started thinking about all the women who don't read the papers and who don't know about this and who were given this drug, millions of them--and their kids were having this risk for cancer. What was being done?

So I called the city health department, the county and the state and then I wrote to the federal government and I got the same answer everywhere, that: we're doing a study, we don't want to alarm people. But because I already had experience with the Free Clinic and the Women's Health Collective, I knew that it was possible to do something and not just sit and take what the establishment had to say.

So what I did was, I talked with some of the women at the Free Clinic, the medics, and I called a meeting of the medics from the Free Clinic and from the Women's Health Collective and some other people that I thought would be interested because I said I felt this was a women's health issue that nothing much was being done about this.

Fortunately, one of the people that I got involved in this was a young doctor, a pediatrician, who had started the first GYN clinic for adolescents at Childrens Hospital. And she's a feminist. And she was very interested in this issue and it was through her that we were able to get to, like the doctor who had examined Martha. Well, he would talk to

Cody: another doctor much more readily than he would to us. And then he came and lectured to the medics at the Free Clinic and the Women's Health Collective about DES and about the exam and why it was important.

And we wrote the first consumer leaflet in the United States a year and a half before the government got around to doing it about DES. Well, at the same time, unbeknownst to me, a group of women in San Francisco was starting this group called The Coalition for the Medical Rights of Women, and one of their committees was the DES committee.

Hamburg: Was that in seventy-what?

Cody: That was '75. And the common thread between us was this young woman doctor, Gerry Oliva, because she had told me about them after we had gotten our activity going here and after we had gotten out the leaflets. That leaflet made its way over to those people and they had been planning on doing a leaflet. So they just took our leaflet and they just changed the illustrations a little bit and put it out in larger quantities and distributed it around clinics all over San Francisco. Well, when I found out that there was a DES committee over there at the coalition, that was just like finding home for me. I went right over there and volunteered. And then became part of that committee and have been ever since.

And then when we sold the store I was able to go over there and be much more of a volunteer. And volunteer work, as you know, is so slow and you don't have people doing it regularly. But the fact that I was able to be there three days a

Cody: week just spurred us along--

And so we worked with the State Health Department and then we were able to get a grant that would allow us to do a project in consumer outreach in the Bay Area about the DES issue. So myself and another woman were paid for two years for this project, develop leaflets, develop the slide show. And at the same time there were grassroots groups in other parts of the country on the DES issue, mothers and daughters.

Hamburg: And you began to have a network.

Cody: We began to have a network. And now we have an organization that has 36 chapters in 22 states. We have DES Actions in Canada, DES Actions in Australia, and DES Actions in The Netherlands. When I was in Nairobi where I talked to the women of the world about this issue and gave out materials for people to take back to their countries, because DES is still being used in some countries, including Mexico, it's still being given to pregnant women. So there we are.

Hamburg: How did you happen to go into health work?

Cody: Well, I think it was because when--through Fred initially-- and I stayed in it because I could see this was very much a feminist issue. But it grew out of the survey that these social welfare students had made with Fred about what the needs were of the people that were coming to the Avenue. And a principle need was for health care. That was the number one need that people had.

And so they got money actually, from the City Council, a small sum of money to set up an information and referral

Cody: place, didn't have any doctors there, but it was a center where people could come for information about where could they go. That was a time when, for example, people would have drug O.D.'s, and they would be scared to go to emergency rooms because they'd get turned in to the cops, that kind of thing.

And so once the Free Clinic got started and I became involved in that and I saw what some of the issues were about health and the delivery of health care. I hadn't really thought too deeply about it, I had been too busy with too many other issues. But now I could see it very clearly and so this was excellent training for me for my work with DES Action later on, how I was able to use all that. So everything builds on what's gone before, which is why history is so important.

Hamburg: (Laughter) Absolutely. And your children, you had no ill effects in your family?

Cody: Well, my daughter Martha is the only one that was affected by this. And Martha, yes, Martha did have an ectopic pregnancy in 1979 and she had emergency surgery and she lost her right fallopian tube. That was because of the DES.

Hamburg: What shape is she in now?

Cody: Well, she has a pretty good chance of having the same thing happen to her other tube, so she may never be able to have children. So that's a pretty--

Hamburg: How does she accept this?

Cody: Well, she's a pretty well-balanced person, I think. She very much wants to have a family and if she can't--we don't know yet that she can't--but if she can't I would guess she would

Cody: probably want to adopt. She might even try the in vitro.

Hamburg: You have some feelings about that, haven't you?

Cody: Yes, sure.

Hamburg: I think that we've had a very wonderful session, just unbelievably interesting, fascinating to me. I wonder if you would be willing to wind it up, I should say, wind it up by telling me about Nairobi. How you happened to go, how you organized.

Cody: Actually, well, I could do that, but I just happened to think of some other things that I should mention as long as--

Hamburg: Oh, well, why don't we do that because--

Cody: Well, one thing that I've gotten involved with--several things --one is the East Bay Womens Political Action Committee that I was a founding member of in 1982 with some other women in the East Bay, which raises money for women candidates in Alameda County. And I'm still active in that, I'm the treasurer, in fact. The second thing is, after Fred died, my next door neighbor, fortunately for me, is a counsellor in Death and Dying, so she was very helpful. But at one point I asked her if there were any support groups for people who had had a loss like that. She inquired around and she found out that there was not. And I thought Berkeley had a group for everything. So she and I, together with another woman, Marcia Perlstein, we started the Grief Support Project, which is still going on.

Hamburg: And what year was that?

Cody: That was '84.

Hamburg: Fred died in '82?

Cody: '83, July 9, 1983. It's very interesting. July 9th was the day we opened Cody's Books in 1956. July 9th was the date the sale in 1977 took effect. Totally by coincidence, on July 9th, '83 was the day Fred died. Isn't that eerie to have three important things--

And then the third thing I've been involved in is the-- some of the people from Cody's thought up this idea and that is making a collection of books to be sent to the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, the Fred Cody Memorial Collection of Books on American Studies. We're in the process now of getting that together. We have about 4,000 books. The Chinese government has agreed to pay for the shipping and we're cataloging them right now.

Hamburg: How did they choose China?

Cody: Well, because one of the people who is on this project was involved with the Books for Asia Project and they knew that Fred would be very much taken with the idea of sending books to China.

Hamburg: Was he especially interested in China?

Cody: Well, but he was interested in the world and looked very favorably on the developments in China. So, put it that way.

Hamburg: I wonder if you could tell me about this support group and, I think, before that if it isn't too difficult, I know that it is hard to talk about--bereavement--because--I lost my son about ten years ago and I know it's very difficult to talk about it. Do you feel that you could talk a little bit about

Hamburg: that and how your life has changed?

Cody: Well, anybody who has lost somebody--it's just the most shattering thing you could have happen.

Hamburg: Particularly because Fred was such an outstanding and wonderful individual.

Cody: Well, we were married for 37 years. You know, you get so--

Hamburg: That's a long time.

Cody: If you have a good marriage you get so intertwined with each other that you just are so bereft.

Hamburg: Yes. Your children seem to be following your footsteps in some ways. I see their names occasionally.

Cody: (Laughter) That's true. Oh yes.

Hamburg: Have you now had the experience of your children resisting liberal progressive ideas because of--

Cody: No, they never did. As soon as they were able to be politically thinking people, which was when they were about sixteen, they've all become very involved in politics. And I think sometimes my friends whose kids are not real activists have commented on this and asked me about it and I think that the reason for it is that--well, for one thing, we did not hammer away at the dinner table and indoctrinate our kids consciously at all. More often than not everything was extremely mundane around the kitchen table or the dining room table, you know.

But obviously, stuff comes up in discussion. And when something's on the news and we just fly to the TV or the radio to hear what's going on, kids pick up from that. But I think the real, real reason is the kids--was the lesson. And

Cody: Fred wrote to a friend of ours once. He said that he would change what--I forgot who it was who said it originally, I guess it was Emerson who said something about 'the unexamined life' and Fred changed it to say 'the unexampled life.' That wasn't why we engaged in politics was to be an example for our kids, no. But, what he meant when Fred said 'the unexampled life' he meant taking a stand when it wasn't a popular thing to do like the anti-war stuff. And, in fact, not only was it not popular, we got mail from the Minute Men with that trigger saying that the trigger was on the back of your neck. And we had bomb threats.

Hamburg: At the store?

Cody: Yes. And you keep on keeping on. But I think that the example that the kids saw of parents who acted, who put their feet where their mouths were, as it were, who gave up the comforts of staying home and relaxing to go to one more meeting and especially when all this stuff was going on on the Avenue. And Fred, very often, wasn't even there for dinner, which had its bad effect, in some ways, on the kids. But you couldn't help it. They missed him, they missed his presence. But it was important enough. And the whole Memorial Day march, and Fred going through and training all these people so that it would be a peaceful march and all this stuff.

Hamburg: Which march?

Cody: That was Memorial Day of 1969, 30,000 marchers. And Fred and some other people running a peaceful, non-violent workshop, were monitoring it so that it would be peaceful. Because that

Cody: was when the National Guard was still here. So I think the 'exemplified life' is the most important thing. If anybody wants their kids to be a certain way, they have to be that way themselves. If they want their kids to be thoughtful and caring, they must be thoughtful. It's not: Do as I say. It's Do as I do. That is so true. While, as I say, we engaged in political activity because it was a life blood to us for ourselves. But it was also a very--I realize now, it was a gift to our children. The sense of community and being part of the world so that you don't really feel as though you're really living if you're not contributing this way.

And it is such a joy to me and was to Fred to see our children all taking this up. And obviously they feel commitment, they're not doing it to please us. And Nora is up there on the rostrum at U.C. and Celia, the youngest, ran for the A.S.U.C. Senate last fall. And Martha, down there in Santa Barbara, who got the Buchanan Award for the most outstanding senior in the History Department, when she graduated gave her little talk when she accepted this award, about the importance of commitment and what history has to teach about the importance of personal involvement. And she's now working on campus counseling minority students.

Hamburg: At Santa Barbara?

Cody: Right. U.C. Santa Barbara. And very active in politics there and the rent initiative and whatever. She's active down there. The others--Anthony's on the steering committee of the B.C.A. (Berkeley Citizens Action) and Nora's very active and committed

Cody: to anti-apartheid stuff. And Celia--she's my youngest--she'll be twenty-two next month, a beautiful young woman; she's a junior. She goes down to Watsonville on a Saturday, and she's going around canvassing for the Watsonville strikers--when how many people would be--hey, let's party, I'm in college, let's have a good time. Not that she doesn't like a good time, but there's where her values are, you know.

Hamburg: How many of them live at home?

Cody: Oh, none of them do. No, kids don't want to live with--they love me and they're around here a lot. Like Nora came over tonight to do the laundry and watch the Emmy Awards on television. But, they don't want, you know. And I can empathize with that because I didn't want to, either, I left home at seventeen. It's not the same, you don't feel the same freedom to have your friends over. And it's my style of decorating, not theirs and, you know, it's not the same. And, you know, I miss them but they got to be their own people.

Hamburg: How is it living alone?

Cody: Well, I don't really live alone, I have a tenant. And she lives upstairs in that room. Plus my niece has just come out from the East Coast and she's staying with me for a while, for a few months. After Fred died, well, while he was ill Nora was living here at home because she'd broken up with her boy friend and she didn't have an apartment, so it was sort of like a temporary thing. Then when Fred got sick she stayed here to help me.

And then she moved out but Anthony and Kris--at that

Cody: time Anthony was just getting into Berkeley. He was a late bloomer and a late starter--because he'll graduate in June and he'll be twenty-eight in June. So he and his wife were both going back to school, she to graduate school and Anthony to undergraduate. They were living in Oakland, Anthony had been working in a foundry. And he decided, my God, I was pleased he was not going to do that anymore--it's not good for your health to work in a foundry. So I asked them if they wanted to come and live here because it was very convenient for them, they could live here free. And so, fortunately for me, they agreed to do that. And they stayed here for two years and it was very harmonious.

And I began to heal from my loss and they wanted to be on their own, which was understandable, especially a married couple. I think my daughter-in-law is exemplary to do that. Nobody wants to share a house with their mother-in-law, no matter how much of a saint she is.

So they moved out in October and that's when I decided that it's a big house, I don't want to rattle around in it--and such a crying need for space that I fixed up two rooms with the idea of renting them. Well, I rented one to a colleague of Anthony's. Then my daughter, Celia, said that she might want to come home and live here this summer and so she didn't want me to rent the other room, so I didn't. But then my niece came and took the other room, so I'm not alone.

Hamburg: How do you find commuting to San Francisco?

Cody: Oh, well, I go on Bart. So I read, that's how I do my

Cody: magazine reading, and it's okay. It would be nice if my office was in Oakland but no big deal.

Hamburg: Well, you're doing important work. Is there anything you would like to add?

Cody: Well, I didn't get to talk about Nairobi and that was a great experience for me, meeting women from all over the world. There were fourteen, fifteen thousand women. This was the non-governmental part. And it was just inspirational to see the commonality that we all share regardless of the government or the religion. There's so much in common, our problems are so much the same in a lot of ways. And it was very humbling and eye-opening for the American women to go there. Because to see the conditions under which a lot of people live or hear about them, to understand the bare scrabble for survival that many of the African women have was very, very enlightening. It was a wonderful experience. Then, on my way back, but this had nothing to do with the Women's Conference, I stopped in Egypt for a week and that was fantastic.

Hamburg: Did you meet women who had been at the Conference?

Cody: No, I wasn't able to do that. And it was the worst time of year to travel in Egypt. It was 100° in Cairo and it was 110° in Luxor. But I would love to go back when the weather is better. It was the most transcendental experience to go to Luxor and Karnak, the temple at Karnak. I would heartily, heartily recommend to anybody, for example, who goes to Israel, so that they're in that area. It's not expensive to go to Egypt and anybody who has the chance should go to the cradle

Cody: of our civilization.

Hamburg: I'd like to ask you just one more question. What about the effect of Nairobi? Do you think that it will--

Cody: Oh, I think it will have a big effect. First of all, there were many more women than at the other two conferences, when they expected fewer, there were many more. There were women from every country in the world. And all those women will go back with all the message and the comradeship, that feeling of solidarity with other women. And it did a lot to forge unity among the women of the world. I think it was very important. Although, technically speaking, the U.N.--this was supposed to be a decade for women and the decade is over--everybody there was talking about, we have to get together in 1990, we have to have another world women's conference. And probably it will happen in either India or Japan, because there's so many people that want it to happen that I think it will. It was a wonderful, wonderful experience.

And being in Kenya was a wonderful experience. The Kenyan people are the most gracious hosts I ever encountered in any country. They are so hospitable, just outstanding. And I went on a safari and that was just great.

Hamburg: Where did you go?

Cody: To Masai Mara Game Reserve in Western Kenya.

Hamburg: How many days?

Cody: Oh, it was just a one-day affair. I came a week early so I'd get over jet lag. So the weekend before the Conference began I took that trip.

Hamburg: Did you have any difficulty finding a place to stay?

Cody: Well, I didn't because of connections. There's a man here in Berkeley who comes from Kenya who used to work at Cody's twenty years ago, and by serendipity I ran across him and he said, Oh, I have a cousin and brother and a sister in Nairobi. And I'll call my cousin and he's an important person there and he will be able to help you and indeed he did. He met my airplane.

Hamburg: Did you have any time to experience the "peace tent"?

Cody: Oh yes, I was right near it. That was the hit of the conference. That was a stroke of genius to do that. That was the hit of the conference, yes. Everybody loved it.

Hamburg: I'm very happy to hear about that.

Cody: Oh, yes, everybody loved it. That was a really important thing to have done. Whoever contributed the idea or the financing for it, it was a hundred times worth it.

Hamburg: Well, I'll have to report that to my friends in Women's International League because they were fortunate in having a grant for that.

Cody: Well, there was no money on that conference better spent than on that peace thing. Oh, yes.

Hamburg: Good to know.

Cody: That's my phone.

Hamburg: I want to thank you for this wonderful interview which we are finishing now. Thank you.

# # (End of Tape II, Side B) # #

INTERVIEW OUTLINEPAT CODY--HER CONTRIBUTIONS IN HEALTH, PEACE,  
AND POLITICS

1

Date of Interview 25 February 1986; Berkeley, California  
Interviewer: Alice Hamburg  
Transcriber: Alice Hamburg

## Tape I. Side A

| Time Line | Page  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1923      | 1-6   | Early life. Middle of eight children, poor Catholic family.<br><br>Frugal New England background<br>Born New London, Connecticut, 1923<br>Early avid reader; radical atheist philosophy<br>Writing aspirations<br>Family moves, alienation |
| 1939      |       | Graduation from high school                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 1943      | 7     | Graduation from Willimantic State Teachers College; radicalized<br><br>War                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 1944      | 8-9   | Work in shipyard                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 1945      |       | Move to New York; Columbia Graduate School; further radicalization                                                                                                                                                                         |
|           | 10    | Work for Navy<br>Job with <u>Science and Society</u>                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|           | 11-15 | Meets Fred; Fred out of Army, enrollment at Columbia                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 1946      | 16-17 | Life in New York; romance and marriage<br><br>End Tape I, Side A                                                                                                                                                                           |

# # # #

## Tape I. Side B

|         |       |                                                                                                                                         |
|---------|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1947    | 18    | Fred's work with U.N.; attends conference in Cuba                                                                                       |
|         | 19    | Pat earns M.A. in Economics from Columbia 1948                                                                                          |
| 1948    | 20-22 | Pat's work with United Electrical Workers Union; political activity; radicalization; Wallace campaign<br><br>Discussion of World War II |
| 1949    | 23    | Fred quits U.N.; departure for Mexico                                                                                                   |
| 1951-53 | 25    | Fred gets M.A., Pat writes for tourist publication (cut back to) U. E. and politics                                                     |
|         | 26    | Departure for London. Fred enrolls in Ph.D. program, London University                                                                  |
|         | 27-28 | Pat gets job with <u>London Economist</u> ; writes columns about conditions in various Latin American and Caribbean countries           |

INTERVIEW OUTLINE

PAT CODY

| Time Line | Page  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|           | 28-30 | Discussion of McCarthyism; harassment; difficulties with passport                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 1954      | 31    | Return to U. S. Arrival in Berkeley<br>Fred unwilling to sign Levering Loyalty Oath is unemployed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|           | 32    | Fred hired by paperback book club                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 1955      |       | Pat's first pregnancy; DES prescribed to prevent miscarriage                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 1956      | 33-35 | Book club bankrupt; Cody's Books opens on Euclid<br>End Tape I, Side B<br>## ##<br>Tape II, Side A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 1961      | 36    | Pat continues economic reports                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|           | 37    | Problems of working mother, family grows                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|           | 38-41 | After five years Cody's Books moves to Telegraph Avenue                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|           | 41    | House UnAmerican Activities Committee. Beginnings of political activity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|           | 42-43 | (Cut back to) Beginnings of Women for Peace                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 1964      |       | Free Speech Movement                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 1965      |       | "Heavy" peace movement                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 1967-68   |       | Hippies/politics                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|           | 43-45 | Telegraph Avenue Concerns Committee<br>Riots, tear gas<br>July 4 celebration; Cody's monitors                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|           | 46    | Robert Kennedy assassination; "Chicago Seven"                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 1969      | 47    | Third World Students Strike                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|           | 48-50 | More riots; Cody's windows smashed, tear gas rockets<br>Community involvement: Peoples' Park<br>Telegraph Avenue Summer Program; Pat is treasurer<br>Free Clinic starts, Free Food Project; Free Library, Free Clothing, Free Childcare<br>Fred chairs Free Clinic; Pat is treasurer<br>Fred, liaison between Establishment and youth |
| 1970      | 51-53 | Rough times for Cody's Books; partner walks out<br>Store improvements                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

INTERVIEW OUTLINE      PAT CODY

| Time Line | Page  |                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-----------|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1972      |       | Pat quits writing economic reports for <u>Economist</u><br>after twenty years                                                                                                                |
| 1977      |       | Sale of Cody's Books<br>End Tape II, Side A<br>##                                                                                                                                            |
|           |       | ##                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|           |       | Tape II, Side B                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 1971      | 54    | (Cut back to) New involvements; connection with<br>Older Women's Clinic<br>Career changes; beginning of DES movement; daugh-<br>ter's exam<br>Liaison with San Francisco group               |
|           | 58    | Longtime concern with health issues                                                                                                                                                          |
| 1979      | 58-59 | DES effect on daughter                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 1982      | 60    | Other involvements; East Bay Women's Political<br>Action Committee                                                                                                                           |
| 1983      |       | Fred's death                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 1984      |       | Grief Support Project<br>Fred Cody Memorial Books to China                                                                                                                                   |
|           | 62-65 | Fred's "exemplified life"; parents' influence on<br>children<br>Children's commitment to their community<br>(Cut back to) Memorial Day March; Fred's workshop<br>in nonviolence              |
| 1985      | 67-69 | Nairobi Women's Conference (Non-Governmental Forum)<br>Reflections on future of such gatherings<br>Credit to Women's International League for the<br>"Peace Tent"<br>End of interview.<br>## |
|           |       | ##                                                                                                                                                                                           |

## PATRICIA CODY INTERVIEW

TAPE SUMMARY

| <u>Tape<br/>Section</u> | <u>Time<br/>Segment</u> | <u>Content</u>                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tape I<br>Side A        | 0'3 to 165'             | Early life. Born New London, Connecticut 1923. Large poor Catholic family. Early writing aspirations. Radical atheist philosophy. Family moves and alienation. |
|                         | 175'                    | Willimantic State Teachers College. Intellectual stimulation, new ideas. War work, shipyard, 1944.                                                             |
|                         | 235'                    | Columbia U Graduate School, 1945.                                                                                                                              |
|                         | 270'                    | <u>Science and Society.</u>                                                                                                                                    |
|                         | 290' to 412'            | Meets Fred, 1945. Fred out of Army. Columbia U on GI Bill.                                                                                                     |
|                         | 440' to 578'            | Life in New York; romance and marriage, August, 1946.                                                                                                          |
|                         |                         | End Tape I, Side A.                                                                                                                                            |
|                         |                         | ##                                                                                                                                                             |
| Tape I<br>Side B        | 0'3                     | Fred's work with U. N.                                                                                                                                         |
|                         | 24'                     | Pat's work with United Electrical Workers' Union. Pat's M. A. in Economics from Columbia, 1948.                                                                |
|                         | 83'                     | Political activity, radicalization, Wallace campaign.                                                                                                          |
|                         | 145'                    | Fred quits U. N. Departure for Mexico, September, 1949.                                                                                                        |
|                         | 151'                    | Fred's M. A. Pat's work for tourist publication.                                                                                                               |
|                         | 175'                    | Life in Mexico.                                                                                                                                                |
|                         | 225'                    | Departure for London, 1953.                                                                                                                                    |
|                         | 238'                    | Pat's job with London <u>Economist</u> : columns about conditions in Latin American and Caribbean countries. Fred's Ph.D. program, London U.                   |
|                         | 300'                    | McCarthyism; harassment; passport difficulties.                                                                                                                |

| <u>Tape<br/>Section</u> | <u>Time<br/>Segment</u> | <u>Content</u>                                                                                                                        |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                         | 365' to 405'            | Return to U. S. 1954. Berkeley.                                                                                                       |
|                         | 415'                    | Levering Loyalty Oath: Fred non-signer and unemployed.                                                                                |
|                         | 435'                    | Fred's employment with paperback book club.                                                                                           |
|                         | 473'                    | Pat's first pregnancy, 1955. DES Rx, miscarriage prevention.                                                                          |
|                         | 512' to 580'            | Book club bankrupt; Cody's Books opens on Euclid Avenue, Berkeley, 1956.                                                              |
|                         |                         | End Tape I, Side B.                                                                                                                   |
|                         |                         | ## ##                                                                                                                                 |
| Tape II<br>Side A       | 0'3                     | Pat's economic reports continued. Family grows.                                                                                       |
|                         | 55'                     | After five years Cody's Books moves to Telegraph Avenue, 1961.                                                                        |
|                         | 145'                    | Political activity, including influence of Civil Rights Movement.                                                                     |
|                         | 170'                    | Beginnings of Women for Peace. 1961.                                                                                                  |
|                         | 204'                    | Free Speech Movement, UC Berkeley. 1964.                                                                                              |
|                         |                         | "Heavy" peace movement. 1965.                                                                                                         |
|                         | 200'                    | Hippies/drugs. 1967.                                                                                                                  |
|                         | 228'                    | Telegraph Avenue Concerns Committee: Fred's role, 1968.                                                                               |
|                         | 240'                    | Street denied demonstrators; Cody's access. Riots, tear gas. Curfew.                                                                  |
|                         | 270'                    | July 4 celebration; Cody's monitors.                                                                                                  |
|                         | 275'                    | Democratic National Convention, Third World Students' Strike, 1969. More riots; Cody's windows smashed; tear-gas rockets.             |
|                         | 350'                    | Community involvement: Peoples' Park.                                                                                                 |
|                         | 390'                    | Telegraph Avenue Summer Program; Pat treasurer. Start of Free Clinic, Free Food Project; Free Library; Free Clothing; Free Childcare. |
|                         |                         | Fred chairs Free Clinic, Pat treasurer.                                                                                               |
|                         | 400'                    | Fred's liaison between Establishment and youth.                                                                                       |

| <u>Tape<br/>Section</u> | <u>Time<br/>Segment</u> | <u>Content</u>                                                                                       |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                         | 430'                    | Rough times for Cody's Books; partner walks out. 1970.                                               |
|                         | 515'                    | Store improvements.                                                                                  |
|                         | 570' to 576'            | Sale of Cody's Books, 1977.                                                                          |
|                         |                         | End of Tape II, Side A.                                                                              |
|                         |                         | ##                                                                                                   |
|                         |                         | ##                                                                                                   |
| Tape II<br>Side B       | 0'3                     | New involvements; connection with Older Women's Clinic.                                              |
|                         | 15'                     | Quits <u>Economist</u> .                                                                             |
|                         | 20'                     | Career changes; beginning of DES movement.                                                           |
|                         | 35'                     | Daughter's Ob-Gyn exam, 1973.                                                                        |
|                         | 80'                     | Liaison with San Francisco group.                                                                    |
|                         | 100'                    | Expansion of DES movement.                                                                           |
|                         | 109'                    | Longtime concern with health issues; feminist involvement.                                           |
|                         | 134'                    | DES effect on daughter, 1979.                                                                        |
|                         | 158'                    | Other involvements; East Bay Women's Political Action Committee, 1982.                               |
|                         | 173'                    | Fred's death, 1983. Grief Support Project, 1984.                                                     |
|                         | 180'                    | Fred Cody Memorial Books to China.                                                                   |
|                         | 218'                    | Parents' influence on children. Fred's "exemplified life." Children's commitment to their community. |
|                         | 260'                    | Memorial Day March; Fred's workshop in nonviolence.                                                  |
|                         | 378'                    | Nairobi Women's Conference (Non-Governmental Forum), 1985. Reflections on future of such gatherings. |
|                         | 460'                    | Credit to Women's International League for Peace and Freedom for the "Peace Tent."                   |
|                         | 478'                    | End of interview.                                                                                    |
|                         |                         | End of Tape II, Side B.                                                                              |
|                         |                         | ##                                                                                                   |
|                         |                         | ##                                                                                                   |

APPENDIX

PAT CODY--HER CONTRIBUTIONS IN HEALTH, PEACE, AND POLITICS

NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

Oakland Tribune, November 23, 1977

Daily Californian July 28 - 29, 1977

San Francisco Sunday Examiner and Chronicle October 1977, March 18, 1979

OTHER

DES Action National

Grief Support Project announcement

Charleston Chief of Police letter

Regional Oral History Office letter

Photo, Pat Cody and Andy Ross, thirtieth anniversary of Cody's Books

WOMEN'S PEACE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

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I hereby give and grant to Regional Oral History Office, The Bancroft Library, U. C. Berkeley as a donation the tape recordings and their contents of the interview(s) of Alice Hamburg (interviewer) with Patricia H. Cody (interviewee) on February 25, 1986 (dates) for such scholarly and educational purposes as R O H O and the Director(s) of the Women's Peace Oral History Project shall determine, and I convey to R O H O the entire copyright in these tapes and their contents.

Alice Hamburg (interviewer)  
Patricia H. Cody (interviewee)  
Feb. 25, 1986 (date)

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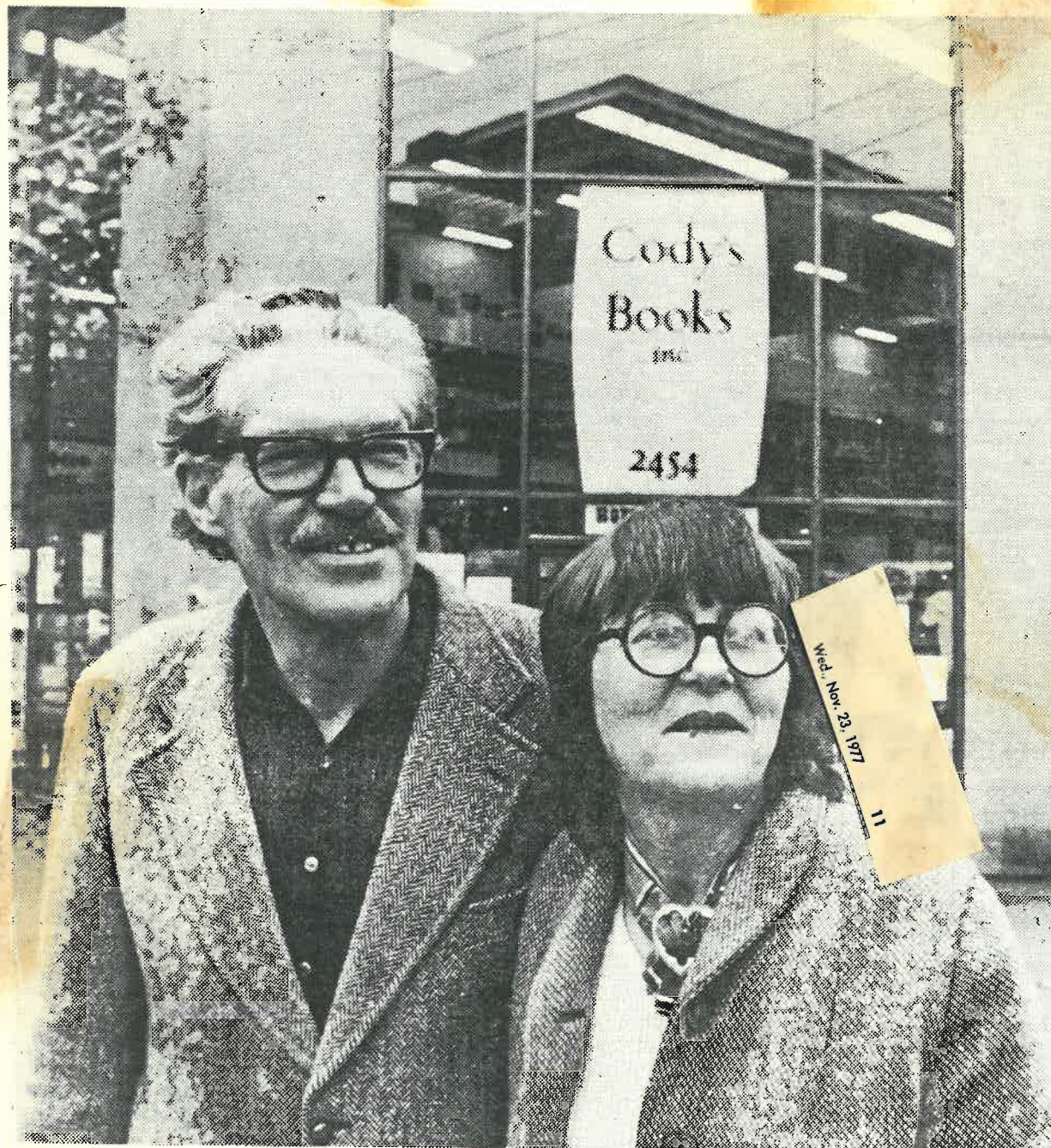
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Oakland Tribune

# people



Fred and Pat Cody in front of Cody's Books in Berkeley

Tribune photo by LONNIE WILSON

## The Idea Merchants Of Telegraph Avenue

Fred and Pat Cody were reborn at the close of business on July 9, 1977.

They walked out onto The Avenue, past the flower sellers, the sandal sellers, the candle hawkers, the gawkers, the dopers. They paused, took deep bittersweet breaths: a last look around.

And then they went home.

It was over.

Twenty-one years in the business, the last 12 at the same often insane location, Telegraph and Haste. They could relax. In the Codys' new lives there would be no smashed windows, no pepper gas, no amphetamine-crazed poets, no National Guard.

With a kind of quiet joy now the Codys could look forward to sunny, comfy years of retirement. A long, slow, meditative glide...

*Wait a minute!*

Pat Cody is angry.

We are huddled—Pat, her husband Fred and your reporter—in the Codys' don't-give-a-hoot-about-housekeeping living room at the front of their Berkeley brown shingle.

Somewhere in that dark, bibliophilic environment among the hundreds of hardcovers and paperbacks packing the place like a *corncrib*, Pat Cody's big round-eyed glasses are bobbing furiously on the tip of her little New England nose.

She has something to say.

She disagrees. Vehemently.

"We don't like that word, *retirement*," announces Pat, with a minimum of tolerance.

Fred nods. "It's a pity it's gotten into people's heads. I prefer *shift*."

Pat: "We're moving into new things."

Indeed they are. Fred is writing a book about...bookselling, naturally. And Pat, who during an interview gives the impression of being the more fiery and emotional Cody, is working on a feminist medical project.

However, Fred concedes, "the truth of the matter is that as you get into the 60s you do have to conserve your energy. But the dividend from the previous years' experience is that you know how."

"Shaw said everybody over 50 should be shot. Until I was 50 I said that, too!"

Trained in economics at Columbia, Pat Cody worked for nearly 20 years as Latin-American affairs writer for "The Economist," a prestigious English publication.

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You could always count on Cody's Books in Berkeley for the most outrageous writing between hard or soft covers. Ginsberg, Miller, Beckett, Snyder, Creely, Castaneda, Marx, Mao, Marcuse. Was your taste for something a wee bit subterranean? Cody's had it. Fred and Pat were more than booksellers—they were *idea merchants*, and some of the ideas they sold sparked an attempted revolution which they themselves didn't hesitate to join. Now they're gone; they've sold the store and, like Voltaire's Candide, gone off to more private pursuits. The two book people talked recently with Tribune reporter Scott Winokur.

---

She also handled the business side of the bookstore. You might see bearlike Fred Cody browsing among the shelves. But Pat rarely showed her head. It was buried in the books—account books.

A happy arrangement? Not for Pat. She likes the limelight, too. And there she was confined to green-eyeshade-land.

"He was the one always being seen. Meeting editors, publisher's representatives. You know, the whole patriarchal thing.

"I was like a lot of closet feminists: I knew everything was unfair and I used to be outraged. 'The Economist' was giving these twerps from Cambridge 800 pounds for the same job they were paying me 600 pounds for in 1952!

"You had to be stupid *not* to be a feminist."

How did they manage to stay together? Football-loving Fred, accustomed to wielding authority, doesn't look like the type of man who'd bend over backward to please anyone, least of all an uppity woman.

Put a fellow like that in with a passel of feminists (Pat and the Codys' three girls; there is one son in the family) and you could have a volatile mixture.

Fred: "It did impose a strain. But what doesn't? Eventually, though, you're at a place where you're much better off for having worked together."

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Continued on Page 12, Col. 1

# The Idea Merchants

Continued from Page 11

He continues: "It's been a race to keep up with Pat. It's been good for me. I tend to be lethargic, messy."

Disputatious Pat Cody, in contrast, *equates* sloppiness and talent. Here she puts in: "I am more orderly. But he's corrupted me! Fred is a tremendously creative person."

Now it was Fred's turn. "I don't think that's true."

There are many things the Codys *do* agree on.

Certainly, both say, marriage—which in their case after 31 years has turned out to be something like a fine old railroader's-timepiece—should imply a commitment to permanence, a commitment they feel is sadly lacking in today's generation. (Pat: "Growth and change are painful and young people try to avert that by splitting up.")

Fred and Pat also both say they are philosophically inclined toward Marxism—despite the fact that they "end up grudgingly voting for the Democrats."

As business persons, however, they didn't share the profits or pay their 20 or so employees much more than minimum wages.

They did on the other hand divide up the more desirable work, such as book-buying, and encourage the development of certain sections of their store, notably the science-fiction department, because young employees expressed strong interests in particular areas and showed the ability to manage them.

Says Pat: "I think people pretty much liked us. We weren't regarded as ogres."

In the spring of 1954, when paperback books still cost a quarter, Fred and Pat Cody came west. They had lived in Mexico City, London and New York and Fred was armed with a Ph.D. in history.

Within two years they opened a hole-in-the-wall book shop on Euclid. But in their Brave New World the Codys still had to scratch for a living.

"It was a situation of the husband sponging off the wife. Now it's common," says Fred.

Shaking her head, Pat smiles sweetly. Again, she sees it differently.

"We were on a great adventure together! We always were great readers, book nuts, book freaks. And we grew with the paperback explosion."

By the early 1960s the Codys found themselves square in the middle of another upheaval: the countercultural revolution.

It always had a kind of jazzed-up, frenetic quality," says Fred.

Pats adds that she couldn't imagine "all those meetings and marches and demonstrations" having happened without the fellow from the network telling all the people watching television at home that Berkeley was a battleground.

The whole world was watching. After a while, thinks Pat, new recruits switched off the TV and joined the fray.

But did the Codys ever actually believe a big change was coming?

"Heavens no," says Pat. "Not without an economic change."

Fred, who thinks of those days nostalgically, isn't so sure.

"There was a brief moment when we were ready to move toward breaking down the governmental structure to smaller, more human movements.

"That still stays with me. I still believe the curse of the world is bigness.

"Simplify, simplify, as Thoreau said. The problem is depersonalization. How do you get through to somebody? We're paying a price. Bigness is a curse wherever it is. China, the Soviet Union or anywhere."

"The civil rights movement got things going and then the anti-war movement. We were part of both of them," Pat says, proudly. "I was one of the founders of Women for Peace in 1961."

Fred Cody was among the founders of the Berkeley Free Clinic.

There were weeks back then, the Codys recall, when the phone rang around the clock and their crowded living room was even more crowded—with people planning what were, they reasoned at the time, constructive political activities.

They remember those days with a shudder and a shake of the head. The Free Speech Movement. People's Park. Marching. Shouting. Railing at the "forces" of "repression." Living from one day to the next in the glare of television lights.

Too old, skeptical and, comparatively, traditional in their morals and tastes to allow themselves to go along uncritically with the surging tide of youthful protest, the Codys nonetheless had "the revolution" thrust upon them because they ran a business establishment catering to the hungry minds making that revolution.

There was the element of chance, too: Cody's Books was situated in the eye of the hurricane.

"The whole period coincided with the intervention of the media, particularly TV, in politics.



Tribune photo by BILL CROUCH

The Codys don't like the word 'retirement' — Fred says, 'I prefer shift'

# The Codys Love Heart, Hate Hype

Fred and Pat Cody hate hype. They love heart. The difference between the two used to be very clear. Here's a refresher, courtesy of the Codys.

★ ★ ★

It was 1956. Anais Nin, the recently deceased journal-writer whose erotic novel, "Delta of Venus," currently is a best seller, came to town.

Fred remembers what happened.

"We had a party for her. She was standing in a room in this beautiful white dress.

"Lawrence Ferlinghetti had gone up to the Berkeley Rose Garden and stolen a big pail of rose petals.

"He dumped them on her and they clung to her hair and her shoulders.

"And she just went on talking, completely poised. As if it were an everyday occurrence."

Pat adds: "There was a person who wasn't afraid of taking risks."

And Fred: "Her whole life was a kind of search for fulfillment. She radiated charm and intensity. She made herself a kind of experience factory."

That's one kind of heart.

It was 1958. C. P. Snow visited the Euclid store. Again, Fred tells the story.

"He came in and asked if we had those illustrated Classic Comics. He had an 8-year-old son.

"We said no.

"Snow said he was very much in favor of Classic Comics.

"I said, 'I'll go down to the distributor and get some.'

"I found practically every one that was in print and gave them to him.

"He was very pleased.

"He was a wonderful man.

"He's Lord Snow now."

Pat adds: "He's a life peer."

Who wasn't too proud to get his kid a comic book if that was a way of introducing him to a masterpiece.

That's another kind of heart.

★ ★ ★

Hyperbole, according to Mr. Webster, is "extravagant exaggeration that represents something

as much greater or less, better or worse, or more intense than it really is..."

Call it "hype" for short.

As booksellers, the Codys for years were down in the trenches with the purveyors of hype—the publicists, promotional infantrymen and women of the publishing trade.

This is what they say about hype:

"It's like punk rock. Like pornography."

"The dominant tone of this last American Booksellers Association convention (in San Francisco) was media hype, the exploitation of books. Tying them into movies. 'The Deep' is a good example. 'Oh, God!' is another.

"This year the status freebie at the ABA was a 'Star Wars' T-shirt."

How does hype hurt?

Fred Cody believes it crushes out writers who have an interest in producing that rarest of commodities, *literature*.

"What bothers me," he explains, "is what happens to that the poor devil who happens to be a fine writer whose work doesn't lend itself to movies and TV.

"What will he or she do?"

# The Idea Merchants

Continued from Page 11

He continues: "It's been a race to keep up with Pat. It's been good for me. I tend to be lethargic, messy."

Disputatious Pat Cody, in contrast, *equates* sloppiness and talent. Here she puts in: "I am more orderly. But he's corrupted me! Fred is a tremendously creative person."

Now it was Fred's turn. "I don't think that's true."

There are many things the Codys *do* agree on.

Certainly, both say, marriage—which in their case after 31 years has turned out to be something like a fine old railroader's-timepiece—should imply a commitment to permanence, a commitment they feel is sadly lacking in today's generation. (Pat: "Growth and change are painful and young people try to avert that by splitting up.")

Fred and Pat also both say they are philosophically inclined toward Marxism—despite the fact that they "end up grudgingly voting for the Democrats."

As business persons, however, they didn't share the profits or pay their 20 or so employees much more than minimum wages.

They did on the other hand divide up the more desirable work, such as book-buying, and encourage the development of certain sections of their store, notably the science-fiction department, because young employees expressed strong interests in particular areas and showed the ability to manage them.

Says Pat: "I think people pretty much liked us. We weren't regarded as ogres."

In the spring of 1954, when paperback books still cost a quarter, Fred and Pat Cody came west. They had lived in Mexico City, London and New York and Fred was armed with a Ph.D. in history.

Within two years they opened a hole-in-the-wall book shop on Euclid. But in their Brave New World the Codys still had to scratch for a living.

"It was a situation of the husband sponging off the wife. Now it's common," says Fred.

Shaking her head, Pat smiles sweetly. Again, she sees it differently.

"We were on a great adventure together! We always were great readers, book nuts, book freaks. And we grew with the paperback explosion."

By the early 1960s the Codys found themselves square in the middle of another upheaval: the countercultural revolution.

It always had a kind of jazzed-up, frenetic quality," says Fred.

Pats adds that she couldn't imagine "all those meetings and marches and demonstrations" having happened without the fellow from the network telling all the people watching television at home that Berkeley was a battleground.

The whole world was watching. After a while, thinks Pat, new recruits switched off the TV and joined the fray.

But did the Codys ever actually believe a big change was coming?

"Heavens no," says Pat. "Not without an economic change."

Fred, who thinks of those days nostalgically, isn't so sure.

"There was a brief moment when we were ready to move toward breaking down the governmental structure to smaller, more human movements.

"That still stays with me. I still believe the curse of the world is bigness.

"Simplify, simplify, as Thoreau said. The problem is depersonalization. How do you get through to somebody? We're paying a price. Bigness is a curse wherever it is. China, the Soviet Union or anywhere."

"The civil rights movement got things going and then the anti-war movement. We were part of both of them," Pat says, proudly. "I was one of the founders of Women for Peace in 1961."

Fred Cody was among the founders of the Berkeley Free Clinic.

There were weeks back then, the Codys recall, when the phone rang around the clock and their crowded living room was even more crowded—with people planning what were, they reasoned at the time, constructive political activities.

They remember those days with a shudder and a shake of the head. The Free Speech Movement. People's Park. Marching. Shouting. Railing at the "forces" of "repression." Living from one day to the next in the glare of television lights.

Too old, skeptical and, comparatively, traditional in their morals and tastes to allow themselves to go along uncritically with the surging tide of youthful protest, the Codys nonetheless had "the revolution" thrust upon them because they ran a business establishment catering to the hungry minds making that revolution.

There was the element of chance, too: Cody's Books was situated in the eye of the hurricane.

"The whole period coincided with the intervention of the media, particularly TV, in politics.

# The Codys: A retrospective

By LINDA STREAN  
Staff Writer

In 1956, the nation's voters decided they still liked like, fraternities on the Berkeley campus staged the Great Panty Raid, and Fred and Pat Cody opened a tiny bookstore on Euclid Avenue.

Berkeley has changed a lot since then, and so has Cody's Books. In its new location 21 years later, the store has a national reputation as a cultural center and quality bookstore.

This month the Codys sold the familiar landmark at the corner of Telegraph and Haste streets to Andrew Ross, a bookstore owner from Cotati, Ca.

"I'm delighted to be going on to something else," said Pat Cody, adding that she wants to spend more time working with the Coalition for the Medical Rights of Women, a San Francisco-based group concerned with women's health and safety issues. Fred Cody said he intends to write, among other things.

When they first came to the Bay Area, Fred worked in book promotion for Paper Editions, a book club in Palo Alto that pioneered the marketing of quality or "trade" paperbacks.

When the company folded, the Codys decided to open their own bookstore and stock it with paperbacks — not the mass-market books Fred calls "the slicks" but the books that were beginning to be produced by the prestigious publishing houses. Along with a handful of other stores like City Lights Books in San Francisco, Cody's got in on the beginning of the paperback boom.

The year Cody's opened, poet Allen Ginsberg's book "Howl and Other Poems" was published by Lawrence Ferlinghetti, poet and owner of City Lights. The San Francisco police seized the book and charged Ferlinghetti with selling obscene literature.

"Fred's reaction was to fill the windows with copies of 'Howl,'" Pat said. The Codys did not meet the same fate as Ferlinghetti.

Fred helped design the building on Telegraph Avenue where the new Cody's opened in 1965. The store was set back further on the block than other buildings on the street, and the Codys became the owners of the only private strip of sidewalk on Telegraph.

Not subject to the city ordinance that at that time prevented craftspeople from selling their wares on the street, "Cody's Corner" became in the late '60s a place where people could buy flowers, handmade leather goods and candles.



Fred and Pat Cody, owners of a Berkeley bookstore that is renowned as a cultural landmark.

At that time, the street community on Telegraph Avenue was becoming famous.

"Thousands of young people coming in put a strain on the area to cope with

them, provide services — to make a responsible reaction to them," Fred said.

The Codys helped found the Emergency Food Program and the Berkeley Free Clinic. Pat has been treasurer of

the clinic since its inception in 1968, and Fred chaired the board during the clinic's first five years.

Cody's has become known for its poetry readings and book parties. This month, poet Ted Hughes and Sara Davidson, author of "Loose Change," both visited the store.

The Codys tell of the time that "Catch 22" author Joseph Heller, exhausted from a round of television appearances but still wanting to come to the store, came in the back door and visited with the employees. Carlos Castaneda made a rare appearance at Cody's soon after "The Teachings of Don Juan" was published and sat in the store telling Berkeleyans about the joys of peyote.

The books at Cody's are selected by the store's employees, each of whom is an expert in a particular subject area.

"The idea of two people being able to know the whole field of human knowledge is arrogant," Fred said.

The Codys said it is hard to sell small-press poetry, and that few other bookstores bother with new poets' work. Newly published writers often have not even decided how much they want to charge for a book, and taking on their work means teaching them the complex business of book publishing, said the Codys.

But Fred said it is one of the most exciting parts of the business: "You may be displaying the T.S. Eliot, the Ezra Pound of the future."

The Codys have published some books themselves, among which are two volumes of poetry by Julia Vinograd — known on Telegraph Avenue as "The Bubble Lady" — and another by Tommy Roberts, a puppeteer and street poet who used to perform in Sproul Plaza.

In an effort to keep the retail cost of the books down, Fred typed them himself and had the pages photographed and printed rather than having them set in type.

The Codys publish posters and a calendar of Thoreau quotations every year. Fred, a self-described "nut about pictures," has recently written and published "Haunted Homes," a volume of Victorian lithographs with humorous captions. The book will be published by Doubleday in the fall.

"People should master as much as they can of the technology," he said. "I am interested in people using printing as a means of political and personal expression. It is one of the protections we have against what could become a monopoly of corporations."

Ira Atkins

October 1977

## The Legendary Booksellers of Berkeley Who Survived It All

By Patricia Holt

**B**OOKSELLERS and publishers throughout California recently gathered to pay tribute to Fred and Pat Cody, owners of Cody's Books in Berkeley, who are retiring after 21 years in the business. It was a night to hear everybody's favorite story about Fred Cody, the man some have called "eccentric," others "a maverick," and most "a legend."

There was one time, for example, when Pat and Fred had to close the store for a week after police fired a tear gas canister through the front window. Another time when the Codys asked an unknown author by the name of Carlos Castaneda to appear for what they thought would be a small autographing session, only to find to their horror that 60 spaced-out students showed up to berate Castaneda for not writing about LSD!

On another occasion, upon hearing that a clerk in San Francisco had been arrested

for selling Allen Ginsberg's "Howl," Cody packed his store window with hundreds of copies of it "as a gesture of refutation and dissent." (The Berkeley police were much amused.)

Perhaps Cody's most talked-about accomplishment occurred during the turbulent early 70s when, at a convention of booksellers in San Francisco, he turned a dull panel discussion into an encounter group/psychodrama about students, drugs, and rebellion that ended with half the audience on its feet yelling: "But what has this got to do with bookselling?" and the other half shouting, "It has everything to do with bookselling!"

What has made Fred Cody a legend in the book industry is his uncanny ability to take an obscure book and sell hundreds of copies out of his store alone. It was Cody, for example, who first recognized the strength and power of "Ishi In Two Worlds," who sold "thousands and thousands" of books by Herbert Marcuse when other stores couldn't sell one; who steered his customers toward the works of Gary Snyder, Frank Herbert, Robert Creeley, Tom Robbins, Castaneda, Ginsberg, and many others long before any of them had "made it" nationally.

Of course, Cody simply believed a bookstore should reflect the issues and times of the

community it served. In fact, the Codys have felt that way since 1956, when they opened their first store in a "glorified phone booth" on Euclid avenue in Berkeley. They had no office, no bathroom, no heat — "Fred wore his thermal underwear all year around," Pat recalls. Since there was no stockroom, the Codys just "displayed" extra books by spreading them out on the floor.

The Codys were controversial even then. One of the first booksellers to sell Grove-Evergreen titles (introducing Beckett, Genet, Ionesco, Miller, etc.), Cody believed a revolution in paperbacks was coming and struggled for years without more than a half-dozen hardbacks in the store. it was a

matter of principle to him — "Consumerss deserve less expensive books," he believed.

Then, when the underground press explosion hit in the 60s, Cody was delighted: Now the community was coming in to the store with every poster, flyer, newspaper, brochure imaginable.

Cody's became the center of everything then, including, unfortunately, the riots: Free Speech, Vietnam, student strikes, Peoples' Park, Cambodia, Eldridge Cleaver, Kent State, third world, drugs, Jesus freaks, and more. The marches would start on campus and end up on Telegraph, where they were often dispersed by tear gas and nightsticks right in front of good old Cody's. One day a greeting card salesman walked into the deserted store and told Pat Cody, "Well, I hope you're satisfied — you're the ones who displayed Marcuse and incited everyone to riot."

S.F. Sunday Examiner & Chronicle

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*Health*

## The DES Odyssey Of Pat Cody

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By Dorothy Bryant

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Harvey Richards

Pat and Fred Cody with their children Martha, three, and Anthony, one, in 1959. The Cody family is featured on an informational poster warning women born after 1941 that they may be DES daughters like Martha and need special health care.

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***"In May 1975 DES Information Group was ready  
to send its first-leaflet to lay people."***

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"We don't want to alarm people." "Nothing is being done that we know of." "Not enough women are affected for us to put public money into this." Pressed for names to attach to these quotes, Pat refused. "Look, some of the people who rebuffed us in the beginning are working closely with us now. You have to educate and work with people. If you want action, you push hard and cultivate a short memory."

Besides her work with the Free Clinic, Pat was now working with the Berkeley Women's Health Collective and had been appointed to the Berkeley Community Health Advisory Board, which consults with the city council on matters regarding public health. She knew from repeated experience that "if you wait for official agencies, nothing will ever get done. It doesn't work that way. You have to start from the grassroots, set up a demand, a public clamour to which the public agencies eventually must respond."

So Pat started where she was, from her base at the bookstore and from her contacts in health organizations. Along with Lorna Char-kow, Health Education Officer for the City of Berkeley, Pat drafted a letter to be sent to

twenty people active in health agencies and community clinics, inviting them to a meeting at the bookstore to discuss ways to "overcome the usual bureaucratic inertia and get underway" with an informational and testing program for DES daughters.

About a dozen people attended the meeting, none of them from government health agencies. "At the time I was furious. But I've learned since then how understaffed and overscheduled these people are. For instance, now I would give them at least six weeks' notice of a meeting, instead of less than two."

Among those who did attend was a pediatrician from the Oakland Children's Hospital Teen Clinic, Geraldine Oliva, one of the first doctors to concern herself with the touchy and controversial problems of gynecological care for teenagers. She had been drawn to the meeting because of her concern at learning that seven and eight year old girls with vaginal bleeding (possibly DES daughters) had been routinely given estrogens without examination.

At this first meeting it was agreed that members of the group should inform themselves as fully as possible and then spread that

information using whatever contacts they had. Calling themselves DES Information Group, they set out to spread the word among health professionals and lay people. By early 1975 they had arranged DES information workshops at local family planning clinics and Planned Parenthood. Together, Doctors Oliva and Footer had given a workshop for forty medics of the Free Clinic and Women's Health Collective, demonstrating the Schiller iodine-stain test as a mass screening procedure.

In May 1975 DES Information Group was ready to send its first leaflet to lay people. Titled *Women Under Thirty, Read This!*, it summarized the DES danger, urged women with suspected exposure to get an iodine-stain test, and warned against DES-exposed women taking any form of estrogen. "Our first expenditure was for 500 copies, \$24.96 at Cleo's," a local copy center. The money, of course, came out of Pat's pocket. The leaflet was sent to local women's clinics and newspapers and to women's centers across the country, where the effectiveness of the growing women's network proved itself. "In late May Fred and I were in Montreal at the American Booksellers Asso-

-continued

ciation meeting. I dropped into a women's self-help clinic to ask if anyone knew about DES. The woman there smiled and pulled out a copy of our leaflet. She had been in Boston a week before and had copied it from a women's clinic there. That was exactly what we had hoped for. Our leaflet was a seed; other groups were to copy it and spread it."

Within months after the appearance of their leaflet, alliances began to form. First came the Coalition for the Medical Rights of Women, a San Francisco based organization "devoted to improving the quality of health care for women." The Coalition had just started a DES committee, which Pat joined. They printed and distributed a leaflet modeled on the first one. (A later version, printed by the Coalition along with Planned Parenthood, was updated to include newly discovered bad news: DES sons were turning up with genital abnormalities.)

By fall of 1975 ties had been made with the head of the California State Cancer Control Unit, Elfriede Fasal. Dr. Fasal consulted with the Coalition in setting up an ad hoc Advisory Committee on DES. In addition to medical professionals like Dr. Oliva, Fasal appointed four DES exposed people to the committee, three DES daughters from the Coalition (two of whom were nurses) and Pat Cody. On the advice of the ad hoc committee, the California State Health Department sent a letter to 40,000 doctors containing information on DES exposure and asking whether doctors wanted to attend a workshop on DES. Some 1700 responded and 800 of those expressed interest in the workshop. "But when the response started pouring in, how was the health department going to handle it? They just don't have the staff. So the Coalition volunteered to sort and collate everything. Then the health department asked us to help write the agenda for the workshop, including a section on counseling DES mothers and daughters. That was a real advance. Most workshops for professionals are strictly clinical. This one would include psychological considerations." The workshops were eventually held in 1977, one in Los Angeles and one in San Francisco.

In the meantime a national alliance was being formed among DES exposed women. Early in 1977 Pat heard from Fran Fishbane of Plainview, New York. Fishbane hoped to unite DES groups active in New York, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, California, Oregon and Washington, D.C. She proposed a meeting for May 1977. The Coalition paid to fly Pat to New York where "we met in someone's apartment, still with no funds, getting acquainted, trading ideas, discussing ways to spread the word, giving ourselves a name." It was Pat who suggested the name DES Action. "Some people thought it sounded too much like a new detergent, but gradually we all agreed that the name presented a strong, determined image." Shortly after that, Pat and Fred Cody sold their bookstore. "Now I was really ready to devote some time to this."

It began to seem that the effects of DES might spread so as to absorb all the time she could give. For, in addition to the abnormalities appearing in DES sons, there was now evidence that DES mothers might have a rate of breast cancer double that of the general population. The Nader Health Research Group, using the Freedom of Information Act, had obtained these figures from the National Institute of Health. The

## *"A national alliance was being formed among DES exposed women."*

figures appeared as part of a follow-up study of women given DES in an experiment conducted at the University of Chicago Lying-In Hospital in 1951-52. "These women were used as guinea pigs. Some were told they were being given a hormone that was completely safe. Some weren't told at all." In addition to the issue of "informed consent," Pat points out the story of how the correlation was first noticed and pursued. "It was a nurse, an anonymous nurse; none of the reports gives her name. She noticed that an awful lot of DES daughters being checked were worried about mothers with breast cancer or were mourning mothers who had died of it. That says something about how research projects get started."

Dr. Sidney Wolfe of the Nader Health Research Group followed up with a strong letter to Secretary Joseph Califano of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Califano responded by appointing a DES Task Force to meet in 1978 and "review . . . and advise on . . . all aspects of DES." Fran Fishbane of the New York DES Action was appointed consultant to the Task Force. Her group has since obtained legislation to set up state screening centers for DES-exposed.

"That's what we're working on, too," says Pat. "You know, it costs \$50 to \$100 for colposcopic exams. Many women just can't afford that every six months." How did the New York group get such good results? "Well, they're great people. They hang in there and work. Also, Governor Carey of New York has two DES children, and his wife died of cancer."

In 1978 some money finally began to come in. National DES Action got two grants totaling \$11,800 from the Ms Foundation. As national treasurer Pat disbursed part of this money for organizational meetings which wrote by-laws and started a newsletter. Then the Northern California Cancer Program granted \$45,000 in federal funds to the San Francisco based DES Action Committee of the Coalition for the Medical Rights of Women. The only local cancer education program funded, it was praised as a "modest but innovative" program.

Part of that \$45,000 pays a small salary to Pat and co-worker Nancy Adess, and rents space in the Coalition's attic office in the sunny Noe Valley District of San Francisco. There Pat and Nancy plan more workshops for health professionals; answer letters from anxious women who suspect DES exposures but can't get a straight answer from their doctors; distribute the fourth version of their informational leaflet; plan presentations before national scientific organizations; work on the proposal for California state screening centers for DES-exposed; consult with artists on a DES poster campaign; gather new material on DES exposure ("Now we're learning about the effects on people who work in the plants that manufacture DES. The men develop breasts. The women stop ovulating"); give information and support to newly forming DES Action groups; monitor legislative and judicial action on DES ("You know, in September of 1978 a federal judge ruled against using DES in animal feed, but the stuff is still being used. We are all DES-exposed").

The objective results of Pat's action speak for themselves. The less tangible, personal effects on Pat herself can be summed up in her words: "At least I'm not crying anymore." □

# DES ACTION

**Elleen Hansen**  
Executive Director

**Pat Cody**  
International Liaison

**Judith Turiel, Ed.D.**  
Research Liaison

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DES ACTION NATIONAL is an organization of mothers, daughters and sons exposed to the drug DES (diethylstilbestrol), as well as other consumer activists and health care professionals concerned about the DES issue.

The purpose of DES ACTION NATIONAL and of each of its local affiliates is to provide education and support to those exposed to DES, to increase public awareness about DES so that individuals can discover if they are exposed, and to educate medical and legal professionals so that they can provide knowledgeable services to DES exposed people. We also seek to keep public attention on the DES story as a reminder of the need for consumer vigilance in regard to health care practices.

DES ACTION NATIONAL has headquarters in New York and San Francisco and local affiliates in 22 states. We have three international affiliates, DES Action/Australia, DES Action/Canada, and the DES Aktiegroep in the Netherlands.

## Funding Sources

DES ACTION NATIONAL was incorporated in 1979 in California as a 501 (c) (3) educational corporation. We meet our operating budget through donations from private individuals and subscriptions to the quarterly newsletter, the DES ACTION Voice, supplemented by small grants from such foundations as the J. Aron Foundation, the Skaggs Foundation, and the MS Foundation for Women.

DES ACTION - San Francisco and DES ACTION - Washington, D.C., have received, independently, substantial grants from the National Cancer Institute and the Meyer Foundation, respectively, to carry out local outreach and education projects. DES ACTION - San Francisco also had a contract with the California Dept. of Health Services in 1982 and 1983 to provide public education on DES throughout the state. Chapters in Ohio and in Massachusetts have had similar contracts. Most local affiliates are staffed by volunteers, and their operating expenses are met through subscriptions to the DES ACTION Voice and a small start-up stipend provided by the National office.

# NATIONAL

East Coast Office: L.I. Jewish-Hillside Medical Center, New HydePark, N.Y. 11040 (516) 775-3450  
West Coast Office: 2845 24th Street, San Francisco, California 94110 (415) 826-5060

## *Grief Support Project*



— for anyone who has suffered the death of a loved one — spouse, parent, child, friend.

— for anyone who wants to meet with others for the unique support and understanding that comes with sharing a common sorrow.

The Grief Support Project offers a series of weekly 2-hour sessions:

**Thursdays 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.**

or

**Saturdays 10:00 - noon**

at: Friends' Meeting House  
2151 Vine St. (at Walnut)  
Berkeley, California

Those interested should call to register for a group. The first Thursday evening and Saturday morning of each month are the times for new members to start attending.

Each group is led by two facilitators: a professional therapist and a lay person who has had a grief experience. They donate their time for a three-month period.

The Grief Support Project is a gift to the Bay Area community. There is no charge to participate.

For more information, and to register for a group, call any time:

**540-0830**

or write:

*The Grief Support Project*  
Box 7151  
Berkeley, California 94707

In California, where the DES ACTION group received a two-year grant from the National Cancer Institute through the Northern California Cancer Program (\$88,000), the group reached over 800 health professionals through in-service training programs, and thousands of consumers through a widespread media campaign. They designed and produced the educational pamphlet, "You May Be A DES Daughter", and have distributed 200,000 copies nationwide. Their handbook, Community Organizing for Health: A DES ACTION Manual, and their slide-tape program to train health professionals in casefinding for DES exposure, "Ask Your Mother," have also been distributed throughout the country.

In Washington, D.C., DES ACTION received a grant from the Eugene and Agnes Meyer Foundation (\$15,000) to complete a five-county physician survey, provide in-service training to local medical providers, and continue their public outreach and referral work.

Other DES ACTION groups, functioning completely on the energies of volunteer staff, most of whom are employed full-time elsewhere, have managed nevertheless to attract local media attention, provide qualified referrals to physicians and attorneys, counsel DES-exposed women by telephone, and conduct educational forums for the public, featuring knowledgeable medical and legal professionals.

The National office has produced public service announcements for radio and television throughout the nation, and has responded to over 200,000 pieces of mail, as the result of feature stories in the popular press, television and radio. 2,500 subscribers currently receive the DES ACTION Voice with 2,000 more copies distributed quarterly through local affiliates. Special publications of the National office include DES Exposure: Questions and Answers for Mothers, Daughters and Sons, and Fertility and Pregnancy Guide for DES Daughters and Sons.

DES ACTION NATIONAL has coordinated the work of the local groups and stimulated the formation of new local organizations. In addition, the national office has provided special support to women with cancer through the DES Cancer Network, and to women seeking legal remedies for their DES-related injuries.

DES ACTION has ten years of experience in dealing with DES exposed people throughout the country. We are keenly aware of the larger implications of the DES story, and the need for strong consumer action to protect consumers against similar outrages in the future. DES ACTION continues to bring the DES story in front of the public as a reminder of the need for consumer vigilance in all aspects of medical care and potentially toxic exposures.

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JOSEPH P. RILEY, JR.  
Mayor

*City of Charleston*

SOUTH CAROLINA

REUBEN M. GREENBERG  
Chief of Police

POLICE DEPARTMENT

14 April 1986

Ms. Alice Hamburg  
Women's Peace Office  
50 Oak Street, Room 503  
San Francisco, CA 94102-6094

Ref: Mr. Fred Cody

Dear Ms. Hamburg:

You may recall that during my recent visit to Berkeley in reference to the testimonial dinner for Dorothy and Lee Marsh, you asked me about the late Mr. Fred Cody. I have very little information about Mr. Cody that is not already widely known.

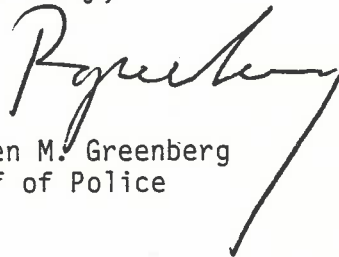
Mr. Cody was appointed as a member of the Berkeley Human Relations Commission during the years 1967-1970 when I was employed by the City of Berkeley. It was he who brought to the Commission's attention the need for a non-traditional "Free Clinic" in the city. He also contributed money to help set this clinic up. He was able to locate a site for the clinic on Telegraph Avenue not far from his bookstore.

There were many untreated health problems among the street people in the city at that time. As fantastic as it may seem today, a case of cholera was discovered at the free clinic, I recall, as well as a severe case of gonorrhea--about which the male patient did not complain until it had spread to the joints in his knees. These persons would not subject themselves to the formalities of a regular clinic but would visit the "Free Clinic" which did not require any identification or other formal requirements. As you know, many of these persons were chronic drug abusers and, consequently, greatly feared the regular medical facilities available to them.

Ms. Alice Hamburg  
14 April 1986  
Page 2

I hope this information will help you. In any case, it was good to meet you last week.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Reuben M. Greenberg', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Reuben M. Greenberg  
Chief of Police

RMG/mw

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BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94720

19 September 1986

Mrs. Pat Cody  
3021 Fulton  
Berkeley, California 94705

Dear Mrs. Cody:

Mrs. Elaine Dorfman has just brought in your oral history to deposit in The Bancroft Library. I am delighted to have it. What a fine history of your work on peace, politics, DES; and especially, about Fred Cody and Cody's Books. You touch on so many events of importance in the last fifty years. It will be most useful.

By copy of this letter, I want to thank Alice Hamburg for doing the oral history. I understand a copy also goes into the Women's Peace Oral History Project, and that is good.

Again, thank you.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs.) Willa Baum  
Division Head  
Regional Oral History Office

WB:lgd

cc: Mrs. Alice Hamburg ✓  
Mrs. Elaine Dorfman

*Mrs. Hamburg - Congratulations. I  
hope you keep on interviewing  
women peace activists.*



Cody's co-founder Pat Cody and Andy Ross, present owner of Cody's Books, in front of the Fred Cody Building at the ribbon-cutting on the thirtieth anniversary of the bookstore September 19, 1986.

## Activities

### National office activities include:

- o Technical assistance to local groups at each stage of development.
- o Publication of quarterly newsletter, DES ACTION Voice.
- o Contact with national medical advisory board regarding issues of medical concern about DES.
- o Preparation and distribution of educational materials for consumers, health professionals and legal professionals.
- o Outreach and education on a national scale, through development of nationally distributed public service announcements and press releases.
- o Representation on the Federal DES Task Force, organized in 1978 and reconvened in 1985, to investigate appropriate federal actions on the DES issue.
- o Liaison with federal government agencies responsible for implementing the recommendations of the Task Force.
- o International liaison to increase awareness about DES, which has been used world-wide.

### Local affiliate activities include:

- o Outreach to the public through attention by print and electronic media.
- o Education of DES exposed through public forums.
- o Training of health care providers on casefinding for DES exposure.
- o Referral to health care and legal practitioners for those seeking assistance.
- o Support groups for DES exposed people.
- o Monitoring local health care providers to ensure quality care.
- o Work with state legislatures to encourage enactment of laws providing general public education about DES, establishing medical screening centers for those exposed, and prohibiting insurance companies from discrimination against those exposed. Such laws have been passed in California, Illinois, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, and Ohio.

During the past ten years, DES ACTION has made a significant impact on the public's awareness of the DES issue, the need to discover one's DES exposure, and the special medical risks and care needed by those exposed.

■ On April 23, 1971, a newspaper article caught Pat Cody's eye. The headline was **DRUG PASSES CANCER TO DAUGHTERS**. The article summarized a report in the *New England Journal of Medicine* on seven cases of a rare form of vaginal cancer which had been traced to the prescribing of DES (diethylstilbestrol—a form of estrogen marketed under seventy different brand names) to the mothers of the afflicted women during pregnancy. Pat remembered that in 1955, after her first pregnancy had miscarried, she had been given DES by her doctor ("so you won't lose this baby, too," he'd said). She had taken it four times a day during the first seven months of her pregnancy for Martha, then aged fifteen.

In 1971 Pat was absorbed in rearing four children, aged fifteen to seven, and running Cody's Books on Telegraph Avenue in Berkeley with her husband Fred. The frustrations of the anti-war movement had reached the pitch of window-smashing despair. Literally in danger of losing their livelihood in the turmoil, Pat and Fred Cody responded as they always had, with involvement in community groups working on their new problems. Pat had helped organize the Berkeley Free Clinic in 1969 and was serving as its treasurer. Everyone lived in a perpetual state of emergency. Why add to their worries by mentioning this vague report?

"But that wasn't the whole reason," Pat admits. "There was the fear and the guilt. You can't imagine what it's like to think that, with the best of intentions, you might have poisoned your daughter; her life might be in danger because of something you did. You blame yourself. You can't imagine facing your daughter and telling her."

During the next two years Pat heard of other uses of DES. DES was used in cattle feed to fatten cattle; despite studies linking it to cancer in laboratory animals, FDA judgments to bar it had been reversed under pressure from the meat industry. DES was given in massive doses as a "morning-after" pill, a post-coital contraceptive dispensed freely in many college campus health centers. It was given to new

non-nursing mothers to suppress milk flow, and to menopausal women. It might even still be prescribed for pregnant women by doctors who had not read up on literature indicating that during more than twenty years of use, it had shown no effectiveness in preventing miscarriage and had been linked with cancer in laboratory animals from the beginning.

In 1973 Pat took her daughter Martha, then seventeen, to be examined by "the only woman gynecologist I could find in Berkeley." She told the doctor of her fears, but to Martha she said only, "You're a young lady now, and a pelvic examination is just routine preventive health care for women." The doctor pronounced Martha completely normal and healthy. "Everything is fine," became the silently repeated mantra, which smoothed over and relieved Pat's secret anxiety.

Until one night in late April 1974. "I was getting ready to go to the little neighborhood women's group that met on our block. I had a few minutes, so I picked up my May issue of *Ms*, which had just come. The first page I turned to carried an item stating that approximately three million daughters had been born of DES pregnancies, that ninety percent of these women 'have undetected adenosis, which may be precancerous' and that the Pap smear or routine pelvic exam 'in no way tests for vaginal cancer.'"

Pat put the magazine down, went to her women's group, and sat. At the end of the meeting one of the women turned to her, smiled, and remarked that she had been unusually quiet.

"Well, I started to cry. It was the first time I cried, but not the last. And for the first time, I talked. All the fear, the guilt, the terror of what might be happening to Martha. . . ." At the end of the evening, one of the women, a physician's wife, promised to get help. The next morning her husband called with a referral to Dr. Wilson Footer in Oakland, who was equipped to do both the Schiller iodine-stain

test, and the colposcopic examination for vaginal adenosis. An appointment was quickly made.

But this time Martha, then eighteen, would have to be told: That scene is described by Martha in a paper she later wrote:

"I was lying on my bed reading when my mother came in and shut the door. 'Martha, I have something to tell you.' Her face was flushed. My mom has high blood pressure, and when she's upset her color comes up. I started to get scared. 'Well, I don't know where to begin. Before you were born I had a miscarriage. . . . The doctor thought . . . ' Her voice cracked. 'DES . . . some of the daughters of those pregnancies have developed cervical cancer.'

"That was when I started to cry. I was just terrified. Mom was crying, too. 'If I had known, I would never hurt you. I feel so guilty. It's all my fault.' We held each other and cried and I realized more than ever how much she loved me."

Dr. Footer found that Martha did not have cancer. She did have the "normal benign changes associated with DES exposure" known as adenosis. He suggested checkups every six months and warned Martha to avoid birth control pills or any other estrogen drug which might trigger changes in tissue. When Pat and Martha left his office, Martha was euphoric. "We had facts now," says Pat, "and knowledge dissipates fear. But I was feeling . . . not quite so euphoric . . . more thoughtful." Pat's mind had made its usual connection between private fears and community needs. "What about all the millions of women who don't know about this and who aren't friends of friends of doctors who know how to check for the danger?"

Immediately, she began to call government health agencies on all four levels: city, county, state, federal. "What is being done to inform women of the DES danger?" The answers were exactly what she feared they would be: "We're doing a five year study."

*continued*