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## An Interview with Reva Giles

An Oral History Conducted by Claytee D. White

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The UNLV @ Fifty Oral History Project

Oral History Research Center at UNLV

University Libraries

University of Nevada Las Vegas

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The following interview is part of a series of interviews conducted under the auspices of the UNLV @ Fifty 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

Reva Giles grew up in the little town of New Carlisle, Indiana. She was one of twelve children, learning from an early age to share, to give and take, and to appreciate hand-me-downs. Her mother stayed home with the children, and her father worked for Studebaker, a large automobile manufacturer. Right after high school graduation, Reva moved to Redland, California, to live with a sister, working first at an ice cream place and then a bank.

Reva married a military man, and she and their three sons followed him as he was transferred first to Las Vegas, then Okinawa, and finally Utah. When he retired in 1964, they returned to Las Vegas, where he went to work for Pete Findlay Oldsmobile. Their middle son Stuart played football at UNLV, and Reva got involved in fundraising and ticket sales for the team.

Reva always enjoyed helping students, and from the ticket office she moved into admissions, and then student services. She worked for Drs. Ackerman and Burns helping to certify athletes, and from there went into career services, helping students find jobs and practice interview techniques.

After Reva retired, Susie Smith asked her to come back and help, which Reva did gladly. She volunteers as an office aide to Susie as well as Mike Hamrick, athletic director at UNLV. Mike worked with Reva back in the eighties when he was a graduate student, and they have kept in touch through the years.

Reva recalls the university campus when there were only two buildings, and was there for much of the new growth. She is familiar with the history of the Millennium Scholarship, the impact of Tarkanian's Runnin' Rebels on the community and school, and the North-South rivalry between UNLV and UNR's teams. Reva and her family have supported UNLV teams for many years, and she has many anecdotes concerning team trips.

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Reva Giles

7/17/06

Signature of Narrator

Date

Clayton D. White 7/17/2006

Signature of Interviewer

Date

**This is Claytee White. And I'm with Reva -- Reva, how do you pronounce your last name?**  
Giles.

**-- Giles. It is July 17th, 2006. And we're here in the Thomas & Mack in her boss's office. So how are you today, Reva?**

I'm fine, thank you.

**Fantastic. Reva, just so you don't forget it, just to start this interview with a bang, you were about to tell me a funny story. Go ahead and tell it.**

I have many funny stories I can tell you. There always was a group of us that traveled with the football and basketball team. But this one happened on a football team trip. It was Friday night. We had rented a motor home and we were going to Boise, Idaho. And we started up the Interstate 15 and we got to the cutoff that we had to take to go on the way to Boise. And we started up a hill. And one of the drivers said, you know, something doesn't feel right about this transmission.

So he stopped and they tried to put it in gear again. And it wouldn't go in gear. It would only go in reverse. So here we are. What are we going to do? We're way out in nowhere. So they said, well, we only have one thing to do. We're just going to have to back down, back down the road clear to Las Vegas, back down the road, back down Interstate 15 into town, into Charleston Boulevard where we had rented the motor home.

And we were laughing so hard. No one even stopped us. The people's faces as we were passing them driving backwards were just absolutely hilarious. But that was one of many funny trips that we had during my time of traveling with the football team.

**Okay, great. Well, Reva, tell me a little about your early life. We'll start at the beginning and then we're going to jump back to UNLV in a little while. Where did you grow up?**

I grew up in Indiana right out of South Bend, a little town called New Carlisle. All my years of school were in the school that I went to. And then from there I went to California. I had a sister that lived in California. So I went out to stay the summer with her, but I never went back to Indiana.

**That was after high school?**

That was after high school.

**How many sisters? How many children in the family?**

I come from a very large family. There are 12 in our family. There were nine girls and three boys. And we learned to share very well. It was good growing up with a large family, which did teach you a lot of things; that you had to give and take and, like I said, you had to share and you always had hand-me-downs.

**Where do you fit amongst the 12?**

I am the third from the bottom.

**What did your mother and father do for a living?**

My mother, she was just a housewife.

**Just...**

With 12 children. And my father worked for Studebakers. Studebakers was a large automobile manufacturer in South Bend and he worked there.

**So you left home and moved to California. And you were about -- what? -- 19, 20 years of age?**

I was 18 when I graduated, yes, and I stayed on in California.

**So where in California did your sister live?**

In Redlands, right outside of San Bernardino.

**Yes. So what was the difference between your small town and Redlands?**

Oh, my goodness, a lot. The weather was one of the main things that was so different. And the stores were open a lot later. People just moved at a faster pace than they did in our little town.

**And you liked that faster pace?**

I loved the fast pace. I love the fast pace.

**So what did you do in Redlands?**

I worked at a little ice cream place for a while. And then I went on to a bank and I worked at a bank until I met my husband.

**Okay. And what brought the two of you to Las Vegas?**

He was in the military and he was stationed at Victorville when we first met and then he got transferred to Nellis.

**So which year are we talking about that he was transferred?**

That was in 1958. He came here in 1958.



**And when did you move to Los Angeles?**

That was in '53.

**So in 1958 -- now you've lived in three different places -- tell me what Las Vegas is like.**

Oh. Now or then?

**Then, '58, tell me what it was like.**

Well, we had three children. And, of course, the military moved us. So they packed everything up including what I didn't want to go. So we came very shorthanded with things with our children. So we had our automobile. It wasn't a new one, but it wasn't really old either. And we got right out of Barstow and the car broke down. So there was a nice gentleman who heard a crash that had happened after we had stopped and he came up and got us and took us to his farm, towed the car to his farm, and then took us into San Bernardino to catch the train so we could come to Las Vegas.

I'll never forget it. It was August the 16th and it was 115 degrees. Now, coming from Southern California where it doesn't get 90 sometimes was quite a shock. And I cried for the first week saying, "Please take me out of here, please take me out of here." But once the heat disappeared and we got settled into our home, I would never leave Vegas again.

**Wow. Where did you live at first?**

We lived out by where Western High School is today, out off of -- what is Western High School? What's the street Western High School -- Decatur. It was off of Decatur and not very many paved roads, very few high schools. But it wasn't long. We didn't live off base very long until we got a house on base. So that's where we spent most of our time when we were here the first time.

**Now, how did you enjoy living on base?**

It was good. They had a nursery where you could take the children. They had bowling. They had movies the children could go to. They had a lot of recreational things for the children to do.

**Now, did you work at that time?**

No, I did not.

**Three children, so...**

**Now, you said that you lived on base that time. So did you leave Las Vegas and have to --**  
And we came back.

**Okay. So where did you move to?**

My husband got stationed in Okinawa. So we went to Okinawa. He went first and then he came back to get the family and we went back. We were there for four years, which was very nice. You didn't do anything. You had a maid. You had a sew girl. You had a gardener.

**Who paid for all of this?**

Oh, it was very cheap. We did, but it was very, very cheap. When I came home, I forgot how to run the vacuum cleaner.

**So what did you do all day for that four-year period with all of that help in the house?**

We had a card club. I bowled several leagues a day. We toured a lot. They had a black market. It was down in Naha. And several wives used to get together and go down to the black market and check things out.

**Tell me what the black market is.**

It was just a place where you could get things a lot cheaper. You could get anything you wanted. What I would call it like is what we would call a swap meet. It was basically the same thing, only they called it the black market.

And recreation was very good for the children there. They had little league baseball. They had football. They had a place where they had horses and the children could rent the horses by the week, by the month, however. It was just very, very good. My children met a lot of friends, some they keep in contact yet today. So it was --

**What about schools in Okinawa for the kids?**

They had the American schools. They had American teachers. They had K through six and then they had the junior high and then they had high school. My kids loved it when typhoon season came because then they got to come home. They'd come around and they'd board your house up for you and there would be TV 24 hours a day of cartoons. So, absolutely, the children loved that, also.

**So did you live inside your house?**

Yes, we stayed inside the house.

**But it was boarded up.**

It was all boarded up. It was for precautionary measures. We never did really get anything bad

while we were there. So...

**Oh, that's wonderful. In four years that's great.**

Four years. I have to tell you a little funny story about my oldest son. The first one that we were in they had all gone to bed and I went in to check them. I went to his room and there he was in his life jacket. And I said, "Why are you sleeping in your life jacket?" And he said, "In case we get blown away or the rains come." He said, "Then if I get tired of swimming, I can float awhile." But it was just a fun time.

**Wow. That's wonderful. So you came back to Las Vegas?**

No. From there we went to Hildale in Utah. And we stayed there for one year. Then my husband retired. When he talked about retiring, he said, "Where would you like to live?" And I said, "You know, I'm from Indiana and I really don't want to go back to Indiana." He said, "I'm from Pennsylvania and I really don't want to go back to Pennsylvania." So the only home that we really knew was Las Vegas. So it was between Las Vegas and Phoenix were our two choices.

**And you didn't think about Okinawa as a choice?**

Oh, absolutely not. Absolutely not, no. So that's how we ended up to live here in Las Vegas after he retired.

**So which year did you come back for him to retire?**

We came back in 1964.

**1964, okay. Where did you live?**

Where did we live? Oh, we bought a house out off of Boulder Highway and Tropicana.

**Did your husband go back to work at all, or was he just completely retired?**

Oh, yes. No. He went to work. He went to work. He was an auto mechanic. So he went to work for Pete Findlay Oldsmobile and he worked for the late Pete Findlay. Then he did that for a few years and then he retired completely.

**Okay, retired again. Now, you came to work at UNLV because -- this was in 1972. So you've been here for a while. How did you get involved with UNLV?**

My children -- high school, and I had the three boys and the three boys played -- my one son had graduated. My second son was recruited by Ron Meyer to come and play at UNLV.

**Now, tell me who Ron Meyer is.**

Ron Meyer was the coach at that time, but Ron Meyer also was a pro coach. So it was -- I need to back up. I'm sorry. Tony Knapp was his coach at the time. And then Ron Meyer came later. I'm sorry. So really Coach Knapp was his coach that --

**That was the recruiter, recruiting coach?**

He was the head coach. He was the head coach and they recruited him, yes.

**Wonderful.**

Then Ron Meyer came later to -- he played for.

**And so now, your son is going to school here. And then you became interested in the sporting events here on campus?**

Yes. I had always been a sports fanatic no matter what it was. I enjoyed sports. I played them. I encouraged my children all to play them. And I followed all their games that they played in. So...

**So what do you see as the value in kids playing sports?**

Oh, they stay out of trouble, no drugs. You know, it was just -- their mind was into their sports. And that's what I liked was that it kept them occupied and kept them going all the time, as well as me.

**Describe UNLV to me in 1964.**

Very small. As they called it at that time, they called it Southern Nevada. Or a lot of people called it "Tumbleweed Tech." But it was called University of Southern Nevada. So it was very small. When we first came here, their first years of playing football were played out at Cashman Field, and not the Cashman Field of today. It was just a little stadium that they had that they played. It was in the same area as our Cashman Field, but not built up like it is known today. They had a baseball team that played, also. I can't remember the name of the team, though. We'd go to the baseball games. We would go to the football games. And we just kept our kids into everything. We just all grew up in sports.

**So you would follow the team on the road, as well?**

Yes. Yes. We had some great times. Yes, we did follow the team. Yes, we made many trips. We went to Boise and we went to Idaho. Of course, we weren't in a very big league at that time. We went to Reno. It seemed like every trip we went on we had trouble with the motor home that we got. It used to be to the point where -- this is when Coach Meyer was here -- we would just

pull in and we would say, "Well, we're just going to rent us a room so we all can shower." And Coach Meyer would say, "Rev, don't rent a room; we're checking out, all the coaches' rooms; each of you go in and take a shower." So that saved us some money at that time, you know, why, even though we all pitched together. So that was a good thing. We enjoyed that; where we didn't have to put out a lot. We just had some good trips.

**So were you ever chaperons? Do they have chaperons with the teams?**

With the college team the coaches are the ones. No, no chaperons.

**Okay. So how did you start working here? How did you become a volunteer because you're a volunteer?**

Yes. Edie Cramer was the lady that called me. She was a friend of one of the quarterbacks and she was always doing something for the team. So she called me one day and she said, "Rev, can you help us?" And they were making cookies or doing something for the team, you know. And then someone asked me if I would like to help do a jog-a-thon to earn money for the athletic department. So what that was that people would volunteer to jog. They'd get pledges and then they'd jog so long. And I did that for a couple years is how I got started with the university and volunteering. And then my first job as a paid person was in the ticket office. So I only worked part time there.

**So which year was that that you began?**

Oh, my goodness.

**Approximately.**

Well, that had to probably be '74 or '75, something like that.

**And, now, did you like that, working in the ticket office?**

Oh, I loved it. I loved it. I loved dealing with the kids. And I have a funny story about that, too. There were these four guys that always came to the ticket office to get tickets for every game. So, of course, this was when we were doing very well in basketball. So it was tournament time and we had just run out of tickets. I just had to close the windows because we had no more tickets to sell. And one of them happened to be one of the four guys that went all the time. So there he was. He said, "All these years I've been going and I don't get a ticket."

Well, he went on to Reno and became a doctor. So he was an MD. So I was looking for a new

doctor and I thought I'm going to go to him just to see, you know. Well, my first visit there after he got finished, after I got finished with the visit, I went to the window to pay my bill and he said, "Just a minute, Reva, I'll be right back." He walked around the counter and put the window down in my face. He said, "You don't know how many years I've waited to do this." And that was Tony Alamo. He's a doctor here in town and he's on the boxing board now. Tony and I still keep in touch. Yeah, I mean, I was shocked when he said, "I've waited so long to do this," and wham.

**That ticket meant a whole lot to him.**

Yes, that ticket meant a lot to him, yes.

**So what does sports mean to the city? As our teams won more and more, what did sports mean to Las Vegas?**

I think they thought it was great because it was putting Las Vegas on the map. Of course, our city wasn't as big at that time, but we still didn't have enough tickets to go around when they got big. Our first Final Four was in -- I think it was '87, I think. That was the one in Atlanta. Of course, everyone wanted to go. But they followed through the regionals that year. San Francisco was the number one ranked team and we happened to draw them to play in Tucson. And we didn't have a large following go to Tucson. We just whooped on them so bad. And that was the year that we went to the Final Four. Our first Final Four was in 1987.

**Did you go to Tucson?**

I went all the way to Atlanta. We've had four Final Fours and I've been to every one of the Final Fours.

**But when you would go someplace as far as Atlanta, you and your husband would fly, of course?**

Well, this is what's funny about it because my husband wouldn't go because he said, "Someone has to stay home and make the money." So there was this group of people that we all went together. He went to some of them, but that particular one he did not go to. So...

**Oh, my. So you're really the sports enthusiast.**

Oh, yes. Yes, I am.

**Okay, good. Now, tell me what kind of jobs you had here after the ticket office.**

From the ticket office I went to the admissions office.

**Here on --**

On campus. And that was a good job because I worked very closely with the athletic department getting the students enrolled in school.

**You still had that heart for athletics, even there?**

I still had the heart. I never lost the heart.

**Now, tell me about your son's career here?**

My son in his third year -- we were playing Boise I believe. And that became quite a rivalry. He was a wide receiver. They passed the ball to one of the players on the other team. And him and another player on our team -- the player that caught the ball sidestepped and our player hit my son head on in the helmet in the ribs and he broke his ribs. And that was the end of playing career here.

**And what is your son's name?**

My son's name is Stuart.

**Now, does Stuart ever regret being out there on the field this day?**

Oh, not at all. Not at all, no. He learned a lot. He has no regrets whatsoever.

**Wow, that is wonderful. Now, what did he go on to do?**

He now is a project manager in Tennessee for a company. It's a -- I can't remember. I'm sorry. But he's a project manager in a nuclear disposal, yes.

**Oh, my. So what was his major here at UNLV?**

Oh, gosh, it's been so many years ago. I think it was sports management, but I can't completely --

**Now, did your other two children attend UNLV, as well?**

No. He was the only one.

**He was the only one, okay.**

**Following your career on, ticket office, then admissions, then what did you do then?**

After admissions I went into the vice president of student services and I worked for Dr. Ackerman. I loved that job, also. Again, it was working with students, any problem that a student had. It was just good, you know.

**And Bob Ackerman is such a wonderful person.**

Oh, isn't he a doll? I just love him, yes. Yep. I worked for Anna Lu, who was here for many,

many years. She was great, too. She was very good. And while I worked for Dr. Ackerman, I also worked for Dr. Burns. I split the two jobs, which was the certification of the athletes, which I got all the records, got everything together to make sure that the athletes certified to play, that they had all the GPAs, all the core classes that they needed and everything to do that.

**What does that athletic department do to help the athletes? I didn't realize, until I went into the classroom, how much time the athletes have to spend in their sport. I didn't realize it was so daunting.**

It's very dominating.

**Yes. So now, how does the athletic department help to compensate for all of that time away?**

They have academic advisors who go on the road with them. And they have set up special study halls for them to help. And then they also have tutors that they could use.

**So now, the people who go on the road with them, what do they help them with on the road?**

**How does that work?**

Whatever they need help in their academic advisors will help them. They'll have study hall on the road. When they're out on the road and they have free time, they'll have a study hall period for the athletes.

**Oh, that is amazing. I had no idea. Are there other special things that we try to do for our athletes to make sure they get a good education that most people don't know about similar to that?**

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

I'm sure you have an interview coming up with Brad and I'm sure Brad will be able -- and Jerry both will be able to give you more insight on that. That's just what I know from working with that side of it.

**So now, how did you get back full time over here with the athletes?**

I still had another job after that. I went into career services. And that was very good, also. There you help students with their careers, helping them to find jobs after graduation. If they're not doing so well, you recommend that they maybe do a mock interview. They had counselors that help them with their resumes.

I know we had a basketball player named Michael Curtis and he went to work at a hotel in



Beverly Hills. He came back and he works for a car dealership now. And he tells everyone that I got him his first job, you know. So that's a good feeling to think that. And I had several people like that that worked in the athletic department that I led them down the right path.

**How do you get the leads for these jobs? How does the athletic department do that?**

They have recruiters that come on campus. They put out that, you know, anyone that's looking for this type of a job...Then they all interview. And it's not only athletes. It's for the whole university. It's for the whole university, yeah. So that was very challenging, also.

**So how long have you worked on campus now? You actually started as paid in 1974.**

That was part time.

**Okay, part time. And when did you go full time, at which position along the way?**

I finally went full time after, oh, probably about two or three years in the ticket office. Then I did. And then I worked in career services. That was my last job. I finally retired. I finally retired. So I was off for a year and I was kind of bored. So I kind of called around and said, if anyone needs my help, you know, I'm willing to volunteer.

Well, I have to back up. Mike Hamrick, who is now our athletic director, I worked with him in the ticket office.

**Way back when.**

Way back, yeah. That was like in --

**And what was he doing at that point?**

He was a grad student. He was a grad student, yeah. That was in -- my dates might not -- because we worked together in 1980. So we worked together in 1980. And we kept in contact. All these years we kept in contact, you know. And I just loved Mike and I guess Mike loved me. I loved his family. Of course, you know, when kids are in college, they don't have much money. So I kind of took care of Mike and Celetta when they were here. And he really appreciated it. And it just satisfied me to think that I could help someone who was in need.

**Now, who was the person that you helped take care of?**

Mike, Mike Hamrick. I didn't take care of him. You know, I'd buy lunch for him and come over and have dinner, you know. We just had a lot of good times together.

So before Mike was hired, Susie Smith called me and she said, "Rev, you called me once and

said if I ever need anyone I'd come and help you." So she called me and she said, "Do you still mean what you said?" And I said, "Absolutely, I would love to come back." So I've been volunteering here now for the last three years.

**Now, tell me who Susie Smith is.**

Susie Smith is Mike Hamrick's -- she's his right-hand man.

**Wow. So now, what do you do to help out Susie and Mike?**

Whatever they need me to do. I'm a gofer. I'm a filer. I type up orders whenever they need purchase orders or payment vouchers or whatever they need. I'm just a jack-of-all-trades and master of none.

**Tell me what an athletic director does.**

He just oversees all the athletic department. He stays very much in touch with his coaches to make sure they're not breaking the rules. He does a lot of community work. He has to be known out in the community. And that's the money part of it, where the money comes in.

**So he's a fundraiser, one of them?**

Well, he just oversees all of that. Everyone in the athletic department reports to him. But I mean he goes out and has lunch with people that can give the money. Like I said, he just has to oversee the whole athletic department.

**Okay, that's wonderful. That's a good description for me.**

**Now, how long has Susie Smith been here with Mike?**

You know, Susie's been with Mike ever since he was here. She was here with John Robinson when John Robinson was here. And I think she might have come right as Jim Weaver came, which was the one before him. So Susie's been here awhile, also.

**Now, I did not know that the athletic department offices like these were located in the Thomas & Mack. Has that always been true?**

No. When I was on campus, when I first came on campus, we were over in the P.E. complex. The football coaches were all in there. The athletic director was in there. The ticket office was in there. And just everything was there until they built the Thomas & Mack. And that was an exciting thing, too.

**Oh, it had to be. Tell me about that era, that time.**

That era was -- it was great. Wayne Pearson was one of the fundraisers, and Davey Pearl. And they were the two that really masterminded the fundraising for the Thomas & Mack.

And every week we would just say, "Oh, look, look here, look where it's going," from the time they imploded the grounds. And then Wayne used to take us and we used to climb way up into the rafters to see what it looked like, the guys working down on the floor, because we'd say, "Now, who would want to sit way up here?" Oh, I tell you people would beg for those seats in the 90s when we were -- you know, they wouldn't have cared if it was next to God. They wanted to be there. So that was a real exciting time, also.

**And now I hear that the Thomas & Mack is not going to be big enough anymore.**

Well, I'm not sure about that. Big enough for what? We are down in our basketball. And that is the main thing that they use -- well, that the university uses it for. There is still room for a lot more fans to come. And I'm sure Coach Kruger is going to build that up where we're going to get back where we were in the 90s.

**Now, when I came back on campus -- and this is jumping way around now -- when I came back on campus in 2003 to start this position was the first time, of course, that I saw the Cox Pavilion. Tell me about that building. Who owns that building? Is that UNLV's building?**

They do. Cox was the one that built that building. Here again, Brad will be able to tell you more about that than I am. Yes, it is run by the Thomas & Mack and the athletic department, yes. Just this last year the Thomas & Mack and the athletic department have merged. It used to be that was one sector and we were another. But now this last year they have merged together.

**Well, now, do you think that is a good merger?**

Yes, I really do think so because in some things that the athletic department is better suited to do and some things and the T & M is more suited to do. So, yes, I do think that is a good merger.

Yes.

**That's wonderful. So now, tell me about some of the names I've heard around campus. Tell me what it was like when Tarkanian was on campus. What was that like?**

Very exciting, very, very exciting. I was working in the ticket office when he -- oh, I'm sorry. Basketball was also in the other complex that we have. I can't think of the name.

**The athletic complex over here?**

Yes. The name just left me. But he was also in that building, also. And it was very exciting. The excitement that was in that building around his office was very good. Coach had a lot of assistant coaches. He had some great assistant coaches. I think Tim Gergerich was the one that was with him the longest. But there was always excitement. He would always stop and speak to the students. He would always stop and speak to you. It was just phenomenal.

You would go on the road and everyone knew who Tarkanian was. It was good with that way, too. And it was also the same with Coach Robinson when Coach Robinson came to do football. It was the same way with the coach. He was very well known. And it was good for the community, for both of them that they got to come here.

**That's great. Who were some of the people on this campus that you remember and have memories of that you worked with?**

That I worked with? Gosh, there's a lot of them. Of course, Dr. Maxson was here. Dr. Maxson was very good with the students. He was always visible where the students could see him. At the games he would also go to the student section and acknowledge the students.

Dr. Goodall was one of the presidents. I don't remember him. Oh, my goodness.

**Any other presidents that you remember?**

**As you watched this building come up, the Thomas & Mack, what other buildings do you remember that well?**

As they were being built?

Yes.

The dormitories. We only had one dormitory for years. And that was quite exciting to watch them do that. And the hotel building, it was quite interesting to watch that. The Lied building, that was another building that was very interesting to watch. I guess we could go on an on with every new building a came on. You know, why...

**But you've been here to see it grow from -- how many buildings when you came?**

There were two.

Wow.

There were two.

**To what it is today.**

Today it's amazing. And at that time no one would have ever thought that it was going to grow into what it is today.

**Being around campus so long and especially being close to athletics, how have you looked at the North-South rivalry?**

Interesting. I think it's good for the state. I think it's very good. The north gets carried away a little more than we do. They take it more to heart than we do. But I think it's good. At times when we were so good in basketball, a lot of people, including myself, did not think it was something that we should continue on doing.

**What do you mean, "continue on doing"?**

Playing each other in sports because we were so much better. And you know, you almost felt sorry for them. But then when they started coming up, then it's a little more interesting again to do that. And the cannon's a big thing.

**Tell the story. Tell about the cannon. What do you know about the cannon?**

The cannon was given to the university. And I can't remember the gentleman's name. But it has always been something that the team has played for. When Reno has it, it's blue. When we have it, it's red. And it's been so much fun when you see the cannon blue and the team has their red paint out there ready to go to paint it red. It's like something that they're playing for. It gives them a little more incentive to play for the cannon.

**So where is it now?**

I hate to say it, but it's in Reno.

**It's blue.**

It's blue. But I think our coach is going to change that around this year. I think it's going to come back and it's going to be red again.

**Good. Now, looking at the campus from a person who lives here and lives in the community, what do you think people here in Las Vegas feel about us, about the campus, about the athletics, and about the entire campus?**

Well, you know, you have two types of people. There are those that love it and there are those that they either don't care or they don't like it, one of the two. But when we were good in sports, everyone loved UNLV. And now that we're not as good as we were and so many more people

have moved into the city, I don't think it will ever be like it was when we were a smaller school. Maybe if we get to be good again and national champions -- I hope I'm wrong. I hope the whole city gets behind us again.

**So that answer lets me know how important you think sports are.**

Yes, yes.

**We have a Millennium Scholarship here in the state of Nevada where our students get so much money to help them through school. Do you think that's enough?**

Can I go back about the Millennium Scholarship?

Yes, please.

And I don't know if you know how it got started.

**I'm not exactly sure. Tell me.**

Elaine Wynn was the one -- the Wynns were the ones that originally started the scholarship. The students could go to anywhere they chose to go. The young man that lived across the street from me got the scholarship and he chose USC, very well-to-do. He's now in Cincinnati. He's doing very well. But the Wynns were the ones that originally started the scholarship. When the Wynns gave it up. After the Wynns gave it up, it went to the Minardis. They had it for several years, also. Then when they gave it up, then the state took it over.

I think it's a very good scholarship. I think sometimes they need to put stricter rules with it. I don't know as much about it now as when they did it. But they need to put where the student must go to school and they may have this, they must maintain a certain GPA. I think that's great. But there is still a lot of need for more scholarship, a lot more scholarships besides the Millennium Scholarship that we do have.

**I agree.**

**What do you see as the future of -- right now you're in athletics -- so the future of athletics?**

I think there's no other way that it can go but up. I think in time we're going to be back to where we were. I think our football program is headed in the right direction, which is going to bring in a bigger crowd. Our basketball is certainly headed in that direction.

Our baseball team, Coach Goldsmith, he has done a great job with the baseball team. He plays

a higher caliber than most people would like for him to play. But I think it's very good. This year he played the national championship team that won the national championship last year, which if I recollect right I think we won two out of three games from them. But his caliber of play is always at a higher caliber of play. And I think that's very good, also.

Our swimming and diving team, they won the league last year. That was the first time they had won that.

And, of course, our men and women's golf is very, very good. We've had some players come out that have played nationally and are still on the tour.

Our volleyball team is just working its way up now with our new coach that we have. Why, I think she'll be doing bigger and better things. We have two new soccer coaches. Both have won competitively in their leagues that they came from. So we're looking for greater things from them.

What did I miss?

**Tennis?**

Tennis. Our tennis team, we've also had some great men and women that were ranked to play. And he also plays very, very good teams. So the competition is right there with the rest of them. So I think it's up and coming. And I think given a couple more years, I think we'll be back right where we should be.

**That is wonderful. You know, I appreciate all this information. Is there anything else that you'd like to add?**

Probably after you leave, I'll think about it.

**Of course. Of course. And if you do think of some other funny stories, just let me know.**

Oh, I can tell you another funny story.

**Good. Please do.**

This was another trip. We were on the way to Idaho. This was another football trip. We were on our way to Idaho and everybody already cooks something. And it was in late October, first of November. So I said, "I'm going to make a big bowl of chili." So I made this big pan of chili. We had lost the game and we come home and everyone was kind of down. So everybody kept getting in the refrigerator.

And I had a gentleman ask me -- you know, he knew we always went to these games and he

said, "Could I just ride with you?" And I said, "Oh, yeah, I guess it'll be okay you riding with us." But he didn't make friends too well with my group, you know. So, anyway, we were coming back home and we turned around a curve. And someone didn't block the refrigerator tight. And he was laying on the floor right under the refrigerator and out came this pot of chili all over him. And, you know, that made the trip back home a little more -- because they laughed and laughed and laughed.

**And did he laugh, also?**

Well, not at first. But in the end, he was a good sport about it.

**That's wonderful.**

**Tell me what Carol Harter's influence has meant to the athletics?**

Carol's been a good supporter of the athletic department. I have to say all of our presidents have been. She always wanted to make sure she was there for whatever anyone needed. She was very good about traveling and making an appearance at the games and all. I just think she's done a great job and I think she will be missed.

**Oh, yes, definitely.**

I really think she will be missed.

**Yes. Well, on that note we will end. And I want to thank you.**

Oh, you're welcome.

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