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An Interview with John Foley

An Oral History Conducted by Irene Rostine

The Boyer Early Las Vegas Oral History Project

Oral History Research Center at UNLV
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The transcript received minimal editing that includes 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. In several cases photographic sources accompany the individual interviews.

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.

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Preface

John Foley is the youngest of five sons born to Roger T. and Helen Foley. John's grandfather, Thomas L. Foley was an early transplant to Nevada when he headed for Goldfield in 1907. By 1910 Grandfather Foley had persuaded his son Roger T. to move west – it was a boom time. Roger who was finishing law school in Chicago passed both the Nevada and California bar exams in 1911. Two years later he married Helen who he knew from Chicago and with that launch a legal dynasty in southern Nevada: Roger, Thomas, George, Joseph and John. Each son would enjoy participating successfully in the history of Las Vegas.

In this series of interviews, John shares his personal accomplishments as well as mentions his brothers contributions and service to the community. He talks about being young men, his brothers going off to war, the part-time jobs made available by the ever changing landscape of the area, new jobs and growth. He attended Fifth Street Elementary School and Las Vegas High School, actively encouraged the creation of the Boyd Law School at UNLV, and was elected a Nevada State Senator among many other activities as well as being father to his six children.

John witnessed Las Vegas outgrowing its “little sister to Reno” role and now enjoys bragging that a fourth generation of Foleys lives in Las Vegas, many of whom carry on the family tradition of being lawyers.

Boyer Early Las Vegas Oral History Project



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This is an oral interview with John Foley on May the 11th, 2011, at Las Vegas, Nevada at 10:30 a.m.

Good morning, John.

Good morning, Irene.

I want to thank you for taking time out of your busy day to give us this interview.

It's my pleasure.

So we're going to start from the beginning. Your family was an integral part of the community here, and so we'll start right from the beginning with the first Foley that came to the area, and I believe that was your grandfather?

That was my grandfather, Thomas L. Foley. He came to Goldfield, Nevada in 1907. That was during the boom days of Goldfield. He was admitted to the Nevada State Bar that year. He came with his wife, who was also a lawyer. She was from the state of Michigan. And then they had a child named Alice Foley, who was born in Goldfield in 1908. Alice went on to become a well-known journalist in the San Francisco Bay area. She passed away I think about 2004 or '5. She was in her nineties at the time she died.

But my granddad thought that Goldfield was a good opportunity for my father [Roger Thomas Foley]. My father at that time was in Chicago. He was completing his legal education. Grandpa told him there's gold out here; you've got to come out to Goldfield.

Gold hidden in our hills, huh?

That's it, yeah. And so my dad came out in 1910 and then was admitted to the Nevada Bar in 1911. He was also admitted in the state of California that same year.

Now, my dad was engaged to my mother [Helen Drummond Foley], but they were not married. They were both living in Chicago. Actually, my mother lived across the street from my dad and she was a very close friend to my aunt, my dad's sister. So he didn't have enough money to get married and she was required to stay home for some period of time because her mother had died and she was taking care of her father. So finally, she came out in 1913 and they were married in Goldfield.

I had four older brothers that were born in Goldfield, the oldest one being Roger. He was born in 1917. And then Tom [Thomas] was born in 1919. And then George was born in 1922.

And then Joe [Joseph] was born in 1924.

I think Joe was about one year old when the family moved to Southern California. The economy in Goldfield was really terrible. Many mines were shut down and there was a worldwide depression as far as mining was concerned during that time. Actually, my grandfather had moved on to Los Angeles before. I think he moved down there at the end of World War I, about 1918. And so my dad went down and joined him in the law practice in Los Angeles. We lived on a property—kind of a ranch property. Then I was born. I was born on July 18th, 1927 in Torrance, California.

By that time my dad had the desire to return to Nevada. He was practicing law here. He would handle cases here in Las Vegas. Matter of fact, he was coming back from a trial here in Las Vegas when I was born. He didn't get to the hospital in time. He had a blowout on his car about halfway to California from Las Vegas. We left California on April 1st, 1928. I was only nine months old at the time. Roger, Tom, and George and dad came in the automobile, and my mother brought Joe and I on the train over from Los Angeles. Then we rented a home as soon as we arrived in town.

Of course, those were the days of the swamp -- well, not even swamp coolers. They became the luxury. It was hot here in Las Vegas. My mother was really never too happy with living in Goldfield because as you go through there, there's not much greenery and she had come from Chicago and was used to all that. She liked Southern California. But coming to Las Vegas -- and she had five kids and the oldest was a little over ten. So she had her work cut out for her.

Now, you said you rented a place when you first came here?

Yeah.

And then you moved out into a rural area?

Well, actually I think we rented several places and then we moved out to California Street. Now, California Street is one block south of Charleston. But that was the edge of town in those days. It was unpaved out there. The pavement only ran to, I think, Garces. So it was about a mile from downtown.

Did you raise crops and things out there?

No. We didn't farm, but we had animals. We had goats at different times. I think we had a couple of goats. Then we had a cow at one time. Then we had chickens. We always had chickens. But we didn't do any farming or anything like that.

Did you boys have to do chores?

Definitely. My brothers did. They favored me. They babied me. And I didn't mind that. They had to kill the chickens and do all of that stuff for Sunday dinner and I didn't have to do any of that. So that was it. Then the boys went to school. Then eventually I started kindergarten.

Where did you go to school here?

The first school was on Fifth Street [School]. It started on Bridger [Street] I guess. The whole two blocks were taken. And the high school was there, too. So they started there. Then the new high school was built I think about 1932 or '3 over on Seventh Street.

Then there was a fire. What was left burned down of the old high school, which had then been used for the grammar school. I know my brothers George and Joe and I were waiting for our mother to pick us up. We looked up and saw the flames coming out of the windows of the second floor of the building. It burned very rapidly. The floors were oiled and I think the building was constructed back around 1910 or something like that. It went up very fast. We had a volunteer fire department. They came quickly. But, of course, there was nothing they could do. Fortunately, the fire took place after school. It would have been a terrible thing if it happened during school because the fire moved so rapidly.

So then they rebuilt that school. That's what's there now. I think it was 1936 they finished building that.

And you said your dad [Roger Thomas Foley] was a lawyer; that was his profession when he came to Las Vegas?

Yes, he was. He was practicing law. When he came here he was elected to be justice of the peace at municipal. Justice of the peace in those days also served as the municipal judge for the City of Las Vegas. He had a number of cases of what they called the "Baby" Volstead Act, which was [alcohol] prohibition that was still in effect. He didn't believe in that and he only fined them one dollar. Some of the people were mad at him. There was a lot of movement on to repeal prohibition at that time because it hadn't worked out as they expected. He served in that capacity.

Then he was a deputy district attorney under Harley Harmon. Harley had been a friend of his. Of course, they remained friends all their lives. That's the first Harley Harmon. Then in 1934 my dad was elected DA [District Attorney] and he served from there until 1938.

In 1940 he was appointed district judge. Then in 1945 he was appointed federal district judge. He was the only one in the state of Nevada at that time. Most of the business was in Reno, so he moved to Reno.

Now, during the war, of course, all my older brothers went in the service. I became 18 years old in 1945. That's when the war was ending in Europe and in Japan. That's the year I graduated from high school, 1945.

So did your dad do any campaigning, a lot of campaigning to get those positions?

Oh, yeah, he was campaigning.

Do you know any stories about the campaigns?

We would go out and pass out cards, you know, and put up posters and fliers where there was an event. Yeah. Of course, those days you knew everybody in town, too. So it was a lot of fun. We had a good time doing that.

Then as the war ended all five of us found our way back to Las Vegas. Roger was the first one to come back, as the oldest. He came back in 1947. Then he was a deputy district attorney under Bob Jones, who was the district attorney. And then Roger became district attorney in 1950 until 1954.

Roger was in the service. What branch of the military?

He was in the Air Force. It was the Army Air Force in that day. He was a bombardier on a B-24 plane. He was based in England and in Italy.

So he saw a lot of missions, then.

Yes, he did. I think it was 50 missions. You'd do 50. Then you would be rotated home. That was the rule. Yeah, that was Roger.

And Thomas, what branch was he in?

Tom was in the Army. Tom actually was one of the first kids to get drafted here. He was actually drafted before the start of the war. Then when the war came he was sent over to the South Pacific in early 1942 and he spent the whole time out there until the end of the war.

George was in the Navy. He ended up on an airplane, part of the crew in the Navy Air Force. They flew all around, many, many places.

Then Joe was in the Army. He was in Africa for a period of time.

Tom finished law school and came back to Las Vegas about 1950. Then Joe finished law school and came back in '51. And I finished in 1953 and then I returned here in 1955. I was through the Army and school at that time. At that time we had the firm called the Firm Foley Brothers because there were four of us. George was still in law school at that time. That was a very unique thing to all be brothers in the same firm.

Where was your office located?

The first office was at the Chamber of Commerce Building. It was at Third and Fremont. There was located the Seoul Store and there was a parking lot that people would park their cars for the store. And then the Chamber of Commerce had a little building at the south part of that lot. Joe and Tom had their office in that Chamber Building. It was a small office. But they looked out on the street. Oh, they had a lot of fun with the guys like Oscar Bryan, Senator Bryan's father. He'd come down the street on the way to the courthouse and he'd say, what are the Foleys doing? So they'd stick their head out and they'd holler back at Oscar. And then Harry Claiborne's office was across the street and he'd hear them. So he'd come out on the curb and have a chat. They had more fun in those days. It was very close. So that was it.

But then when all four of us were together, we rented an office across the street. It was down towards Carson Street. At the corner of Third and Carson was the Elks Club. And that was a very popular gathering place. You'd go there for lunch and then they had a bar that people would go to. And then they had card games there, too. So everybody had a lot of fun around there.

Sounds like.

Yeah. So I'm married. My wife's name is Phyllis Dom. I met her when I was in the Army and we got married in San Francisco in 1955. Then we came here and we remained here ever since. We had six children. Phyllis passed away. She died of breast cancer in 2006. I've got eight grandkids now.

What are the names of your children, John?



Roger T and Helen Foley



Left to right: Tom, John, Helen, Joe, Roger T., Roger D. and George Foley (1950s).



Top left: Roger, Tom, George, Joe, John (1930s)



John, Joe, George, Tom and Roger Foley.

My oldest is Ann. She was born in 1956. Her married name is Monaghan. And then my second girl is Elizabeth and she was born in 1957. She goes by Elizabeth Foley. She's a lawyer. She was admitted to the Nevada Bar I think in 1981, and she's been practicing ever since. She's married. Her married name is Maxey. And then my next child is my son John Junior. He lives in California. He's the only one that doesn't live here. He lives in Southern California. Then the next son is Frank and he also lives here. And then Margaret, who lives here. Margaret is a lawyer and she's practicing law here. My youngest child is Carol, who is a court clerk in the district court.

What was your grandmother's name?

McNamara was my father's mother's -- that would be my grandmother's maiden name. Then my mother's maiden name was Drummond, and from Chicago.

And she was Helen?

Helen, yeah. She passed away in 1962.

Did you take part in any athletics or have any hobbies when you were growing up here?

As we grew up, we were all active in sports and school activities. Now, Roger went away in his junior year to the seminary, to study for the priesthood in the Catholic Church. He remained in that for four years and then he decided that that wasn't what he wanted for his life. And then he went on to college, and then the war, and then to the law.

Tom was very active in debating on the forensic stuff and also participated in sports. Then George was a basketball player. George was the captain of the team. He was outstanding in that. Joe played football and I played basketball and football.

How about hobbies, did you have any hobbies that you can think of?

You know, I'm trying to think. No. I didn't have any. Tom played the trumpet and Joe played the drums, but that's about it as far as music. I had no musical talent at all.

Were they in a marching band?

Yes. Well, they had the Eagles Drum and Bugle Corps here, and Tom was in that. They went to Chicago to a national convention and he was in that. He had a great time.

Well, after you finished high school here, where did you go for higher education, what colleges?

I went to University of Nevada Reno. I also went to St. Mary's College for just one semester in California in the Bay Area. And then I went to law school at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

How about your community involvement in civic organizations? I understand that the Foley family was sort of involved in civil rights, also. They were always looking for justice.

That's true. We were all in the Democratic Party and believed very much in the principles that Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman espoused. And civil rights, of course, was strong with both of those presidents and we were all supporters of that.

My brother Roger, as a federal judge, had a number of instances there. He was very strong in enforcing the Constitution, in education or whatever it was. And he was particularly upset that they let the jail deteriorate and he ordered them to shape the jail up. And they did. They didn't like it. A lot of people didn't like it, but he insisted on it and got the job done.

And my dad, too. There wasn't as much of that as a federal judge, as Roger had as a federal judge. But they were strong for it. And all of us guys, we were all for that, you know.

So we belonged to the Elks Club. All of us were Elks and the Knights of Columbus, the Eagles Lodge, too.

Did you take part in the Helldorado celebrations that the Elks held?

Yeah. Yeah. My dad was in the first in organizing the first Elks Helldorado. He was an active Elk. Roger and Joe both were Exalted Ruler, which is the president of the Elks, and put on rodeos during their term of office. They were always working on them.

I'm going to be in the parade this Saturday night.

You are?

Yeah. With the Las Vegas High School group. So that's going to be a little fun, then go to the rodeo. So, yeah, I'm looking forward to that.

Great. What about the community service? Were you involved in community service at all?

I think all of us had participated in one way or another in different activities. I worked on the Boy Scouts Jamboree. Let's see what else.

How about the charities?

Yeah. We'd work in different charitable events. That's about all that I can remember now.

Do you remember any honors and awards that your family received during these periods?

Most of the awards went to my dad and my brother Roger as federal judges. Dad was Man of the Year for the City of Hope and received awards like that. Like he'd be chairman of a fundraising drive, different things like that. Roger, too, was active in that.

Can you tell us about some of your experiences as a state legislator?

Yes. I was in the Nevada State Senate. Mike O'Callaghan was the governor when I was in the State Senate. There was quite a move on in the question of abortion legislation that was sweeping the nation at that time. I was with a group of senators that we opposed it. We prevented the passage of that. Then the Supreme Court decided Roe versus Wade and basically took that away from the states. But we passed subsequent legislation.

Then I was involved in the consolidation issues of the county and city. During that time we formed Metro. We had visions of there being more consolidation, but it never really happened.

You mean between the county and the city?

Yes. We thought it would be basically that the city government would be the big thing rather than the way it's turned out where the county has actually been the more powerful body. We tried to get it the other way, but it didn't. The reason it was is because the casinos were all located in the county. And there's where the big money came from, and the power.

Probably would have been more physically feasible if they had consolidated and just had one group.

Well, that was the goal. In 1973 we passed -- or maybe it was '75, which would have expanded the city limits way out to take in the hotels and everything. That was basically the concept, to expand the city limits. But that didn't work. They did pass a bill, but it was held unconstitutional because it deprived some of the people the voting rights and it was not workable. I wasn't in the legislature when that was passed. Actually, I was an attorney involved in the litigation that declared that unconstitutional. It was hopeful that they would start and rebuild it, but they never did.

I was active in the legislature about a law school. I thought we should have a law school here in Las Vegas. We passed resolutions, but it took some time later before that came to fruition.

Any other things that you did? Any other bills that were passed?

I was chairman of the Legislative Functions Committee, which was basically to how the legislature itself functioned. And then I was chairman of the Education Committee, which was very enjoyable. I had a great interest in working to improve education at the university, as well as grade school and high school.

John, what about the role of the Foley women and your success? The brothers were all successful. Behind every successful man there's a woman. So what about the Foley women?

Well, my mother was very much active in the community. Now, my brothers all had wives that were active and very supportive of their husbands and what they were trying to do. They all worked hard for that. They were active in churches, you know, and ladies groups and political groups.

To promote and support --

Yeah. They were always out there to support. My wife did that, as well.

And I know that your wife worked here in the office with you.

Yeah. What happened, we had the six kids when I was in that legislature and the youngest was only four. She got awful tired of raising six kids and she told me I had to quit. And I did.

I was needed at home; see, so I agreed with her. We were up there and she was up visiting in the legislature. One of the journalists that covered the legislature, a fellow by the name of Cy Ryan -- he's still up there -- he says, John, what's this I hear about you're not going to run again? And Phyllis was with me and she says that's right, Cy. I didn't even have a chance to answer the question. So that was decided, yeah. But I never regretted that. I mean I enjoyed the practice. Of course, my first responsibility was taking care of the kids and her.

Now, Alice, you said she was your aunt.

She was my aunt.

And she was born here in --

Born in Goldfield.

She was a lawyer. She grew up in Southern California and was a lawyer there. And then when she married, her husband and her located in the Bay Area. She worked for the Examiner, San Francisco Examiner and then the Marin County Newspaper. She covered the prison situation at San Quentin. She wrote a lot of stories about all of that. Alice was very well known when you

go around San Francisco. Her last name was Yarish, Y-A-R-I-S-H. But she was a great gal.

I'd like to talk a little bit about the fourth generation of Foleys and the children that the brothers had. You've already told me their names, your children anyway. So what was it like raising children in the Las Vegas community?

It was very nice. Yeah. Most of my kids went to the parochial school for grammar school. Then three of them went to Bishop Gorman, and then three ended up graduating from Western High School.

Now, of course, I guess most people think of the Foleys as -- associate us with the law. Of course, it was very unusual that all five brothers were practicing law. That constantly came up. We would have a lot of fun with that. People would say, oh my gosh, you're going to gang up on us; too many Foleys around here.

In our next generation we've got a lot of lawyers, too. The first one would be George Junior. He was admitted to the bar back I think in 1980. George practiced law for a number of years and now he's a U.S. Magistrate.

Then my brother Tom's son Michael Foley, he and George graduated from law school the same time. Mike was funny talking about the lawyers of the family. He says too bad we don't have a good mechanic in the family that could fix somebody's car. So anyway, Mike's a lawyer. He practiced law, private practice. But he's been with the civil division of the district attorney for a number of years and he's still there.

And then my daughter Elizabeth, she was admitted shortly after George and Mike. Liz has been very active in political things. She was county chairman of the Democratic Party and she does a lot of trial work. She's done very well as a lawyer.

And then my brother Joe's son Dan has been a practicing lawyer here. Dan has represented a lot of people. He's done very well. His wife is a lawyer and she works with him. Actually, they met in law school and they got married. Her name is Diana. She's a very able lawyer.

Then my brother Joe has another daughter Shannon who's practiced law in Southern California and she's done very well.

Then I have another daughter Margaret who is a lawyer. She's practicing law. She's worked for the Nevada Supreme Court for, oh, four or five years on the staff and as a law clerk.

Let me see if I've got them all. I think that's it. That's all the lawyers we've got.

Do you have any other occupations?

Occupations?

I mean of the fourth generation children. Or did they all turn out to be lawyers?

Got a banker. Pat Foley is a banker. That's Joe's son.

Jimmy, George's son, has been involved at the Test Site for many years. He has one boy that was a Republican and his name is Tod. He worked in Washington. Matter of fact, he worked in the White House when President Reagan was there. He became a personal friend of the president. He worked with Elizabeth Doyle in the environmental stuff. He's been practicing law out of Washington. That's where he is right now. I forgot to mention him as a lawyer.

Where did you live in Las Vegas when your children were growing up?

We lived over in the Twin Lakes area. We bought a home out there and I'm still in it. Yeah, I'm still in the same house. It's near Washington and Valley View, near Lorenzi Park.

My brothers, most of them lived over between 15th Street and Oakey and St. Louis area there, around Bishop Gorman High School, in that area. They had their homes over there.

Yeah. I wondered because you said some of your children graduated from Western High School and some from Gorman. So I thought, well, that's way up on the west side.

Yeah. That's where we lived.

Still in the same house?

I'm still in the same house, yeah.

It must be a good house.

Yeah. I think it cost me \$18,000, you know.

Whoa. Lots of memories in that house.

Lots of memories, yeah. They're still there.

Great. So what else can you remember, John, about your family life here?

Well, of course, the big excitement was the Boulder Dam when we were little kids. I remember President Roosevelt coming to town and that was a big thing. We went out to Boulder City. The train took him to Boulder City. I can remember him coming down the ramp. We did not realize that he was unable to walk because of his infantile paralysis. He came down the ramp and you

could see the pain, you know, how difficult it was for him.

He was not in a wheelchair; he was walking?

Walking down the ramp. And then he walked to a limousine. We went over to the park, the administration building on that big lawn there in Boulder City. He drove by and we all waved to him and he waved to us. Then they went down to the dam, all the dignitaries, and dedicated it. We didn't go down there. But that was a big thing.

Then, of course, the building of the [BMI] plant at Henderson, we all -- well, let's see. Joe and George and I worked there at various jobs while that was going up.

What did you do there?

I was an office boy.

Oh, you were pretty young still.

I was 15. They thought I was 17. I remember my boss when school was starting, he said, well, you're going to be a senior this year, John. I said, no, I'm a sophomore. Oh. But that was a very good experience. And, of course, it was a great place of employment for so many, many people. Yeah. That's really caused a big growth for Las Vegas when that started in 1941. Then, of course, Nellis Air Base was built at that time. So those enabled good jobs for people. As kids we had good jobs. It's too bad it isn't like that anymore.

I know. No jobs anymore.

No jobs now days. It's just a shame. Yeah. I feel so sorry for the kids getting out of school.

There's nowhere to go for them.

No. And it doesn't look too good for a while. Hopefully it'll get better, but we don't know.

Where did your other brothers work at Basic, did you remember?

George was in the -- oh, was he a -- he wasn't a steelworker, but he --

Was he making magnesium in the plant?

No, not in the plant. It was just for McNeil Construction. They didn't work in the plant because by the time the plant was finished they were in the service.

Oh, they were helping to build it. I see.

To build it. Build it, I think, through about 1942, maybe 1943 they were still working out there.

Well, Thank you, John, can you think of something else you'd like to add.

I would say I think it's a great thing to get the oral history from a lot of old-timers before they kick the bucket. We've all got questions we'd like to ask somebody about. Yeah. But I think this is very nice. I'm glad to participate in it.

This is part two of an oral interview with John Foley on June 1st at Las Vegas, Nevada, by Irene Rostine.

Good afternoon, John.

Good afternoon, Irene. I'm sorry I'm late.

No problem. I listened to our tape from our previous conversation and I noticed that we talked a lot about your father, but we never mentioned him by name. So I thought we would start today with a little family tree, starting with Thomas L. is the first generation. And so Thomas L. was the first. And his wife was?

His wife was Mary McNamara, and that was the mother of my father, Thomas L., and my father was named Roger Thomas. The Roger was after his mother's father, Roger McNamara, then Thomas, of course, after his father.

And then you had an aunt.

I had an aunt. Her name was Mary Foley. That was my dad's sister. She was three years younger. And then my grandmother died and my grandfather remarried. Her name was Deanie and I can't remember her last name. But they had another child and her name was Alice. And Alice was born in Goldfield. Her mother was Alice Dean -- that was it -- and she was an attorney. And my grandfather married her in Goldfield and they had this child in Goldfield.

Did they meet in Goldfield?

Yeah. I believe they did.

And she practiced in Goldfield?

Yeah. She was with him there in the office in Goldfield.

So we have Thomas L. and your grandmothers. And then Roger is your father.

Roger Thomas is my father. Right.

And Mary and Alice are?

Are my aunts, yeah. Right.

And then there's Roger T.'s children, which --

Yeah. Roger T.'s children are the five of us -- Roger, D. Roger Drummond Foley -- that was my mother's maiden name -- and then Thomas and then George and then Joe and then me.

Well, that was one of the other things. Roger T. was in law school when Alice was born. So I thought there's a big difference in age there, evidently.

She was born in 1908. She was born in Goldfield. She was born before he got there. That's right. He was in Chicago -- that's right -- when Alice was born.

So that accounts for the difference in age, because of the second marriage.

Right. Right.

And your grandmother died.

My grandmother died when my dad was 18. So she died about 1903.

And something else about Goldfield I want to talk to you about. There's a tradition in the Foley family that the attorneys sign the roll book in Goldfield every year.

Right. It's not every year, but they sign it. That's Esmeralda County. Goldfield's the county seat. But they've maintained this attorneys' book. And it's done according to county law, but very few counties have done it. And they wouldn't get everybody. And I happened to be up there. I knew the clerk and he says, John, sign the book. And I did. And my dad and grandfather had signed it, but none of my brothers had signed it. So then I told them about it, and they all eventually signed the book, see. And it's still there. They keep it in the safe because they're afraid somebody will steal the book because they got all the lawyers going way, way, way back -- Pat McCarran, Key Pittman, a lot of senators and prominent people have signed the book.

So the fourth-generation Foleys that are lawyers also have signed that book.

They all have signed the book. That's kind of the ritual. Yeah.

And then also can you tell me about the Foley family's interest in boxing?

My grandfather, Thomas L., promoted fights in Goldfield and in Southern California. Of course, he died when I was eight years old and he had retired from that before I have any recollection or going to any fights. But I know he had a great enjoyment in promoting the fights and enjoyed it.

Now, my brother George followed in that tradition. He was on the Boxing Commission of

the State of Nevada and he was chairman of it. Governor Sawyer appointed him chairman of the Boxing Commission. That was back in the 50s. And he enjoyed that very much.

Those are the only two that were involved in it, then.

Now, you talked about the Baby Volstead Act. That was prohibition. But could you explain a little bit about it?

Yeah. The constitutional amendment was passed authorizing Congress to pass a law, and Congress passed what they called the Volstead Act, which implemented the Constitution, which outlawed booze. Then in Las Vegas, they adopted a city ordinance that they called the Baby Volstead Acts. My dad was justice of the peace here in 1928. And also, in those days if you're a justice of the peace, you were municipal judge of the City of Las Vegas. So he would enforce that, but he didn't like it.

What was the fine supposed to be for --

Regular misdemeanor? I suppose it's -- what was it? It used to be over 500 dollars was a felony. In those days it may not have been that high. But, you know, the fine could be up to that. But Dad didn't like it, so he only fined them one dollar. The police didn't like it because they were counting on that revenue.

What were the repercussions and who was it that didn't like this?

They would say to him, oh, you got to fine them. No, he says, and they're getting ready to repeal that anyway. That was in the works. But he had one case. There was a bootlegger here named Art Shriver who came to court. And he was sitting in the back and he had a fellow with him. And my dad came in with this new white suit. Did I tell you that story?

No.

And Art had this great big dog. It might have been a German shepherd or some kind of dog. And the dog had mud all over his feet and jumped up and greeted my dad. And he got his paws all over his white suit. And dad noticed that Art Shriver's man left the room right then, before they called him. And then they finally called his case, and he gave him the same fine. But Art told the guy, Go get some money. He says, That judge is going to fine us a lot more after that crazy dog did that to him.

Ruined his suit, huh?



John Foley's family, left to right: Margaret, John, parents Phyllis and John, Ann, Carol, Frank and Elizabeth. (1978)



John and Phyllis Foley (2002)



Above: Roger and Anne Foley (1987)



Left: John with sister-in-law Lucy Foley
(Tom's widow) (2002)



Standing from left: Joe, George, Bill Woodburn, Roger T., John, Roger, Tom Foley and fourth generation nephews and nieces seated at the table.



Wearing the Green for St. Patrick's Day 2008: (seated) George Foley, Lucy Foley, (standing) Elizabeth, Dan Foley (Joe's son), Margaret Foley, John, George Foley Jr.

Yeah. But anyway, that was the way that came. And then I think in '32 the Constitution was changed and they did away with it. Yeah.

I know you said the fine was a dollar and they didn't like it. It was the police that didn't like it.

The police didn't like it. They wanted to get more money.

The wanted the revenue. Okay.

Can you tell me anything about the condition that existed in the jail that your father had to clean up? What were the conditions that he --

Now, that was my brother Roger.

Oh, that was your brother. Okay.

Yeah. He became federal judge in 1962. And the jail was old and it was not kept up. I can remember as a kid we would walk by the courthouse and the guys in jail would be down there. And it was hot and they were hollering out. We used to holler at them and say, Listen to the birdies sing, the jailbirds, you know. Shut up, you brats, you know, and everything.

But anyway, a lot of complaints were brought and a lawsuit was filed against the sheriff to compel them so that they had adequate medical care and the beds and laundry and everything was taken care of because that was -- I mean they were in jail to be punished, but not to be really extreme punishment like that. So he felt very serious about the case. The city commissioners -- I think Bill Briar was hollering about it. Well, we got to pay all this money because Judge Foley's over there cracking down. But he wasn't going to back down. He was going to make them shape up that jail. And they did.

Well, matter of fact, one time I was walking -- they were building the complex over there on Casino Center. And they first built a big building, and that was the parking garage. Bob Miller, the future governor, was district attorney at that time. And he come walking out of that garage while I was walking along. And I says, Bob, what is that; is that just the parking garage? And he says yeah. And I says where's the jail? He says don't tell your brother that that's all we've got now, because Roger would have been very angry that all they built was the parking garage.

Did they have to tear the old jail down, then, and rebuild the new one?

Oh, yeah. They tore that down and the old courthouse, see. They tore that down, yeah. So that

was it. Finally, they got it going and everybody went along with it.

You said in 1945 your father became a federal district judge.

Right.

And he had to move to Reno.

Right.

So did the whole family go with him?

All four of my older brothers were in the service because that was the tail end of the war. And I was actually getting ready to go. I had been away to high school, to Sacramento, and to college, in St. Mary's College. So when they moved up there, I just came home from school to Reno. But we moved up there in 1945. Of course, I went to college there. We lived at home when we went to college. My brother Joe went there, but the other brothers were already beyond that.

And then in 1954, I think it was, they appointed another federal judge, Judge Ross, Jack Ross from Carson City. So then my dad and Judge Ross agreed that he would take northern Nevada and dad would come back here. And Vegas -- the business here had grown tremendously by that time and they needed him here full time. So he came back here.

Well, Reno was the big hub, then, and Vegas was the baby sister at that time.

That's exactly right. I think when I was in high school Reno had a population of about three times bigger than Las Vegas. Of course, by about 1950, '55, Vegas had caught up pretty close in that era.

So then your family moved back to Las Vegas after that, after that appointment.

That's right. Yeah.

Where did they live here when they moved back?

Well, as kids we lived on California Street. Did I tell you that before?

Yeah.

But my folks had a house on Eighth Street. Then they built another home out in Rancho Park, right down the street from where we are. That's where they lived till the end of their lives.

When you were in the senate, you sponsored the tax shift legislation?

I was out of the senate when that came up. Proposition 13 in California had been passed. And they wanted to do something in Las Vegas similar to lower property taxes, but they didn't want to

lose the revenue. So they decided to raise the sales tax. And I didn't like that. So I filed a suit. That was what it was. We won the district judge, but the Supreme Court wouldn't go along with it. They played the game for the money, you know, for the revenue.

Oh. So actually you didn't sponsor that bill.

No. It wasn't a bill. I was fighting it. And I wasn't in the legislature when it passed.

Oh, okay. I just wanted to clarify that.

So what can you tell us about the pupfish issue?

The pupfish is out in Ash Meadows. That is not far. It's on the way to Death Valley. I think it's in Clark County. It's either Clark or Nye County. And there's springs there, deep-water springs where these pupfish are. The federal government decided that they were endangered. Some ranchers up there in that area were irrigating much, which was draining this water. That came before my brother Roger. He didn't want to see those pupfish destroyed. He thought that really he had no choice; that was the law. The federal government had the authority to pass that ordinance to preserve them. And he enforced it. He got a lot of heat. A lot of the small counties didn't like it because they thought he was favoring fish over people and agriculture. But he went ahead and did that.

So he saved the pupfish.

He really did. He was very proud of that decision. Whenever anybody asked him about stuff that he did, he always would mention his pupfish.

Now, the Foley Federal Building, was it named after your family or Roger?

Actually, it was named by Senator Reid. But he at the time was congressman. That's one of the prerogatives of Congress, to name the post offices and that sort of thing. He named it. The question was who was it? Was it my dad, was it Roger, my brother, or was it everybody? And Harry Reid says it was everybody, the whole family. And he's the guy that named it.

So what other stories have you got for me?

Well, Las Vegas was quite a town to grow up in. We had excellent teachers at school. I don't know how much you know of Maude Frazier, but she was the principal of the school here and she was an outstanding leader. She later went to the assembly and represented Clark County, and then she was appointed lieutenant governor when Rex Bell died. But she was our superintendent here.

And Harvey Dondero -- you know Thalia Dondero. Harvey was her husband and he was an excellent educator here. We really did have. And our athletic programs were extremely good. I can remember when I was a kid that they were talking about winning the fifth straight football championship for the state. And we were small. We were much smaller than Reno.

That was a great school, wasn't it, the Fifth Street School?

The Fifth Street School was everything, started out. I think that was built around 1910. Then in 1931 or '2, the Las Vegas High School on Seventh Street was constructed. Of course, the rest of the school remained there on Fifth Street. It went from Bridger down to Lewis. That would be for the eight grades. I started at one end of the block in kindergarten and I'd go to the end, you know, and moved up.

But when we were about the fifth grade, they had a fire. The old school burned down. Actually, my brothers George and Joe and I were waiting for our mother to pick us up. We were too lazy to walk home. We saw the fire start and we hollered. A fellow named Ray Warren, who was a football star, he come out of the shop. He heard us yell and he sounded the alarm. He broke his wrist. We only had a volunteer department. But they could not have saved it because the building had been oiled, the floors, that old oil. Actually, I think the fire started in a closet somewhere, spontaneous combustion of a bunch of old rags or something. Fortunately, school was out. There were no children in the school. But it burned down very quickly.

Then the present school there was built. I think that was finished in 1936. Of course, that's still there, but it's not a school. It's a center now.

They use it for another purpose now.

Yeah. They're using it for memorial things of the old Las Vegas. They have meetings there. The city did a very nice job on that.

But we had tents for about two years. They had these built-in tents. So that's where the kids went to school the sixth, seventh and eighth grade. I didn't have to go in the tent because by the time I got to the sixth grade the new building was up.

It must have been pretty hot in those tents.

Well, they would be done. We'd get out the first of June. But it was hot. It was hot. But I didn't have to go to them, so I can't complain about them.

You escaped a lot of things. You escaped taking care of those chickens.

Yeah. Being the youngest had a lot of advantages. Yeah.

Well, I think that's about all my questions, but I'd like to know if you have some more stories because this is very interesting.

Well, I think Las Vegas High School produced in education and it sure produced a lot of lawyers that went through there. In my class there was a whole bunch of us were lawyers. I think that was to the caliber of our teachers who were so outstanding. Of course, the town, growing up with a dam and the influx we had, kids would come in from Boulder City and then from Henderson. Then their own schools were established. Of course, we go on to UNLV or Nevada Southern.

One of your brothers was a regent. Is that right?

Yeah. My brother Joe was a regent for 12 years. I think it was from about '84 to '96, something like that. He was involved in firing of [Coach Jerry]Tarkanian.

Oh, he was?

Yeah, Joe was. He was one of the instigators. He and [UNLV] President Maxson were the ones. But they got tired of Tark and all his shenanigans, so they fired him. But the boosters didn't like it because he won. He was winning big games, big crowds. Well, Joe thought who's going to run the university, Tark or the president?

And it's a learning institution.

That's right. It wasn't just for the talent people to come out and have a good time at a basketball game. He got a lot of heat. They tried to recall him.

They did?

Yeah. Carolyn Sparks was another regent with Joe. She voted with Joe. But they filed a lawsuit, no, they tried to recall him. Then Joe and Carolyn filed a lawsuit, and they threw it out because they didn't have the signatures right. And that was the end of it.

Well, anything else?

We were all very active in politics, all of us brothers, and all of us ran for one office or another. The first one to run was Roger. He ran for attorney general and was elected. And George was elected DA back in 1958.

Can you recall how many attorney generals in your family, how many judges there were?

Roger was the only attorney general. Tom was a deputy attorney general, but he was not elected. Roger was the only one elected. Judges -- now, my dad was a judge, my brother Roger was a judge, and my brother Tom was a judge. That was three.

So three judges.

Yeah, three judges. Right.

One district attorney.

No. Three district attorneys -- my dad in 1934, Roger in 1950, and George in 1958. So we had the three district attorneys.

Wow, what a record. And one assistant district attorney. One senator.

Yeah. I was a state senator. Joe was a regent. Of course, I mentioned Roger and Tom. Now, Helen was a state senator. That's my brother Joe's daughter. My nephew George Junior is a federal magistrate now. He's been a magistrate for about five years. So he's a federal judge. People tell me he's doing a very fine job.

What an impressive record.

Well, that's what people say. We are a legal family. Well, as we came together, the five of us, everybody used to say, oh, my gosh. And when they'd see us, they'd kid us, how can we win? We've got five of you guys against us. So we had a lot of fun with it. But it was fun to be a part of it. It really was.

And usually when you see businesses with sons and brothers or whatever, they're not really brothers, they're just partners. But you were actually brothers.

And that was it. That's why we were unique. I think there was a Foley Brothers Law Firm, all brothers, in San Jose, California, about the same time of us. We heard about them and wrote to them.

Do you know how many there were?

I think there were three or four brothers there. I don't think they had five like we did.

Well, that's great.

Yeah, that was interesting.

But it was a good place to raise kids. My mother and dad had 26 grandkids. So of the five of us, we all produced five or six kids.

Did you have a lot of family gatherings?

We did. We had a lot of fun. Yeah.

You've had a very, very impressive family and they're leaving a wonderful legacy. I'm sure that's going to be an ongoing thing.

The kids are still going, yeah. Well, my feeling about the law is that for three years of law school you can't get a better deal because many doors are open to you. You may not want to practice law or may never use it, but it helps you. If you think about spending three years to get another degree, then a lot of times you don't get a job. There's not many professorships and things like that that open up. I've always encouraged young people to look at law because it is very interesting. You have an interesting life and you make a good living. Some are fortunate enough to get rich. But most of us, it's a good living. You're able to raise your family and enjoy life.

Probably make a lot of good friends, too.

And a lot of good friends. There's a lot of friendship among lawyers. I worked for a federal judge in Oregon. He told me, he says, John, you will learn more about what's going on in town and how to do things in court by the lawyers you drink coffee with, he says, because you talk. You know what I mean? You communicate what you know and they communicate what they know and it builds up a lot of stuff for you, a lot of knowledge.

And three years of law school is faster than becoming a doctor.

That's right. My own case, I didn't know what I was going to do. I just tired of college. And I graduated and I was selling insurance and I didn't do any good. It was a recession time. And my dad said he would help me. I'm eternally grateful that he did that for me. And I feel an obligation to pass that on to my kids or others I can help.

Well, you have a really blessed family, John, very, very.

We've been very fortunate. We've been very active Democrats and very active Catholics over the years. The only Catholic church that was here was Saint Joan's, which is still there. We all grew up there. Matter of fact, in that 1928 campaign for president, we just got here. I was just a baby. But we had a sign for Al Smith and the McNamee family, who were pioneers. They were here long before us. They were all Republicans. They would sit on one side of the church and we were on the other. Of course, we were all great friends. They had a kid that matched ours age-wise and

we were all very close over the years. They're all gone now, and I am the only survivor of the Foleys. There's another fellow, a man named Emmett Sullivan. The Sullivan family had the same number of kids that we did. They're all gone but Emmett. And then Schofield, they were a large family. Jack's the only living Schofield now. So I tell them we better get together, us guys.

Yeah. Have reunions while you can.

Yeah. That's right. But it's been a good place, very good place.

This is June 15th, 2011, at Las Vegas, Nevada, at 2:00 p.m.

Good afternoon, John.

Good afternoon, Irene.

I wanted to talk to you a little bit about some of these associations that you belonged to. I guess the first I would like to ask you about is the -- it says you were the founder of the Clark County Legal Aid?

Yeah, the first Clark County Legal Aid Service. That was back in 1957.

And whom did this organization serve?

It provided legal services of a civil nature to people who could not afford lawyers. It wasn't in Las Vegas, but it was in many other parts of the country. And it was part of the Community Chest in those areas. The Community Chest eventually changed their name to United Fund. I think it's known as that to this very day. But we contacted them. I had visited with the man that was the leader in the Legal Aid Society nationwide. He was the dean of the law school at University of Denver. We suggested that the best way to get this started was if the Community Chest would provide us an office and a secretary. Then that would be a place where the people could come and the lawyers would come, volunteer their time, and there would be no charge by the lawyers. So that's what we did.

And whom did this serve, John?

It served people that could not afford a lawyer.

Were you the first president?

I was. I was the first president on the board. My wife helped to organize an auxiliary to it, which was very effective to it. A lot of the wives of the other board members were on that, as well.

So we still have this Clark County Legal Aid effective today?

It's changed. What happened -- in the days of Lyndon Johnson's a "Great Society," the federal government started to fund these programs. Eventually they did take it over. That's been going on maybe for 30 years or so.

And who were some of the attorneys that donated their time for this?

Well, Paul Larsen, Robert Santacruz, Bill Reiman, Charlie Deaner, and Jack Butler. That's about the names that come to mind right now.

And where was your first office located?

It was down on Las Vegas Boulevard, about a block south of the Grammar School.

And that's still in existence today, only under a different --

Right.

Okay. Now, is it says also that you were an acting municipal judge for the City of Las Vegas.

That's correct.

And when was that, John?

That would have been probably in the early 60s, for three or four years.

What were your duties?

You'd serve as a municipal judge when the other judges would go on vacation or couldn't appear in court for some reason or another. You just filled in, basically.

So how long did that continue?

About two or three years, as I recall. It was very interesting.

That was in addition to your regular --

As practicing law, yeah.

Okay. Judicial Selection Committee, what was that?

In the 1970s, the legislature passed a resolution, and the people approved it at an election, to create a Judicial Selection Commission. That was composed of representatives of the state bar, the chief justice of the Nevada Supreme Court, and people appointed by the governor and people appointed by the bar associations. The local bar -- that was like in Clark County -- we had the local

committee, as well, which would deal with district judge appointments. The main selection group was concerned with Supreme Court appointments. And I was selected by the bar to serve on that first committee. We organized that in 1977.

What kinds of duties did you perform on that? What did you do?

Well, the first one we had was to fulfill the vacancy in the Supreme Court that was caused by Justice David Zenoff, who resigned to go into private practice in California. And so we filled that vacancy. What we would do -- and it's still that way -- we would give the governor three names. The governor had the power of selecting the individual he chose from the three. That was the change. In the past the governor selected whomever he pleased.

Oh, I see. So now they had this committee that did it and gave him the names, too.

Yeah. That was screening. We took applications and had interviews and that's what we did.

Got it all ready.

Right.

You vetted it.

Right. That's a good description, Irene.

Okay. Also, you were a deputy city attorney for Boulder City. And so how did that come about?

Well, the city attorney was Gene Matteucci in those days. Bob Broadbent was the mayor out in Boulder City. Gene needed some help. The burden got a little bit heavy and he, also, was not full-time because he had his law practice, too. So they authorized a deputy and that was me.

And so how long did you perform those duties?

A couple of years, too.

And that was in addition to continuing your law practice?

That's right.

Okay. First Choice, what is that?

The First Choice is an organization that I have become affiliated in the last year and a half. It is a clinic that provides ultrasounds to pregnant women. So it's designed to let them see that they really have a baby and it's not just a piece of tissue, as some people advocate and convince young women to have abortions. It's down off of East Charleston near Christensen's Jewelry there. They

do wonderful work and I'm very happy to be on that board. And there's a lot of women who've changed their mind after they've seen the ultrasound.

And so what are your duties when you go down there?

I volunteer down there to help out with various things, paperwork and things. And I'm on the board now, too, on the board meetings.

So what position on the board?

Just a member.

Well, the next on our list of organizations, Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary.

Yes. The Gilcreases came to Southern Nevada after World War I. They had about thousand acres of land in the northwest part of the valley, and with ample water. They have an orchard out there. I'm sure many people are familiar with the Gilcrease. And they also have a bird sanctuary, but it's more than birds. It's other animals now. But I'm on the board of that sanctuary.

When did you go on that board?

I went on it about about 2007. It's about four years, yeah.

And what position do you serve on the board and what do you do?

And I handled some litigation that they had, too, as an attorney. They had a big upheaval. There was a big resentment against former management and that went to court.

You don't harvest the peaches or anything?

No. I used to go get apricots and peaches, though.

Okay. And I have a question here. Can you tell me anything about the 1971 Consent Decree that was signed? Either it was your father or your brother.

That would have been my brother.

That would be Roger?

That was with the hotels.

That they would get 12 percent of the jobs in the gaming industry?

I was not involved in it, of course, because it was in front of my brother. But as I remember it, I think attorney Tom Beatty here in town took the lead on that with other lawyers because they thought that there was inadequate representation of the community in the jobs on the Strip. They worked it out and put together the agreement that resulted in the Consent Decree.

And your brother was a judge at the time?

He was the judge, yeah.

He was the judge. Okay, I see. Because we're kind of curious about what your brother or your father had to --

No. It was my brother Roger.

Are there any interesting cases you can tell us about that will not violate your ethics thing?

Well, we've had a lot of interesting cases over the years. To go back to the days when I first started practicing, it involved Hank Greenspun and the Las Vegas Sun and George Franklin, an attorney. We had the trials and it went to the Supreme Court.

Then I suppose I handled for the City of Las Vegas the annexation problem. They were having kind of an annexation war with North Las Vegas and there was legislation pending at Carson City. I was employed by the City of Las Vegas to go up and lobby on those things and work on those issues.

Then later for the City of Las Vegas there was a zoning fight over the Meadows Mall. I was involved in that for the city.

And then they had the consolidation that was passed. It was determined that it violated due process in certain ways. I was part of the legal team that challenged that and we won that in the Supreme Court.

What was the consolidation about? What did it entail?

Well, it was a very good idea. It was an attempt to consolidate the urban county with the City of Las Vegas and form districts within there and virtually eliminate -- because the whole city would be involved, and parts of the county. When it got started I was in the legislature. But when they finished it up the next year, they went into these -- where the divisions were not adequate to meet due process. It kind of ganged up for the county against the city.

And by due process, what do you mean by that?

Due process, that was in the proportionate voting in a particular area.

Okay. So it was uneven or --

Uneven, yeah. It was unequal.

About the annexation between North Las Vegas and Las Vegas, who was trying to annex

whom?

North Las Vegas had a city manager named Clay Lynch. Clay was a very intelligent man. He was the point man for the city. There was a desire of the City of North Las Vegas. They've always been very proud, the community. And they wanted to get the surrounding areas and they didn't want Las Vegas to get it. That was the battle.

Oh, I see. It wasn't that one wanted to take the other over?

No. No. It was the new areas that were out there.

Also, you were a member of the Knights of Columbus.

Yes. I've been a member of the Knights of Columbus for 50 years.

Did you hold any positions?

I was what we call the Grand Knight. He's the president of a council. I held that and other offices. You work-through-the-chairs sort of thing. I did that and I'm still in that.

You're still in that?

Yes. I'm still active in that.

So what kinds of functions do they serve? Are they helping the poor?

They are part of -- to help the Catholic Church, to help the priests in the administration of things, to help and to do various things. They have functions, breakfasts.

Fundraising things?

No, not really fundraising. No. Their events are just to break even financially. But it's to promote social things and get people acquainted and to actually do what the pastor wants them to do at various tasks.

Okay. Eagles, Elks, American Legion.

Yes. I was in the American Legion. For four or five years I was active in it. I participated in quite of a few of their activities on Memorial Day and other things like that.

Did you hold any office?

No, I never did.

The Elks?

The Elks, I was a member of it. I was not an officer. My two brothers Roger and Joe were both officers, and I was in there during their term and after that. But that's a very good organization.

Are there any more cases that you can think about that might be of interest to us that you could tell us about?

Let me see. I can't recall any to mind at the moment, Irene.

Okay. Anything else about your time in the senate that was notable?

I was there for four years, and that was the first term with Mike O'Callaghan as governor. The Democrats were in control of both the senate and the assembly. As a freshman senator I was involved in the abortion issue on the Judiciary Committee. And then on education, I was chairman of the Education Committee.

I was very active in promoting a law school at UNLV. There was competition for the law school, whether we go in Las Vegas or Reno. But most of us here in Clark County felt the medical school was Reno, so we should have the law school. And Reno people were saying, well, we have the Judicial College in Reno; we should have everything. And we just said, Reno, you always want everything. So we weren't about to go for it. So we passed a resolution, but we didn't have the money to start it. Then I was on a committee after that for a couple of years, but it didn't go anywhere. Mike O'Callaghan didn't push it when he was governor. It didn't really come -- the law school funding didn't start until I think Carol Harter was president of the university. And she was I think probably the leading force in getting that law school here in which I think it's done very well.

Did any of your grandchildren or your children attend that law school?

No, they have not. No. It wasn't there when they were going through. But I think it's a wonderful thing to have.

It is.

Well, practicing law all these years and being involved in different things keeps me busy. I'm getting old now.

Looking at these organizations, you have been busy.

Yeah. You meet a lot of people and have a lot of great experiences. I would certainly encourage everybody to be as active as you can in your community because you get a lot of reward out of that.

Satisfaction.

A lot of satisfaction, yeah.

Well, you've certainly been very busy all these years here in Las Vegas and done wonderful things for the community.

Well, thank you very much, Irene.

So you are to be congratulated and a pat on the back.

Thank you. I appreciate it, Irene.

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