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## An Interview with Judith Boyer

An Oral History Conducted by Claytee D. White

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The Boyer Early Las Vegas Oral History Project

Oral History Research Center at UNLV  
University Libraries  
University of Nevada Las Vegas

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The transcripts received minimal editing. These measures include the elimination of fragments, false starts, and repetitions in order to enhance the reader's understanding of the material. All measures have been taken to preserve the style and language of the narrator. The following interview is part of a series of interviews conducted under the auspices of the Boyer Early Las Vegas Oral History Project. Additional transcripts may be found under that series title.

Claytee D. White, Project Director  
Director, Oral History Research Center  
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## Preface

Before moving to Las Vegas, Judith Boyer graduated from the University of Southern California where she received a degree in business merchandising. She grew up in the Los Angeles area as an only child and discusses Southern California, married life and traveling.

Judith moved to Las Vegas in November of 1948, worked at Ronzoni's Department Store on Fremont Street and then got the chance to work for Bonanza Airlines as a stewardess. Hostessing for an airline was her dream job and she did it for two years, but gave it up to marry Karsten Bronken and start their family.

She discusses Las Vegas as it was in the 1950s. Her memories encompass great stories about the city when people still rode horses around town, participated in Helderado Parades and enjoyed the early hotels and casinos that were so different from those of today.

After her first husband passed away, Judith married Dr. Harold Boyer, who was a dermatologist in Las Vegas for many years. She shares several memories and anecdotes of their marriage. Today she is retired and lives in the central part of Las Vegas.



ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER at UNLV

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Name of interviewer: CLAYTEE D. WHITE

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Judith T. Boyer 11/8/05  
Signature of Narrator Date

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Address of narrator

Claytee D. White 11/8/2005  
Signature of interviewer Date









Judith & Dr. Harold Boyer ( on right) and friends in Norway.



*This interview was conducted in a restaurant. It begins in the middle of a story that began as the equipment was assembled. Mrs. Judith Boyer is the narrator and Claytee D. White is the interviewer. It's Claytee's birthday – November 8, 2005.*

**Just start that story again about your father.**

Well, my dad was born in a little, tiny town on an island in Nova Scotia, Isle Madame. And the town was Arichat. Mother and I had never been there. We were going to do it when I graduated from high school, but the war was on. So we waited until I got through college. So the three of us -- I was driving by then -- drove from Southern California all the way back to Nova Scotia. There was a house on the island that rented rooms for tourists. So we stayed there, and we got to see a lot of the Nova Scotia area. And we drove all around.

Then I spent time on the island and saw where my dad was born and where my grandparents were buried and all that. Then came down to Boston and visited his sister there. Dad hadn't seen a lot of his classmates. He graduated from Tufts Medical School and Dental and then did some dental work at Harvard. My mother and dad married and moved back to Boston. He has his office on Mass Avenue [*Massachusetts Avenue*] right across from Harvard. So they had to see that and show me that and show me places that they went. So while we were in the Boston area -- we got there the Saturday before Labor Day. It was so hot. Oh, jeez. Humid. No way. So anyway, he saw a lot of his classmates. Of course, most of them had children roughly my age, some older, some younger.

So being the kid from California, I got invited to a lot of the football games. And I'd go up and visit this one and his family, and we'd go to University of Mass and Amherst games. Another one we went to, Harvard/Yale, Harvard/Princeton football games. Well, here I am a little girl from California, who graduated from college thinking I knew the world, you know. Oh, I was just in my glory. So the folks were getting ready to come back to California. My aunt said, "Well, let Judy stay for a little while." So they did



because I was having a ball. It was just wonderful. I hadn't seen all of Massachusetts and Philadelphia and some of the surrounding areas. So they let me stay for six months. Then I took the train and came home. But when I was back there, my aunt didn't drive, but her husband liked to drive. So every weekend we'd take off in the fall and see the colors. I had a wonderful time.

**That's beautiful. I thought the weather was great. So where did you go to college?**  
USC [University of Southern California].

**Tell me about USC at that time. A lot of women?**

A fair number, yes. Yes. Not as big as it is now. However, there were -- what -- 3200 in my graduating class. We graduated on the floor of the coliseum. We formed on the campus and walked across Exposition [*Exposition Boulevard*]. Then we walked down under the turnstile, you know, where the stairs are coming down and the scoreboard. And four abreast, we walked down there in our caps and gowns. The families were sitting at the far end. So we crossed the whole football field. I graduated from there June of '47 [1947].

**What did the USC area look like at that time?**

It was rundown, but not like it got later. I understand now the university is doing what they call "The Walls of Troy," and they're buying up a lot of the property around the university. It's much better than it was.

**I've heard that. What was your major?**

I was in business merchandising in the School of Business.

**What had you planned to do with that major?**

Not much.

**Now, you didn't go to school to catch a husband, did you?**

No. I went because my mother and father said your education isn't completed. I was an only child. Of course, the war was on when I graduated from high school. I had gotten a scholarship to Occidental [College], but that was way over on the other side of town. So I went to Santa Monica City College for two years. My dad had his office in Santa Monica. We had moved up to the country then, and he had his office there.



**What was the country?**

Topanga Canyon. Are you familiar with it?

Yes.

My teenage years were spent there. I went to school over the hill in the valley, Canoga Park. So when I graduated from high school, they didn't really want me way on the other side of town. So it was decided that I should go to Santa Monica City College for a couple of years to see what the war situation was going to be. So after I got through there, two years, then I went into USC. And the war was over by then.

**Now, was your mother a college-educated woman, as well?**

Yes. She went to Emerson College in Boston. My dad was a dentist and went to Tufts and Harvard.

**So now, your mother must have been on that cusp where women were just beginning to go to college.**

Yes. She and her sister went back to Boston to college.

**Now, where did they grow up?**

They were born in Colorado, but she grew up in Santa Monica. She went to State Normal Teachers School, which is now UCLA, and taught school there for a while. Then went back to Emerson and met my dad back there. So then they came west and were married in Santa Monica. But they moved back to Boston.

**How did your father feel about going west to get married?**

It was either that, I think, or not get married. I don't know. I never asked him, really. It was just assumed.

**And your mom is going to now leave California, Santa Monica, and that kind of life --**

Well, she had gone to school at Emerson, which is in Boston.

**That's right.**

After they were married, they moved back to Boston. And they were there about five years before I came along. Then she said, well, she wanted her baby to be born in California. So they moved out, and that's where they stayed.

**Did your mom ever work those five years?**



No.

**Oh, that must have been great.**

There was quite a group in my dad's class that stayed together for quite a while. He lost track of some. He joined a Tufts College alumni group in Southern California. So he got to see some of them.

**What did young married women do at that time?**

My mother was an excellent cook. Fannie Farmer Cookbook. I have her original one. She entertained a lot of young doctors, college students, and friends of my dad in their home. Like Sunday night, they'd always have a Sunday night supper. She did the cooking and the entertaining. But, no, she did not work there. In fact, she never worked really.

**Tell me more about the six months that you spent in Boston.**

Oh, I had a ball. I had a good time. It was very interesting. My aunt lived in Philmont, which is a suburb of Boston.

**Philmont Estates?**

Philmont Center. The man that she married -- she married late in life. She was a nurse. She had been hired to take care of this man, a senior, as a private nurse in the home. She met then the son who had never married. She was a very vivacious young woman, not too young, but anyway...and the senior died. So she married the son. They had a beautiful home on Prospect Street in Philmont Center.

She did not drive, however. So I can remember we used to walk down the hill about two, three blocks to the little town of Philmont Center, get on the bus, take the bus into Harvard Square, get on the subway, and go into Boston to Park Street. She loved to shop and look and have somebody to go with her. And, of course, it was all new to me. So it was fine. So she and I got a chance to get to know Boston quite well. I've forgotten a lot of it.

**You also got a chance to get to know her.**

Yeah. She was very nice, very vivacious. French-Canadian. They all loved to play cards. I got to shovel snow for the first time to get the car out and pick icicles off the eaves. But I was strictly a Californian. So it was fun for me, too.



**Good. So six months of that. You went back to California. Did you go to work right away?**

I worked at Bullocks Westwood for a while. I came up to Las Vegas in '48 [1948]. I came home the first part of '48. I came up to Las Vegas about November of '48 to see -- it wasn't a relative. In those days, friends of your family, you didn't call Margaret and Frank or something like that. And mister and missus was kind of formal. So they were aunt and uncle. They were love aunt and uncles, you might say. So they asked me to come up, which I did. I liked it.

**Was it your first time in Las Vegas?**

No. I had been up here a couple of times with my family. We went to Death Valley one time and stopped by. I don't know, a couple of times and then driving through when we went east. But there were about 12, 15,000 people here. It was mighty barren in those days, mighty western.

**So what did it look like?**

We had more fun then than you do now.

**Give me some ideas of some of the things that you would do.**

Well, let's see. Eventually, in November I started working for -- I had been working at Ronzoni's downtown. They were starting up a new airline, Converse, Ed Converse. I'm trying to remember all these names. There was Florence Murphy, Michael -- oh, who was the other one? Well, anyway, quite a few. Those are the local ones. So I talked to my aunt. I said, "Gee, I'd love to be an airline stewardess." I can remember in high school I had to write a paper on what you wanted to be when you grew up. I either wanted to be an opera singer or an airline stewardess. I was built like an opera singer, but I wanted to be a stewardess. So anyway, she said, "Well, go for it." So I did. And I got hired.

**What was the process like?**

Very simple. Do you want to fly? Do you like to fly? You're hired. I mean, that was it. Because there weren't that many young people here in town. There were quite a few, and I got to meet quite a few through my aunt and uncle. He was vice president of the Union Pacific Railroad. He worked on the Colorado River Commission. So between Margaret



and Frank Strom, I met quite a few, particularly the older people here in town, at their home. They were very social. They all had children. So I got to meet the children. The process was not very complicated. There were eight stewardesses. We had to take a Red Cross First Aid course, and we were trained in what to do in emergencies. We were based in Las Vegas. We did fly to Reno with intermediate stops at Tonopah, Hawthorne, Carson City, Minden and Reno. Then we went to Phoenix. And we stopped at Kingman, Prescott, and Phoenix.

**So how long did it take to get from here to Reno with those kinds of stops?**

Three hours and about one to six minutes. Some days we went with a full load if the senate was in session in Carson City. Some days we went up with nobody or maybe one passenger. It just depended. And it was fun because it gave me a chance to see Nevada by the air. Then we'd make stops, you know, sometimes and I'd get to go into town, but not often. We'd just look at them from above. But I got to meet a lot of interesting people.

**Tell me about Florence Murphy.**

She was the secretary-treasurer, I believe, of Bonanza Airlines, a very active woman, very pleasant, very efficient.

**How did she get involved in the airline at that point in our history?**

Well, she was a pilot. She knew Ed Converse and Mike Cole and Larry McNeil, who was a contractor from Los Angeles. In fact, he built Disneyland originally. He was in it financially, and he had some property up here. In fact, the McNeil Tract that is out on Rancho and Oakey, in that area, they call it the McNeil Tract. The property, if I recall correctly, where McCarran Airport itself is there. But they were not involved actually in Bonanza Airlines.

**Which airport did Bonanza Airlines use?**

We used McCarran, but it was the old McCarran across the runways from where it is now. We went out Las Vegas Boulevard South. I don't know if you've been out to see, but the entrance -- the terminal there, there are big rock pillars. Well, that's the entrance that we used. We had a hangar. Eventually, I was chief stewardess. So I had my office up in the hangar with the chief pilot. We came in and out of that airport.



**What did that area look like at that time?**

Well, when you left the Flamingo Hotel, you didn't want a flat tire. You didn't want to run out of gas because the next stop was the airport. There was nothing out there. It was just desert.

**Isn't it amazing?**

Well, my big story as far as the desert, when I was flying, I guess, there was a group of about eight of us, all young, all unmarried. One of the gals had a little boy, Mimm Campbell. Her father was Thomas Campbell, a real estate agent here in town. Ed Converse had a swimming pool out in the Scotch Eighties that he allowed the employees of Bonanza Airlines to use if the pilots would maintain the pool. So Mimm lived across the street from there. She would come over, and I got to meet her through my aunt and other people. There was quite a group of us. Some were lawyers. Some were engineers. More of the young crowd here in town. We used to have a good time.

One of them was an attorney who had horses. So he asked me one weekend if I wanted to go for a ride, and I said sure. So we rode from approximately Arville and Oakey. You can place that. We rode south on Arville across Sahara, which was dirt, across whatever came next. We rode one Saturday night out across the desert, across the railroad tracks. No freeways. Just dirt. Went to the Silver Slipper. Now, this is when Las Vegas was western. Went to the Silver Slipper. Tied our horses up on a hitching post in front of the Silver Slipper, went in, had a beer, saw the show, came back out, and rode back to Arville. I mean, I tell people that, and they just look at me. That was one of the highlights. My first husband and I rode out there a couple times after that, but not that far. I was really living in the Wild West.

**Yes, you were.**

But it was fun.

**Was that unusual to see people riding horses?**

No. You saw quite a few. The only thing is I had been on horses most of my life. I lived up in Topanga Canyon, and we had mountains and trails and hills and everything. But to have horses here in the desert, you rode out, you turned around, and rode back. In my



estimation, it wasn't like having horses when I was a child.

We had one horse when we moved up in the canyon. And I'd have a girlfriend come up. We only had one horse, so my dad got a little Mexican cow pony, a stubborn little thing. But anyway, he had four legs. So we could go riding, and it worked out fine. But every year in the spring, I'd ride the horse over to Canoga Park and stable it with a girlfriend who had horses near the high school. We had a big gymkhana every year. We had gymkhana on the football field.

**What is that?**

Fun activities on a horse. Like you ride a horse across the field, turn around in the saddle, and ride it back. Or you would ride down, get off the horse, put on some crazy outfit, get back on, and ride back. Or hold a potato on a spoon. All on horseback.

**So you were good.**

Well, no, I wasn't good. I was just stupid. I enjoyed riding. I had always been riding before we moved up in the canyon. Then we had a little polo pony. He was excellent. Then just before I moved up here, I had a friend who was teaching me to play polo. I wasn't any good at it. And I was helping him exercise his horses. I'd ride one and have two horses on each side, polo ponies. And we'd make figure eights in the exercise yard. So I had done a fair amount of riding before I came up.

**So you just fit right into Las Vegas?**

Well, I seemed to. I seemed to.

**Now, how did your parents feel about you leaving to live here?**

Not terribly happy. But I was happy. So I think they went along with it. I flew for two years. The last year I was the chief stewardess. The former chief stewardess -- hostess I should say. We weren't stewardesses. We were hostesses.

**That's what you were called at that time, hostesses?**

Uh-huh. Anyway, the former chief hostess had left, so I asked the chief pilot, Byron Reynolds, if I could try out for chief stewardess. And he said, "Sure, if you want to." So I was put on as acting chief stewardess. And I just held that position until I resigned, about a year.



**What kind of shows did you see?**

Good ones.

**Give us some examples.**

The Follies, as I recall. Sylvia Tucker is one I remember very vividly. The shows at the Last Frontier, they were all dinner shows, particularly the first show. You sat and the stage is right there. It's not, you know, half a mile down the road. Liberace was one. And Phil Spitalny and his all-girl orchestra. Then they'd have dancing after the show. You'd get up and dance. I can remember dancing during Helldorado on the stage of the Desert Inn in boots and Levis and a plaid shirt. Helldorado was, of course, our big thing in May. I've got quite a few pictures at home.

**I would love to look at those photographs. Tell me about Helldorado; how it was put together, whose idea.**

It was put on by the Elks. Jim Cashman and Sullivan were the two big wheels, I guess you might say. Other people, I'm sure, but I don't recall names. It lasted -- what -- three days. They had a western parade. Everything was horse-drawn. They had the children's parades, and then they had the beauty parade. I want to say they had a fourth one, but I can't recall what it would have been. One of my daughters marched when she was in high school in the children's parade in both elementary and junior high in her school band.

**Tell me about the Helldorado Village.**

It became kind of a commercial carnival-type thing. But every night they'd have a rodeo.

**Was that at the village?**

It was at that time -- but I don't recall the village that much. I don't recall going. I'm just trying to think. I know we went to the rodeo after Karsten and I were married. We entertained the governor's wife in our apartment. She was riding in the parade and then had to be at the rodeo for the opening. And we lived closer than my aunt. So we all came to our apartment and had a drink and then went on down to it.

**Tell me how you met your husband.**

Well, I had a date one night. We went out to, oh, some program upstairs at the Silver Slipper, Soroptimist or something. This girlfriend had a date. We were going to meet



downstairs at 10 o'clock or something and see the show at the Silver Slipper. So we got down. As we walked in, my date walked by, John Yachson -- he's a contractor here in town -- and this other young man. So they said, "Well, come on, sit down." So we did. We got to talking. Well, I didn't know John. That's the first time, I think, I'd met him. And the other young man was Bronk. That's all I got. Because you don't catch Karsten Bronken very quickly. And I got the Bronk, and everybody called him Bronk. So we talked and chatted. He was from Idaho. He was down here doing a job for a friend of his from Idaho. In the meantime, he had met John to talk about some contracting work. When my girlfriend came, she and her date, we all just -- what -- two, four, six of us -- we were just chatting and laughing and having a good time. She and I went and powdered our noses, I remember. And she thought one of the fellows was just scrumptious. I said, "You know that Bronk isn't too bad."

Well, one thing led to another. On the way home, I told my date -- we were just friends. I mean, it wasn't a date date. It was a couple of friends going out. We did that quite a bit because the girls didn't like to go out alone. The fellows didn't like to go out alone. If we wanted to go to a movie, we'd call so-and-so, Do you want to go to the movie with us? Yeah, sure. And we'd all go. So all the way home, I guess I said, "Well, who is he? Where is he from? What does he do?" He said, "I don't know, Judy, but I'll find out," because he was having lunch with Bronk and John the next day. So the story that came back to me was that he told Bronk, "If you don't call that girl, I'll never hear the end of it." So about a week later, I got a telephone call from Karsten Bronken. Well, who? So anyway, he explained who he was. He came down, and we went out to dinner.

**(End side 1, tape 1.)**

He had his office in Boise, Idaho. But he did work all through Idaho and Utah. So he had called from Salt Lake and said he'd be down that weekend and would I like to go out to dinner. So I said yes. So we did. One thing led to another. We met in March. It was around March. And we were married the following December. Karsten was a full-bloodied Norwegian, K-a-r-s-t-e-n, Thorfin Bronken, B-r-o-n-k-e-n. His mother and sister lived in Boise. His brother, who was about two years younger, was married and



lived in Salmon, Idaho. He was a mining engineer.

So one thing led to another. In the winter in Idaho, you go around getting jobs for the spring because of the weather. So he found the weather was much nicer down here. So he kind of started doing different jobs. He was in civil and sanitary engineering. Another thing that kind of tied us together, he was a Stanford graduate and I was an SC graduate. Well, the farm and the country club. You know, we joked and laughed. So we had that in common, the conspiracy and the competition. So we decided to get married in December. In those days, if you got married, you didn't fly.

**It's just like being a schoolteacher.**

Yeah.

**Same reason, that women just didn't need the jobs.**

Well, when we got married, I resigned. So I resigned two years to the day that I started.

**Say that again about going back and forth to --**

We did go back and forth between Las Vegas and Idaho, Boise particularly. And I liked to fish. So we'd go fishing, and we'd go up to Salmon, Idaho, and see his brother and his wife and fish. That was our second home.

**Earlier you said that your last few months or last year at Bonanza, you were the chief hostess. What does that mean?**

You schedule the hostesses, the girls' flights. We had four flights leaving a day. So we had excellent working hours. We worked two afternoons, like Monday and Tuesday in the afternoon, one to six, maybe one to seven.

**(Too much noise on tape.)**

So we had three days off. It was great. About, oh, when I got in, we were still wearing our uniforms --

**(Too much noise on tape.)**

Tell me about them.

Well, they were wool. Well, come summer --

**(Too much noise on tape.)**

When we were flying, you could take your jacket and, of course, your gloves off. They



tried a light-weight polyester beige suit. It was so hot, I stewed in it. So then I got the bright idea that we'd run a contest between Reno and Phoenix and the universities and the high schools and design a uniform for Bonanza Airlines. So I talked to Mike Cole about it. He did a lot of the publicity and this and that. He said, "That's a good idea. We can get some publicity in these small towns for Bonanza," because, you know, in those days people drove instead of flying. So that's what we did.

So I talked it over with Mike, and he helped with the publicity on it, the University of Reno, UNR, and the high schools and, of course, Minden, Hawthorne, and Tonopah. Kingman had a whole school assembly for me, and I had borrowed some uniforms from TWA and United. And I wore my uniform, the whole uniform of course, and explained to the students that we wanted a light-weight uniform that wouldn't wrinkle, that would look nice, but that was cooler than these heavy things. So we ran this contest. I had --

**(Too much noise on tape.)**

Well, come to find out -- we had independent judges -- Jimmy McDaniel, who was an architect here in town, young, up-and-coming architect -- he has since passed away -- but he won. And we had a girl from Washington and another one from the Phoenix area. There were two girls. And we had Jimmy's design made up. I have a picture of me at home in the new uniform in a window at Ronzoni's that they donated to us and showed after we had run the contest and showed the old uniform and the new uniform.

**(Too much noise on tape.)**

Our spectator shoes were polished white white and we had white gloves. I mean, all the time, white gloves and hats and the whole bit.

**Now, the spectators were flat?**

No, no. They had a heel. The uniforms were made from a light knit wool, very nice. It was kind of a light bluish-green, very pretty. And we could still wear our same wings that we had because they were metal and they just fit in. And we wore the same -- we had a white shell-type thing underneath.

**So now, how big was Bonanza Airlines? Was it just Nevada?**

Well, Phoenix. We went to Phoenix. And then we'd take charters. I took one charter



group to Bylas, a small town south of Tucson [*Arizona*]. I took a group of Rotarians down to Needles along with the Rotarians' aunts and their wives. They didn't have any stairs because we were DC3's and there was no terminal pull-up. You had to walk out, got up the stairs and then got on the plane. So they had a ladder. So if you could imagine all of the matrons of Las Vegas, Jim Cashman and Leah and Frank Guswell -- I don't know -- the old-timers; I mean, they were not young in those days, either -- climbing up the ladder to get in the plane.

**So you didn't have the steps that you could push out to the plane?**

They didn't in Needles, but we did here. But not in Needles. I don't know why they didn't because the DC3's were very popular. But anyway, they had -- (too much noise on tape). But they were all very nice about it. And they invited the captain and copilot and myself to go to dinner with them. So it was just kind of fun.

**Good. Now, tell me about working at Ronzoni's.**

It was great. I worked with Louise Bradshaw. Her husband, Francis, was one of the managers of the bank at 17th and Charleston. And Louise has passed away. But she was a good friend of Dick and Ann, Mom Ronzoni. She was in charge of the accessories. So I started working with her. I started around October, November -- November. So with Christmas coming, she wanted me to stay on. Then I started with Bonanza. So I had talked to them and I said, well, I kind of promised I would work at Ronzoni's over Christmas. So they were nice enough. They said so long as it doesn't interfere in any of your training or flights with Bonanza, go ahead. But after Christmas, then you'd have to stop. So I did. I'd get home from a flight, maybe one, two, three in the afternoon, and I'd change my clothes and go down to Ronzoni's and work then until they closed it at night.

**So tell me what Ronzoni's was like.**

It was our only department store, period. We had a Sears. We had a Penney's. Penney's was (*indiscernible*). Wooden floors. When you made change and gave your saleslady -- take ten dollars (*too much noise on tape*). She'd put it in this tube and shoot it over to the cashier. Then the cashier would make the change, and it came down again.

**So it was similar to the tubes we use today when we do drive-up banking?**



Yeah, um-h'm, only smaller. They were just, you know -- anyway, it was -- but Ronzoni's. And then Johnson's was right next door.

**I don't think I've ever heard of Johnson's.**

Johnson's was a smaller department store. Eventually, Ronzoni's bought them out, I think. But they opened the two stores together.

**Okay. It was a smaller department store?**

Um-h'm.

**Now, working with Ann, Ann is buying; is that correct?**

Ann Ronzoni? Yeah, *(too much noise on tape.)* Ann and Dick, I think, did most of the buying. They were good friends of Louise and Francis Bradshaw.

**What did downtown look like when you first came?**

Like the old pictures, the old pictures. Oh, they had the glitter and the neon, as I recall, because I know whenever we had visitors, we always drove them down Fremont Street. When my girls were in high school, on Friday nights they cruised Fremont Street. I learned to shoot crap in those days, ten-cent crap, at one of the smaller places. Couldn't go too wrong with ten-cent crap, and I didn't know beans about it. But anyway, I wouldn't do it now. I remember, just years after Karsten and I were married, going downtown one weekend to do some shopping. And I said, "I'll just be gone a few minutes." *(Too much noise on tape.)* About two hours later, I guess, I got back. "Where have you been?" I said, "Everybody I knew was downtown shopping." And by the time you stop and talk and you do this and that -- he said, "I was getting worried." So it was friendly. Anyplace you went, you knew somebody. It was a very friendly town. But our main shopping was downtown. Of course, we had The Magic Eye.

**What was The Magic Eye?**

Florence -- *(Too much noise on tape.)* It was a dress shop. It was downtown, and then she moved down on *(too much noise on tape)* or something. And very nice clothes. Oh, very nice clothing at The Magic Eye.

**Because I've heard of -- I can't think of the name of it. There was another kind of exclusive dress shop, as well.**



Dinah Clark's. That was downtown. And there was Lillian's who specialized in a lot of knits when they came out.

**But this is the first time I've heard of The Magic Eye. So thank you for that.**

Oh, yeah. No. Magic Eye was -- oh, if you got a dress there, I mean...

**Good.**

Then I know the Riviera, when they built, they put in a women's store called Bernette's. They had very nice things.

**So you had really good shopping here?**

Well, now, this is in the early 50s. Yeah, I mean, you got what you wanted. If you didn't find it, you didn't need it.

**Now, this was in the early era of the Strip we're talking about now. Tell me how the Strip and the growth on the Strip impacted your life. Did you ever participate and go to these places?**

Yeah, we did. When a new hotel opened, we always had to go and see it. But the local people -- well, if we had guests from out of town, yes, we'd go there for dinner and see a show. But my husband Karsten and I didn't gamble. He learned later -- I mean, early in talking to other men here in town that you don't stay in business in Las Vegas if you gamble. Oh, he'd put a silver dollar in a machine every now and then, but no big gambling. And I didn't either.

**Tell me about his work.**

He was a civil sanitary engineer. He did the engineering on Hyde Park. That was one of his first ones. He did the first building of the Rio Hotel, the engineering, the water, sewer, sewage, streetlights, and all those kind of things. He did some work for Harry Wald at Caesars after the big flood that they had that went right through their parking lot. You've seen pictures of the Cadillacs topsy-turvy. We went out that next morning because he was doing some work for Harry Wald. And that flood channel went right through their parking lot. So he was the one that went in and put a box culvert underneath the parking. It was a big enough box culvert so that you could drive a tractor into it to clean it out and keep it clean. It channeled the water, then, across the street, of course, into the Imperial Palace.



It's a natural channel, and there's nothing you can do about it.

**And is that where it flows today, as well?**

Yeah, it flows through there today. Well, part of it does. I'm sure the main channel has been boxed in. But that was something new that they hadn't done here. He came up with that idea. They had gates on it. There was one man assigned. If it started to rain west of town, he opened those floodgates. They didn't want vagrants and the like in there. Then they had the tractor to keep it clean so the brush and the stuff that flowed through could be taken out.

**That was a great idea. Tell me about your wedding.**

Oh, well, I knew the bishop for the state of Nevada, the Episcopal bishop. And just a few months before Karsten and I were going to get married, he was Lutheran, and I was Episcopalian. The minister, Malcolm Jones, got shot.

**You have to tell me that story.**

And we didn't have a minister at the Episcopal Church, which was the little stone church that was downtown in Sue's -- in the book "Then and Now," page 36.

**Yes. Okay.**

That was the Episcopal Church. Now, it didn't look like that when we were married because they had put white siding on it, but it was the same church. So I called the bishop in Reno and said we wanted to get married on such-and-such a date. Of course, he knew that the Reverend Jones had died, been killed.

**Oh, so he actually died?**

Um-h'm. Well, he said, "Judy, let me see." It's on a Saturday, the 3rd of December. He said, "Well, I'll tell you what. I'm going to be in Ely in the morning for a service" -- or a meeting. I forgot what he said. But he said, "If you'll hold the wedding late in the afternoon, I can drive down." So we said all right. So he hadn't met Karsten, which he always liked to do. But anyway, the morning of the wedding, Karsten picked me up. We were going to check on the cake and the flowers and all that. I had saddle shoes, Levis, sweatshirt, my hair up in curlers, and a bandana on. We took care of what we were going to do. The last thing was stop by the church and make sure that the flowers had arrived



and all the rest of it. So we did. Just as we drove into the parking lot, here came the bishop. He had just driven down from Reno -- or from Ely. So I introduced him to Karsten. So he said, "Well, come on into the church. Let's see if everything's all right." So we did. He stood with us there for -- I thought it was hours, but I guess it was maybe half an hour. And we were getting, you know --

**A little antsy.**

-- close to 4 o'clock. He talked to both of us. I'm standing in my Levis and sweatshirt. Karsten had on older -- just work clothes. So finally, he let us go. But he married us in the Episcopal Church there. And Dr. Lockwood, Chester Lockwood, whom Karsten and I knew, sang. We had our reception at their home out on Tonopah and Bonanza. Do you know where Benny Binion's house --

**Exactly.**

Back -- I think it's Tonopah that runs --

**Yes, it is Tonopah right beside that house.**

Yeah. There was real estate, some nice houses. And Chet and B.B. moved back there and built a house.

**Bonanza Village?**

Probably. They had a house back there. So they asked Karsten -- or asked me if I'd like to have my reception there because I lived in a room. When I became chief stewardess, I decided it was better that I have my own house than to live with a group of the girls. It just worked out better. So I lived with an older woman on Seventh, right across from the high school. I didn't have room there. My folks had, of course, come up from California. So we said yes, you know, we'd like to have it. So we had our reception at their home. It worked out very nicely.

It was a cold, nasty, windy, December -- December 3rd -- day. And in 1951. It was a nasty, cold day. But we got married there. I had called the police department and asked if they could put a reserve hood over the -- we have a couple of meters, parking meters, right by the side of the church -- if they could enclose some of those for us. Sure. So they came out, I guess, earlier, and put hoods on them so that they were reserved. They



were reserved for my folks and any of the wedding party. It was real casual.

**Isn't it something that you could make a phone call like that? That's nice. How did your mother like your wedding?**

Fine. Fine. It wasn't a formal formal. I did have an off-white lace dress that I was going to save for my daughter. But one hot summer day, they wanted to play dress-up. So there went the veil. The veil went first. And then the next thing I knew, the dress went, too.

Karsten and his brother just wore suits. His sister was my maid of honor and his brother was his best man.

**Oh, that's nice.**

My dad walked me down the aisle. "Slow down, Dad. Slow down."

**Now, this is the early 50s. This is also the time that we started testing bombs at the Nevada Test Site. Do you remember that period?**

I remember before Karsten and I were married going up with a friend early, early in the morning before daylight and going up to Indian Springs. And we could even go further.

We went to Cactus Springs. They would close the road. That was the road to Reno.

They'd close the road, highway patrol. They said, "Just to be safe, we're not letting anybody go any further." So the sun was just, you know, getting daylight, and the sun was just coming up. This particular one was dropped from an airplane. We heard the plane.

We all sat down on the asphalt, the middle of the road, because we didn't know if there was going to be a shake. Nobody had any idea what reaction -- what might happen. So we all

sat on the asphalt. The only thing I remember after the bomb landed and it flashed, there was an absence of shadow. Nobody cast a shadow. It was just, you know, a split second.

But nobody cast a shadow. It was just bright. It was kind of interesting. Kind of weird, but interesting. We watched the cloud form, the big mushroom, and drove back to town.

**Did you feel anything from the ground?**

No. No, not a thing.

**Oh, okay. I expected you to feel something from the ground.**

To my knowledge, if we did, it was minor because the only thing I remember is there was no shadow. A couple of people were standing. Some of us were sitting. There was no



shadow behind us. At least that's my main recollection of it.

**Well, that's interesting. Now, did you ever go again to get closer to it?**

No. I have seen them go off, oh, from the road to Boulder City. You could look over the hill. My dad and mother were here and Dad wanted to see what it was. So we drove out there one time. But, no, I didn't get any closer.

**What kind of things did you hear about it here in the city as the years went on, as it got closer to 1955? Did you hear anything about what people said?**

Frankly, I don't remember.

**(End side 2, tape 1.)**

In 1953, my first daughter was born. I was busy being a momma. And in those days, we didn't have television. We had radio. We lived on Sweeney -- well, we lived in an apartment the first, oh, almost two years we were married. Then Paul, Karsten's brother, came down from Salmon because Karsten got busy on Hyde Park and he needed some help. So Paul came down, and he had three -- well, anyway, Paul came down first and brought his two children, two little girls. So we gave them the house that we were going to live in because they got here earlier. And Betty was due in December. So in October, we moved into the one across the street, which had been still under construction.

**Now, which area?**

Sweeney between Bruce and 17th by Crestwood School, Burnham, Bruce. Okay. Crestwood area. We moved in there in October. It was hot that October. And I was, you know, out to here, barefoot and pregnant. Oh, it was hot. And Karsten was gone. He had a job down in Fort Wachuka. But he had his superintendent for the survey crew come over. We had gotten some furniture from a friend of his, a model home that was sold, but the people didn't want the furniture. So they said if you want to haul it and have it brought down, you can have it. We had a grand piano and a cedar chest, and that was all we had. So we said sure.

So before the baby came, we wanted to move into the house. We had been living in a one-bedroom apartment. So Karsten had come down because I wanted to vacuum the ceilings and the walls and polish the floors and all that before the furniture came. Well, I



was seven and a half months pregnant. He didn't want me stretching and bending. It was hot. Oh, it was a hot October. So anyway, I'd go down and supervise.

The day the furniture came, oh, we were so excited. We had seen it through a window in the model home. It was all packed up and ready to go. We saw it on one of our trips to Idaho. But I had never seen it all out. So I knew we had two bedrooms, a den/office type of thing, dining room and living room, all the rugs and the drapery. We ended up with 28 pictures and 7 lamps. I'm still using some of them.

**Oh, that's great.**

Anyway, the day the mover called from St. George and said he was leaving and he'd be down, I told him how to get there. Oh, we were all so excited. Karsten was gone. So I remember standing in the middle of the entry hall. Now, this is not a big house. This is just a little, you know, beginning house, you might say. And they bring this furniture in. Well, I think that goes here. I think that goes here. Made it all, but one piece. They did move that later. But the house was pretty much well furnished. Bed spreads for the twin beds. Curtains, beautiful curtains. Beautiful bed spreads. But we had a house all furnished in one day like that, boom.

**Wow.**

So that worked out fine. He came back that weekend or whenever. We moved in. But then Deb was born the 10th of December. So we got in before she came. So I was busy. And that was in 1953.

We had no water at the house during the day in the summertime. Now, we did that winter. But come summer...we were at the end of a slight rise by the power right-of-way and the end of the water line. People down here two or three blocks had water. But we were up just enough that we didn't get water. My sister-in-law lived across the street with two children. Three in diapers. Two on formula. I mean, between us. So we would make formula and do the wash at 9 o'clock at night because the water then would build up because people down below weren't using as much. I remember. I didn't have a dryer. I mean, dryers were like -- you know, just you hung your clothes outside, period.

**That's right.**



Well, I think it was the next summer because the girls were -- I had two girls then. A year or two later, anyway. Our back door looked out over Henderson. I mean, in that direction. And we could look out and see a few little lights in Henderson from our back door. The rest was desert. I mean, nothing, nothing on Oakey, Sahara, Valley High School, anything. I mean, it was just desert. So we lived there. Paul and Betty lived across the street from us. Then Betty had two girls, and I had one. A short time later, Betty got pregnant and had another girl. That's three girls with two boys that were men. I mean, you had to have a boy, you know.

**I know. Yes.**

Well, then I got pregnant and I had a girl.

**I think that's great.**

So we had five little girls running around. And they were all a grade apart in school. They went through kindergarten through high school a year apart. I had five Bronken girls going, you know. The boys said after my second daughter, they said no more. We had a little problem with her. They said no more children. Betty said, "I don't want any more because if I got a boy, can you imagine a boy with five females running around?" So anyway, but that was the vein of the two brothers. They wanted a boy in there. We never did.

**I wanted to know about Reverend Jones. What happened?**

I don't know the whole story. You know, don't quote me on this. He was the minister at the Episcopal Church and well liked, very well liked. One of his parishioners, I guess, was having a problem and followed him somehow over to Sill's Drive-In, which was on the corner of Charleston and Las Vegas Boulevard South, and shot him.

**Earlier you mentioned that a person you knew lived in the Scotch Eighties. Can you tell me where that name came from as far as what you've heard?**

What I heard -- now, I could be wrong; I don't know -- that a couple of Scotts -- I think they were brothers -- years ago purchased 80 acres in here, and they were going to farm it. What happened, I do not know. But it's always been the Scotch Eighties. That's my understanding of it.



**Benny Binion moved here probably after you moved here or during the same time, maybe a few years before. What kind of stories did you hear about Benny Binion?**

At that time, none. I mean, he was just, you know, somebody downtown, I guess.

Here's another long story. I had a friend that I grew up with. His father was a mining engineer. They were neighbors of my folks when I was, oh, kindergarten age. And they were also friends of Margaret and Frank Strom, all from Salt Lake. They had five girls and one boy. Herbert was second to the last. They lived in Salt Lake. They had been camping. And somehow on the way home, he contracted meningitis, and it left him deaf at an age of about, oh, six or seven, I think. They didn't have the help in those days to treat people like that. But his mother was a very dynamic person. In fact, the oldest daughter was a hygienist in my dad's office. One was a nurse. One was a schoolteacher. Anyway, I can remember as teenagers, they lived up in the canyon and so did we. Herbert was an Eagle Scout, went to Canoga Park to high school, and was deaf. Apparently, no hope of hearing aids in those days. The girls were older, except for Ann, who was a little younger. She was more my age. He and Ann used to fight like cats and dogs.

Well, when they moved up in the canyon. Herbert and I got to know each other, and we got to be good friends and liked each other a lot. He could sound off to me. And I'd just, you know, let it roll off my back, about his sister or something. And he'd say, "Come on, Judy." We'd hike up the canyon, up the creek. And in the spring, it had water in it. It was in the summer, and it was hot, and we could go wading in the pools. I was short and stocky. I mean, I wasn't long and tall. He was tall and thin. I'd get tired or I'd come to a rock that I couldn't get over without help, so I'd sit down. And I'd get a pebble, oh, about like that, and I'd throw it at him. And maybe it took two or three times, but if he felt it, you know, he'd look around and see me. "Well, come on, Judy." Anyway, he and I were always good friends.

Well, I forgot what I was going to say. Oh, you asked me about -- what was I going to say?

**I can't remember the question now. We'll have to come back to that.**

What was it? Well, anyway, he finished high school, went to Cal State at San Luis Obispo



and graduated in animal husbandry. What was I going to say about him? It was a long story.

**Was it about the Scotch Eighties?**

Oh, well, he knew Marge Conkel. He knew Harold. He'd see Marge whenever he came up into town. I can't remember what the point of the whole damn story was. But anyway, he was a good friend to me. He was married and had two children. But they were divorced later on. Well, Harold and I went down to see him. We were in Santa Fe and drove down to Socorro and saw him. So, gee, he died about five, six years ago. I can't remember what the point of my story was.

**I can't either. I think the question had been about the Scotch Eighties, but I can't remember where it was going to go.**

**Tell me, though, about scouting. As your girls grew older --**

Oh, Benny Binion. That's what it was. Okay. You asked me about Benny Binion.

**Okay, yes.**

Well, Herbert was a cowboy, just a plain old cowboy. He drank like a fish. He had a gun in his car or around him all the time. A perfect gentleman. His mother made him say "yes, ma'am" and "no, ma'am" or "No, sir" type of thing. Anyway, he was in town, and he wanted a job at Benny Binion's ranch in Montana, I guess it is. So he said, "Would you call and see if I can come down and talk to him? Will you take me down?" And I said yeah. So I called and got his secretary. She got Benny Binion on the phone. First thing he said, "Is he sober?" And I said, "Well, yeah, he is right now."

But he used to come to our house when Karsten and I -- and Karsten got the biggest kick outside of him because he read your lips. So Karsten would come out with the longest, biggest, most complicated words. And Karsten loved words. Herbert picked every one up. If he couldn't, he'd turn to me, and I would enunciate, and he could read my lips very easily.

But, no, I told Benny Binion, I said, "Well, he is right now." So he said, "Well, have him come down." So I did. I took him down. We met in one of the restaurants down there. And Benny Binion knew him because he had worked on the ranch before. First



thing, "Are you sober?" So anyway, he said, "Well, are you hungry?" You know, with cowboys always, it's one of the second questions. Do you want some coffee? So we had coffee with him, and he talked to Herbert. And he said, "Well, if you can make it up there and you're sober, yeah, I'll hire you. But if you're drunk, don't even show up." So that's my association with Benny Binion.

**So it sounds like he was just a fair person.**

Apparently so. I didn't know him other than just that one incident.

**You said something a few minutes ago about guns as if they were just very commonplace. Did most people carry guns at the time?**

Not necessarily. He did because he was out on the range, and he'd go out to the range shack, which would be away from the main ranch. Because he was deaf, his eyesight was excellent. But he always carried a gun with him.

**When you were moving into your house, you only had a piano, I believe, and a cedar chest. Why the piano? Do you play?**

Well, I did. It was given to my mother by a patient of my father's, Mrs. Merrywether and her daughter. It was a wedding present to her. It's a Steinway. It's beautiful, all carved legs. So as she and her daughter got older, my mother would pick them up and take them to my dad's office. This was after the Depression. Mr. Merrywether had died. They had to move from a bigger house to a smaller house. So she put her hand on my mother's and said, "Louise, I'd like you to take the piano and let Judy start piano lessons." And I was about six. So I did. I took lessons. I played loud, but not well. I still have the piano. It's here now in my living room. It goes to my younger daughter because she was the piano player of the two girls. But her house is not big enough, her living room, for it. So here is this six-foot Steinway piano sitting. And I don't play it anymore because with bifocals, you know, you look up...

**She's just going to have to get a bigger house.**

That's what I keep telling her. But she's very happy where she is.

**When the girls were young, you got into scouting. What was that like, and what were your roles?**



Well, I got into scouting because when I was their age, my mother was a Girl Scout leader in Santa Monica. We had a scout troop in Topanga Canyon when I lived there. Then when my girls were in second grade, in the Brownies, Deb, my oldest, wanted to start a scouting troop. We did have Girl Scouts here, but none at Crestwood School at that time. So I went down and talked to them, took the courses, and all the stuff. And Adell -- no, it wasn't Adell. Terry is closer to Pat's age, I think. Well, anyway -- no. Who was it? Oh, it was Bea Cornette. Her daughter Carolyn and Deb were all about the same age. She had been a Girl Scout in Oregon. So when it was announced that they were going to have a troop there and we needed leaders, I volunteered and so did Bea. So she and I were Girl Scout leaders when Deb was in second grade -- second and third grade with Deb. Then Pat was second grade. So then I started a new troop and let other leaders carry on. And Pat and Terry Barrett were about the same age. So Adell and I became leaders. I was a Girl Scout leader for about seven years. Every Tuesday, Tuesday afternoon, was Girl Scout day.

**What are some of the things that Girl Scouts learn at that age?**

Get along with each other, participate in things, be fair, songs. And I know in elementary school, scout camp in the summertime, my girls went. Karsten and I were on the camp committee. So we were up and down quite a bit in Lee Canyon at the Foxtail. Crafts and a few things like that. Primarily, I think, it's companionship and fun and a lot of fun and games.

**Good. Tell me about how you met your second husband.**

Well, as I said, Karsten and I had our reception the 10th of -- no -- the 3rd of December. I have to remember. We were married on the 3rd of December. And Debbie's birthday is the 10th.

**That's right.**

I always have to remember we were married before she was born. But it was two years in the middle. We'd been friends with the Lockwoods. In fact, he and I baby-sat their oldest daughter one week. When they wanted to get away for a week, they asked if we'd come and stay at the house and baby-sit, which we did. We'd been friends. We would have



them down for dinner, and they'd have us out. Well, one time B.B. called and said, "Hey, there's a new doctor in town, and we thought you might like to meet him." So we said, you know, footloose and fancy-free, sure. Now, we had been married -- what -- two months. We married in '51, December the 3rd. Then this was February '52. So we were, you know, footloose and fancy-free. We said, sure, we'd be happy to.

So we went out to their home. Here was this young man, butch haircut, you know, short, butch haircut, tall, thin, with this funny accent that none of us knew that much about. At least I didn't. He was from Arkansas, Oklahoma, and he was a doctor. He had just gotten out of the service shortly before. He was married. He had two children, who had not come out with him because they were busy in the East until he got squared away here. So anyway, he had been to a couple of towns in Southern California or Needles, California and took the bus. Well, he noticed there was a bus to Las Vegas. So he was going to take it. He had already written Dr. Swank, who was secretary of the Clark County Medical Society.

So anyway, he came up here just to see what Las Vegas was like. Swanky introduced him to Chet. I mean, it was a small town. I mean, you've got to realize this. Of course, they all knew Chet Lockwood. So anyway, the Lockwoods asked him -- I think he stayed out with them. We came for dinner that night. Well, here we were newlyweds, you know, just barely married. And we met this young doctor from the South, very pleasant. And we all got along fine.

The next weekend or two, B.B. wanted some rocks for her yard. So we all decided to go on a picnic up at the Valley of Fire and show Harold some of the scenery. This is before his family came. So B.B. and I got together, and we packed a picnic lunch and we had beer and soft drinks and all that. We went up to the Valley of Fire.

Karsten and Harold were hauling rocks and putting them in the back of the car to take back to B.B. and drinking beer at the same time. You know, we were all young. I mean, we were considerably younger than we are now. So we all had a good time. We all got along together well and had a good time on that trip.

And I don't know. We saw each other off and on because Jane and the children had



not come out by then. It was, oh, maybe a week or two later, one Saturday I guess, Saturday or Sunday, I was in our little one-bedroom apartment ironing. So it must have been that summer because I know I was barefoot. And I was ironing. Karsten was down at the office. He had a drafting table in our living room. He ran down to the office for something. And somebody knocked on the door, and here was Harold. So I invited him in. He came in. I said, do you want some coffee or, you know, iced tea or something? No, he really didn't. So I said I was just finishing a shirt. Well, those were the days that Karsten was wearing his brother's shirts from the Navy, the all cotton detachable collar that needed starching in the cuff and the front and the collars. So when you ironed one of those things, you finished it.

So I finished the shirt. So we were sitting there talking. And all of a sudden, Harold told me, "Well, I've got to go. I better go. Tell Karsten I'm sorry I missed him. We'll see you all later." And out the door he went. Well, I got to thinking about it. I thought, well, that was strange.

So later on after we were married, I guess, I asked him, why did you just get up and out the door? Well, he said, you know, I was used to a small town and people were neighborly and they'd stop by and chitchat. And if the husband was there, fine. If he wasn't, you know, it would just -- but he said, you know, I got to thinking. This is Las Vegas. And what would Karsten think if he came home and found me, you know? I said he wouldn't think a thing of it. But I used to tease him about it later. But, no, that's when I first met him.

Then in the meantime, he settled in an office on Charleston, Fourth and Charleston. Then his family came out. I didn't see them. See now, back then I was pregnant and busy with children. We didn't have any money to socialize and all that. We'd see them at different parties. And then with two girls, over the years, one had a couple of warts or one had a rash. We always went to see Dr. Boyer. Karsten had psoriasis very badly. So when Harold came up or heard about any new treatments, he'd always call and tell Karsten about them. And Paul had it. Paul had psoriasis, his brother. So between the two boys, you know, if he heard of anything, he'd always give them a call.



So we had known Harold, but not well. No, not -- and socially, if we saw him out, you know, hi, how are you and blah, blah. When Karsten died, he died in the middle of the night. The next morning -- I don't know how Harold found out. I have no idea. But that morning, I got a telephone call in the middle of the morning from Harold offering his condolences. And it was during office hours. It was one of the first ones, I think, I had gotten.

**(End side 1, tape 2.)**

But anyway, he was the first one, I think, that called that morning. Marge Conkel out at the Scotch Eighties, that lived there, she thought so much of Harold. After Karsten died, I was quite close to Marge. And I'd take her to the doctor's office and this and that. Well, one day she had an appointment with Dr. Boyer. So I remember I took her in. Well, she was sitting up on one of those examining tables. And here she's 90 years old. So I said, "Well, you sit in the chair, and I'll sit up there." So I did. So Harold came bustling in. "Well, hi, Marge." And I said, "No, it's me." Oh. So we laughed. We had seen each other over the years. I always liked him. I mean, I didn't have any reason not to. As I said, we were never close.

But anyway, Jane died in May of 1994. He had two children, a son and a daughter, that lived here in town. I didn't know Jane. I knew her at a party when she was standing next to him. Jane, how are you? You know, that type of thing. I did not know the children. They were older than mine by a few years and went to different schools and all that.

So anyway, after Karsten died and I moved into my town house, I did a lot of traveling. A friend and I made six pretty big overseas trips. Harold and I made about six more. So it's been about 12 big international trips.

But anyway, I was gone on a trip when Jane died, and I didn't hear about it until a couple months later. I think Marge said something about it. And I said, oh, I didn't know. So the next night or two, I was sitting at home, and I didn't have anything to do. I was bored silly. So I called Harold. I called him at home. I looked him up in the telephone book. And he was always listed in the telephone book. Well, I guess I got him on a bored



night, too. And we talked for about an hour and a half, just reminiscing over fun things and the picnic and hauling rocks and drinking beer -- you know, he'd never really done things like that -- and how much he enjoyed Karsten. We just, you know, chat, chat, chat. So finally, he said, "Would you like to go out for dinner some night?" I said, "Sure." So he said, "All right, I'll give you a call." Well, the next day or so, he called. And we did. We went out to dinner. We had a good time. Then I don't know, one thing led to another, and the next night and the next night and the next night and the next night. We just hit it off so well together. And the nice thing is he said, "I don't have to worry about your reputation or what has gone on. You and Karsten were well known, well liked." So we just started going out. And he was lonesome. His wife had been ill for some time. It wasn't too happy a marriage, I don't think. I opened his eyes to a lot of things, you know. Every place we went, either he knew someone or I did. He generally knew more than I did. But every now and then, we'd go someplace and somebody would say, "Hi, Judy. How are you?" And I'd say, "Oh, I'm fine."

We had a good compatibility. One of our first dates was the Marine Band concert. He was in the Navy. And the Marines got their doctors from the Navy. So he was a flight surgeon with the Marines on Tarawa and Guadal Canal. So we went to the band concert. And at the end, they always play the Army and the Navy and the Air Force songs. When the Navy song played, he stood up. And he said, "Come on, stand up." And I said, "I wasn't in the Navy." He said, "Oh, that's all right. You're with me." Well, then the Marine Corps -- well, I have a thing for Marines. They played the Marine Corps music. Here I am standing next to a Marine. I thought I had died and gone to heaven.

But anyway, he was about nine years older -- a little over nine years older than I am. Excellent physical condition, I mean, that we knew of at the time. We enjoyed doing things together. He liked people. He was a people person. And Jane never went out with him. She just stayed home. So me, I was ready to go. We'd go to the football games. We'd go to the tailgate parties and the Rotary parties. I can remember a couple of parties we went to. Everybody in town knew Dr. Boyer. Then they'd see me standing there and say, "Judy, what are you doing here?" Oh, I'm here. We did that at one Rotary party. My



dentist didn't know we were dating. Harold was a Rotarian. So in the course of the evening, you know, they were talking, and I was standing next to Harold. He looked down, "Judy. Hi. How are you?" And I said, "Fine." He looked at Harold, "Oh." So it was kind of fun. We had a good time.

**That's great.**

He had a good sense of humor. And my granddaughter, Pat's daughter -- Karsten died 17 days before she was born. So she never got to know a grandfather. Her daddy's father and mother both were dead. So she didn't have a grandfather. So before we were married, Harold came over to the house, and the girls were here to meet Harold. They knew him, but, you know, as Dr. Boyer at the office. So Maddie was four or five. We were sitting in my living room, and Deb was horsing around with Maddie and chasing her, kind of scooting around with her. We had told Maddie that she could call Harold "Grandpa Harold" because we were going to get married. So I remember Deb was kind of scooting and chasing her. Harold was sitting on the floor with me. She ran over to him and put his arms around him, "Grandpa Harold, save me. Grandpa Harold, save me." He got along with my girls just beautifully. Not so much for his son. But mine just accepted him like one of the family. He appreciated it.

Oh, we took him on some fishing trips in Idaho. I'm surprised he survived. He did and enjoyed it, just had a great time. Then he took me on some salmon fishing trips up out of Ketchikan, and we had a wonderful time. We brought home salmon.

**How do they freeze? Isn't there a process that they use with salmon?**

Yeah. You bring it in off the boats. And right on the dock, they have cleaning facilities. They gut and clean the fish. Well, in this one case, then it's taken to a sealing, cutting and sealing. Now, you can have fillets this big, or you can have it cut however you want it. They'll ask you that first. You can watch them cut it. Then they put it in a heavy, thick plastic. It fits in. And they line them up and put this thing down in it, and it seals it. It melts the plastic. Then they're put into big freezers, big, big walk-in freezers. They're flash frozen. It's all a process that can happen, after you bring that fish into the dock, within an hour. We would come home every time from Alaska with four boxes like that



full of salmon and halibut. Oh, it was so good.

**So how many pounds are we talking about per box?**

I couldn't lift them. I would say close to a hundred.

**Wow. I'm sure you had to share some of that.**

No, we didn't have to share it with anybody. We did, but we didn't have to. No. He liked to entertain at home.

**That's great.**

So every time we'd have someone out, do you want halibut or salmon? And I got it down so I could cook it quickly, easily. We had an excellent housekeeper. It was one that he had had for many, many years. She just worshipped him. She was just fine with me. I was Ms. Judy until we were married. Then I was Mrs. B.

**What was her name?**

Oh, Elizabeth, Elizabeth Maybury. In fact, I think I had her name down for you to -- she's excellent. She just worshipped Doctor and knew the whole family background. She and I got along just fine. In fact, I just talked to her a week ago. Her daughter was out here visiting her, so I called to see how things went. She and I call maybe once a month and talk to each other. But, no, she helped me out because I was used to giving parties with Karsten. He was excellent in the kitchen. He liked to cook. And he was a lot neater than I was. We did so much barbecuing. It was always informal, very informal, whereas with Harold, it was a little more formal. So Elizabeth, oh, she helped me so much.

**That's great.**

We got along beautifully.

**Wonderful. After that kind of life, what kinds of things keep you busy now?**

For once in my life, I watch soap operas, one. I have never watched a soap opera in my life, but I've gotten hooked because it came on at noon after the news. Well, I've got library meetings. And I go out to lunch once a month with my Girl Scouts. There are five of us that have gone out for lunch now for 37 years and other people. And I'm going out with -- I hope Ann Stedd on Friday. I'm not a shopper. I go because I have to. I'm not a shopper.



**That's me.**

This being short of breath has curtailed it a little bit. So I can go. I mean, like I can go to lunch. I don't do a lot of walking, which I should. And I'm gaining weight, like 60 pounds. But I weigh more now than I've ever weighed. I'm going to pulmonary therapy classes three days a week, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons. I'm not an early riser. So my day goes by...

**That's good. Well, this has been wonderful. And I appreciate this and this great information so much.**

I hope I gave you a little bit of help.

**You did. Early Las Vegas, Bonanza Airlines. This was wonderful. So thank you.**  
Thank you for asking me.

**(End side 2, tape 2.)**