

# AN INTERVIEW WITH LOIS M. GOODALL

An Oral History Conducted by Judy Harrell

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West Charleston Neighborhoods:  
An Oral History Project of Ward 1

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

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An Oral History Project of Ward 1  
University of Nevada Las Vegas, 2014

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The following interview is part of a series of interviews conducted under the auspices of the Boyer Early Las Vegas Oral History Project.

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## PREFACE



Lois Goodall, wife of the fourth president of UNLV, Dr. Pat Goodall, speaks with pride when recalling her early life, marriage, and involvement with the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She grew up in Odessa, Missouri, with a father who was a farmer and a teacher mother, went to college to become a teacher, and her freshman year met a young sophomore gentleman by the name of Pat Goodall. They married and while Pat attended graduate school at the University of Missouri, she taught fifth grade. After Pat earned his Ph.D. they moved to Arizona State University, where he taught political science, and then to the University of Illinois, the University of Michigan, and finally to UNLV.

Lois, as the president's wife, enjoyed hosting various celebrities and faculty, was responsible for raising three children, and, miraculously, found time to earn her Master of Education degree in reading education and curriculum. She received her Master's hood from her husband, the president of the university, at her graduation.

Expressing enthusiasm, Lois Goodall shows great delight in UNLV's growth and development. The university's Hotel Administration is second to none, and subsequent programs such as the addition of a law school imply maturity and expansion. She also admires the generosity and far sightedness of such individuals as Jerry Mack and Parry Thomas who not only funded the Thomas & Mack Center but purchased surrounding land so that the university could expand economically. Marjorie Barrick, another philanthropist, gave money for lectures benefitting faculty, students and community and also established the Barrick Scholar Award for students and Distinguished Scholar Award for faculty. As she describes the university's development, it is obvious that Lois Goodall remains one of UNLV's greatest supporters.



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November 12, 2013  
in Las Vegas, Nevada  
Conducted by Judith Harrell

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**This is Judy Harrell. I'm interviewing Lois Goodell. Goodell?**

Goodall.

**Goodall. I'm sorry.**

That's okay.

**It's just as written, huh?**

**Her last name is G-O-O-D-A-L-L, just as it sounds. Today is November the 12th, 2013, and I am at her home.**

**Lois, first I'd like to hear a little bit about your early life.**

I was born in Missouri and lived there all my life until I got married. I lived in Odessa, Missouri most of my life; that's a small town east of Kansas City. Then I went to college at Central Missouri State University, which is located in Warrensburg, Missouri.

**And how old were you when you got married?**

I was 21 years old; I had just graduated from college.

**Did you meet your husband?**

Yes, I met Pat at the college; he was a year ahead of me in school. We went together a couple of years before I graduated. So I met him as a freshman. We were friends through a church group and then later we started dating.

**Well, tell me more about that, like what kinds of places did you go on dates in that time period?**

In that time period mostly we would go to movies or just go for a drive. He was very active in campus politics; he was the president of the student government, so there were dances that we went to. He was in a fraternity, so we went to some of those activities.

**Did you belong to a sorority or what clubs did you do?**



No, I did not. In college mainly my social activities was with my church group.

**And what church is that?**

At that time it was the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and our group was called the Liahona group. There was a large number of people in the group. Many of them had gone to Graceland College, which is the RLDS college. The church headquarters is in Independence, Missouri. So we had a lot of people that were in the RLDS Church because so many of them lived near and around the Independence, Missouri area.

**What sorts of activities did you do in church?**

We had a lot of different activities. We would have parties. We had what was called the Liahona House, so it was a big house that we could go for our activities. We did have Bible study, as well. That's about all I can think of that we did. We would maybe have a hayride in the fall and then usually a spring dance or something like that. But it was mainly just everyday activities, like going to football games.

**I think I've been remiss. I really want to know a little bit more about your childhood, too.**

**How many people were in your family? And I see that your mother was a schoolteacher.**

Yes.

**So tell me a little bit about your family life when you were young.**

I did have a wonderful family life. I'm one of six children; there were three girls and three boys; I'm the youngest girl. We had such fun. We lived outside of town, outside of Odessa, [Missouri] about a mile. My father [Stubblefield, Cassius Guy (farmer)] was a farmer and he really loved the outdoors. We had all kinds of animals, so we loved our cats and dogs. I had a pony. I shouldn't say I had a pony; we had a pony and he was such a wonderful friend of ours. We could call for Tony to come in from the field and he would come and we would ride him bareback. We



just had such a wonderful time.

Mother had a big garden because we had a big family. Sometimes my sister Betty and I didn't like working in the garden as much as we should have, probably. There was a pond nearby. Betty and I and Dan were the three little ones and the others, well, like my oldest brother was ten years older than me and he was gone a lot of the time that I remember because when he graduated from high school then he had left home and went to college. But one time Betty and I decided that we were not going to pull weeds in the garden anymore, so we went over to the pond. And there were some boards there for some reason and we decided that we will get a rope and make a little raft so that we could float on the raft while we should be working. So that was great fun. It took us more than one day to make the raft, but it worked and we had a good time.

**Oh, that's a wonderful story. What about your mom; what kinds of responsibilities did she have with that many kids?**

Mom worked so hard. She was happy with what she was doing it appeared to me; I mean she sang a lot and we would wash clothes. She had a wringer washer. So then Betty and I would go outside and hang clothes on the clothesline and we always sang because Mother loved to sing. So many of the songs we sang were songs from the twenties that Mother knew. Of course, we liked to listen to the radio. Being from Missouri there was a lot of country music on the radio, and so we knew most of the up-to-date songs. I loved to hear Perry Como and Doris Day; people like that.

**Lois, do you have any other childhood memories you would like to share to us, maybe about your brothers or anything that comes to mind?**

One thing that we enjoyed doing in the winter when there was a lot of snow is building forts and having snowball fights. Sometimes if there was a lot of snow, there would be enough that we



could climb up on a low building and jump off into the snowdrifts and we always enjoyed that. There was a game we played in the snow; I don't know if it was duck-duck-goose—no, it was something that we made a pie-shaped track and then there would be a person that was “it” and there would only be one safe place, which was the center of the circle, and we would play tag. I just can't remember the name of that game, but we did enjoy that. Then we also enjoyed playing in the hayloft. There were big bales of hay piled in the hayloft for the animals because we had cows and horses, pigs, chickens. So if it was like a rainy day or something we could go outside and play because we could be in the big barn, just play hide-and-seek or whatever in that. So I had happy memories of my childhood.

**Was the farm fairly self-sufficient if you had all this vegetable garden and animals?**

Yes, it was very self-sufficient. We had cows, so we had beef. We had pigs so that we had all the pork we could eat. In fact, my father cured ham. He had what was called a smoke house and so he would cure the hams by putting a lot of salt on it and leaving it there for a long time. Then in the summer we would have fried chicken that we had raised from baby chicks. We always had eggs.

We had milk and cream. In the basement of the house we had what was called the separator. So after they milked the cows, they would pour it into this big tub on the top and then we would grind, kind of like turning a pencil sharpener except it was much bigger, but a big crank and then the cream and the milk would separate. So we enjoyed having lots of cream on our peaches and cherries and strawberries, things like that that we had on the farm.

**Did you pick wild berries, too? Did you have places you went?**

We did. We could pick blackberries and Mother liked gooseberries, but I had never cared for those very much. But she would make pies almost every day. She said if the men are working



hard in the field, then they need three big meals a day. And so for breakfast we'd have either bacon and eggs and fried potatoes or it could be sausage and eggs, but we almost always had eggs for breakfast. Then at night we would have a dessert, either a cake or cobbler or a pie.

**Now, on your survey here it said your mother was a teacher.**

Yes. My mother was born in 1907. Back then once you graduated from high school you could take a test and if you passed your test then you could teach in a rural school. She taught in a rural school and that's where she met her husband, my father. So she taught there a couple of years and she always enjoyed teaching.

So as we got older, as the kids got older, then we belonged to a group called 4-H Club; that primarily was for farm kids at that point. But we would have sewing classes or cooking classes or we could have a calf. I had a calf one time that the mother had died. And so my dad said, do you want to take care of this calf? Of course, I did. I loved being outside. So I would feed the calf from a bottle and then took care of it all summer. My dad would remind me that Bartholomew would have to go to market at the end of the summer. That was important because you love your animals, but if you know you're raising a 4-H project, for instance, that is to be sold, then you have to keep that in mind. But that was toward my college fund was to raise an animal and sell it.

**And how old were you in this time period when you had Bartholomew?**

[Laughing] You can join 4-H Club at the age of ten. I was very active. I belonged until I was sixteen. You would have projects like making a dress or something and then it could go to the 4-H county fair. Then if you won a blue ribbon and were selected, then it would go to the state fair. So that was always cause for trying harder to do well; it was always fun to send something to the state fair



**I wanted to know if you dated any other boys. Like in high school did you date?**

Yes, I had a boyfriend in eighth grade. Then I got to thinking that I don't want to get serious very young. Also, I decided I don't want to marry a farmer because the wives worked so hard. The farmers work hard, too. But I decided I would rather be a city girl. So I really did not date very much in high school. My mother always said you don't want to date anybody very much or very long unless you think he is a potential husband. And I definitely wanted to go to college and meet somebody really nice that had ambitions rather than being a farmer. When I say that I don't mean that I don't admire farmers; I loved my dad, I loved what he did, but I just didn't think I wanted to stay on the farm all my life; I always wanted to travel and do other things.

**Well, tell me about your husband, then, that you met in college. What was it that attracted you to him?**

Pat [Leonard E. (Pat) Goodall] was a wonderful person with such a great personality. He really had charisma. I remember being surprised when he asked me out on a date because I thought he could date anybody in college. So I felt very lucky that he started dating me. We just hit it off right away. Our families had similar backgrounds, so we had a lot of common interests. I think if you are a Christian you want to be sure that the person you're dating is also a good Christian, and so that was important to me.

**So you were a freshman and he was a sophomore?**

Yes.

**When you started dating.**

Right. He had a class with my roommate; they were taking French together. Even though he was not in the same church group as I was, he was very active with his Methodist church group. Sometimes the two church groups would get together and have functions and so I knew him



through that. I never had a class with him, but I just saw him on campus.

**And I wondered how large the school was and did you live in a dorm there and what kinds of girlfriends you had, too.**

I lived in a dorm for one year and then some friends and I got an apartment so we could cook and didn't have to eat that dorm food anymore. [Laughing] What was your other question?

**I wanted to know how large was the college that you went to.**

The college was about 2,000 students and it was primarily a teaching college or a college preparing people to go on to graduate school. I majored in elementary education and had a wonderful time in many of my classes. But my student teaching was done in Independence, Missouri. You could either teach in the college lab school or if you preferred you could go to a different city and have your student teaching.

**What was student teaching like for you?**

I loved student teaching from the very beginning. I had a wonderful teacher who I was to model and she really taught me a lot. Her kids loved her and she had good discipline without being really harsh with them. I learned that that's what you need to do is you need to have respect of your students and then you won't have as many discipline problems.

**What was school like in that time period, like how many students did you have and what grade level?**

In my student teaching I think there were only about 25 in that class. The first year that Pat and I were married we lived in Columbia, Missouri, which is the University of Missouri college town, and I was lucky enough to get a job even though there are a lot of wives teaching while their husbands are going to grad school. At that point I had a fifth grade class and I had 37 students. It was a big, big class. It was very difficult for me because some of the kids were professors'



kids that had the opportunity to travel and do a lot of things and other kids were very poor and they had had no fortunate experiences in their family life, and so it was hard to combine the two. But it was a small school, so you didn't have more than one grade [class] per level. So there was only one fifth grade and that happened to be a larger class than most of the classes.

The teacher that I replaced had been there for 20 years and people loved her. So I must say I worked very, very hard that first year of teaching. And I did enjoy it and I will always remember some of those kids. They really are fascinating. Each child, as you know as a teacher, has a different personality and they bring a lot to the class regardless of whether they have had extra experiences provided by their family or whether they just have a creative imagination.

**And from there where did you and your husband go and what other teaching experiences did you have?**

From University of Missouri we then went to the University of Illinois. Fortunately, Pat was able to get a fellowship, so he didn't have to work. I didn't work because I was then pregnant and gave birth to our first child there in Champaign-Urbana. So during those years I did not work. Pat graduated with his Ph.D. in two years. So then we moved to Arizona to Arizona State University in Tempe. Tempe was fabulous; we loved living in the Southwest. That's where our second daughter was born. So we were in Arizona for five years.

**Why don't you tell me the ages of your children or what year they were born and their names?**

Okay. Karla, spelled with a K, was born in Champaign-Urbana in 1961. Karen was born in Tempe, actually in Scottsdale, in 1964. And Greg was born in Hinsdale, Illinois, when Pat was at the University of Illinois, Chicago Circle, and Greg was born in 1967.

**So you almost had a child for each college, huh?**



[Laughing] Yes, that's true.

**Just Greg, the younger one, broke the mold, huh?**

Yes.

**And do these children live close to you now?**

Greg lives close. Greg and his wife, Kelly, live right here in Las Vegas and they have three lovely daughters—Tabatha, Destiny and Skylar—and I see them quite often. Our oldest daughter lives in Iowa. She's married and they have four girls. In fact, this year they're all in high school. Michelle is a senior, Monica is a junior and the twins are freshmen. So that's a busy time in their household. And our daughter Karen lives in Chandler, Arizona, and she teaches in Tempe at McClintock High School. Her husband's also a teacher. They have two children, Jennifer who just graduated from Arizona State this year and got married and then Thomas who is now a junior at University of Northern Arizona [Flagstaff, Arizona] and he's studying in Spain this year.

**Is that all four of them?**

All three of them.

**Three of them, okay. I'm sorry. I missed that. Well, I'm glad you have one living here close, anyway.**

Yes.

**All right. So from Arizona—and Pat was teaching there or was he an administrator there?**

He went there as a professor of political science—an assistant professor of political science. And then he worked for the Bureau of Government Research for a while, too. When we went to Illinois he went as a professor. Since he was in political science, he was very interested in Mayor Daley, a very well-known mayor of Chicago, and he had hoped to get some interviews



and write a book about Mayor [Richard] Daley; however, Mayor Daley was not quite as enthusiastic about that idea. But anyway, we were glad we moved there. That's where Pat got into college administration; they asked him to be a vice chancellor. He had a friend that always said we look alike; I think they must have meant that job was for me. [Laughing]

**So a very coveted job.**

Yes, it was.

**Just thinking as a wife during that time period, as he went—and I know a professor's wife also is involved, but tell me what role a wife plays in the university as a professor and then into administration.**

At Arizona State University there was not a lot of responsibility for the professors' wives; if they were recruiting someone new for their department, then I might have a dinner party so that all the people could get together and meet the new candidate. Then when we went to the University of Illinois, Chicago Circle, that was such a big area that the wives had nothing to do with the campus, really; there was no interaction. But it was a different story when Pat became chancellor of the University of Michigan, Dearborn; then there were a lot of responsibilities.

In Michigan the names are turned around; the university president is head of all the three campuses and then the chancellors, like there is a chancellor in Dearborn and a chancellor in Flint and they were the ones that were the chief executive of that campus. Then when we came to Las Vegas the chancellor was the head of the system and the presidents were heads of each campus.

**So I guess we need to go to Las Vegas now. What year and how did that occur?**

Well, it was 1979 and it occurred because the president of the University of Michigan was retiring. He went on to be head of the National Broadcasting Association in Washington, D.C.



Quite often when a chief executive leaves, then the people under him just formally give their resignation to the new person in case the new person wants to hire his own people. So Pat thought we've been here eight years in Michigan; the campus has grown a lot; it's time for new challenges. And so he decided to apply at a couple of places. He ended up applying at four places, was given two offers, and we decided that UNLV would be the best of those places because we loved the Southwest.

So when he was offered the job as president of the university, we accepted and he came out here in March, I think. Then they brought me out to be interviewed, too. But we didn't move until July. Our oldest daughter [Karla] was a senior in high school at that point and Pat said we cannot move until she graduates. So we moved in the summer. Karla was gung-ho Michigan. So she was here with us during the summer, but then she went back to the University of Michigan to have her four years of college.

**And so I'm trying to think in 1979 how large was the university? How many students?**

I think that the student body was about eight to nine thousand students. Of course, now it's 28,000. One reason Pat wanted to come to UNLV is because it was a growing area. The campus was very small. Just a few years before we came UNLV became larger than UNR, University of Nevada, Reno. You could see that the city was going to continue growing and Pat wanted to be there to help the university grow into a good, really strong university. So it was a big challenge.

**And at UNLV, then, what kinds of responsibilities did you have to support him in addition to your family and your own job? What kinds of things did you do to help him at the university?**

I had to be available to take potential faculty members or whatever out to lunch. Since the university did not provide a university president's home, that was quite different than what we



were used to. In the University of Michigan, Dearborn, we had a house so we could entertain in the house. We bought a house on the west side of Las Vegas, the southwest. We could give smaller parties; we would have the faculty senate over, for instance, for a dinner annually. One time the basketball team went to the NCAA [National Collegiate Athletic Association] tournament, and so we had Jerry Tarkanian, Jerry and Lois [Tarkanian] come over for dinner and bring the basketball players that wanted to come. My son was reminding me recently how much fun it was to have the basketball players come out and shoot baskets in the driveway, into his basketball net. So we had a good time doing that. But most of the entertaining we did was either at restaurants or hotels because Las Vegas has such great places for that.

**I want to hear more about Pat because I know your life is intermingled with the school, too.**

**Did you work during that time period?**

I did not work full-time during that period. I became a substitute teacher. A substitute can call her own hours and her own time. It turned out that I worked like two or three days a week and I could easily say no. At that point teachers could request you. I don't know if they still do that or not. But it really became a wonderful job because I had teachers that would request me to come if they knew they were going to be out of town. I had a couple of teachers that had little children and they knew that I knew their classroom, so they would call me. So I really loved teaching.

I did go back—you have to have a certification in the state of Nevada even though I had a teaching certificate. So I went back and took a few classes at the university. Then I decided I might as well get my master's degree while I was doing that. So I got my master's degree in reading education curriculum.

**Who was your adviser?**

John Warren, I believe. It's been many years ago. At any rate, it was really nice when I



graduated with my master's degree that Pat was the president at that time. So I got my hood from him. So that was kind of a thrill.

**That is good. Do you think that you were maybe the teacher's pet because you had some input in the university?**

I really always hoped I did not. At one time there was a professor that I had not had before and he was calling the roll. It was kind of a large—well, I say large, but probably 35 students or so. He was reading the first and the last name. Then he said Lois? And then he hesitated. And he says, “You're not, are you?” And I said, “Oh, yes, I am.” And some of the students had no idea what we were talking about. But that poor guy was a little intimidated, I think. But I must say I studied extra hard and tried to do exceptionally well so that I could really earn my grades and my degree.

**What did you like best about Las Vegas?**

There are many things to like about Las Vegas. One of the things I liked best was the sunshine. I love sunshine. We had been in Illinois and Michigan and those are beautiful states, but in the winter, especially late winter, it gets very dark and dingy. So here almost always we have beautiful sunshine.

But also, when we first arrived, people were so nice. I really enjoyed getting acquainted with the people of the city, as well as the people at the university. Margaret Dixon—her husband had been interim president of the university before we came—she gave me a luncheon right away so that I could meet other people that had been here a good deal of time. It was so nice to make friends almost immediately. Every place I went people were just so friendly.

**That's nice. Tell me how the children, the two that were with you still, how did they settle in here and how did they like Las Vegas and where did they go to school?**



They loved it almost immediately. We had talked about moving and how things would be different. Karla, our oldest child, went to the same schools naturally that Karen was following in her footsteps. Karla is an extravert and she really had done very well in school academically and in sports. Karen was more of a shy, intellectual child, but when we came to Las Vegas she just blossomed. I was so proud of her. She went to Clark High School. She was a sophomore and that was the first year that you could go to Clark; freshmen didn't go to Clark. So she was getting in the mix of all the others and she joined the tennis team and made friends right away. She did so well academically. She ended up one of the valedictorians of her class. She loved school. She was on the yearbook. I say yearbook; it might have been she was on the newspaper staff. Anyway, she was in journalism.

That first year we were here Greg went to one of the schools where you were bussed for integration. I can't think of the name of the school. At any rate, he loved riding on the bus. In fact, he loved meeting black children because Dearborn is a city outside of Detroit; he had absolutely no black kids in his class. So other than university professors he just didn't know anything about being in an integrated society. So it was good for him and he loved it. He had some really good teachers, too, at that middle school, Quannah McCall; that was the name of the school. He had a math teacher that was just fabulous. So the kids loved school here.

**Tell me at what point or did you finally in the school district become a full-time teacher?**

I never did. Once I got into subbing—it is such a great job if you don't want to work full-time. Even after Pat retired as university president, I still liked to have time to do other things. So I never taught full-time again. I sometimes would sub also at the church school. They had an academy at First Presbyterian Church and I would sub there occasionally for the students, too. So it was a fun job to be a sub because I think that elementary school subs are important in the



fact that they have the same kids all day long. And I don't like the fact that some subs go in and think I'm going to baby-sit these kids for the day. I felt like I was really able to teach the kids and that made me feel good.

**You had a strong work ethic.**

Yes, I would say I did. That comes from my background; my parents both worked hard and always told us that you never accept a responsibility unless you plan to carry it through.

**So what do you think are your best personality traits?**

Oh, that's a hard one. I do think that I am a friendly person. I am an honest Christian lady. I think people take me at my word because I do always follow through on things. I'm a happy person. I enjoy being with the community and I enjoy my family tremendously.

**Then what would you say you wish you could improve on, even now?**

I am not a public speaker. There have been occasions when I wish that I could speak more eloquently. So that's one thing that I really would like to improve on. I would also like to improve on my ability to remember people's names. So often I see someone and I think, oh, I know them. So I'll say hello. But if the conversation doesn't continue, I'll think, okay, where did I know them from? So I would like the ability to remember people's names.

**Tell me about some of the more exciting things. I know you talked about a visitor at UNLV from India that you were responsible for showing around. What are some of the more memorable things that happened?**

Yes. I think what you're referring to is when Mrs. Anwar Sadat came.

**Oh, yes. I'm sorry.**

The wife of the Egyptian president.

**Oh, I was way off.**



Well, you weren't far off. At any rate, that was such an exciting time because she was such a charming, charming lady. She considered me her hostess for the trip that she was here because as a first lady of Egypt then she considered the university president's wife her host. She said one thing she would really like to do while here in the Southwest was to go see the Grand Canyon. That kind of put the university on the spot because there wasn't all that much time. But somebody said, "Oh, I know that Johnny Carson lives here in town and he has an airplane; maybe he'll loan it to us." And sure enough, he graciously let the university borrow the plane and Mrs. Sadat and I flew with her staff. She had a lot of staff; I think there were probably six of them, bodyguards and a personal secretary and all. And so we went to Grand Canyon for the day and had a lovely, lovely time. The reason she was in the United States at that time was she was a guest professor at the University of South Carolina. She came as a speaker for the Barrick Lecture and then commencement speaker, also.

**Tell me more, since you mentioned it, about the Barrick Lecture Series. Did that start under your husband's tenure?**

Yes, it did and that was one of the things he was most proud of. Marjorie Barrick was such a nice lady. She's very quiet, very beautiful; and, yet, she didn't want to take a lot of recognition for what she had done. The Barrick Lecture, she insisted, was to be free to anybody in the community that wanted to come and that is very, very generous because it cost a lot to bring big-name speakers like she did in. And she didn't want it just to be for a select few; she wanted anybody in the community that had the desire to come. We've had people like President Ford, President Carter, Walter Cronkite, big names. Some of them are more entertaining than others. I don't know if you're familiar with Mark Russell, the humorist that's often on Channel 10, on the public television, but he came several times. He was one of her favorites. She also liked



financial gurus. Louis Rukeyser, I think, might have been the very first one of the Barrick lecturers.

There would always be a dinner that we would plan ahead of time. At the dinner we would invite community people and university people. The speaker would usually give about a 10-, 15-minute speech just to those people and they could ask him questions. Marge never asked questions, but she always enjoyed visiting socially at the dinner with the guest speakers.

**So you mentioned Johnny Carson's plane. Do you remember other interactions with the hotels? Because I'm sure people other places don't realize that we're interconnected.**

We are so lucky here at UNLV that we have a hotel college that is really among the very best in the nation. Cornell and UNLV were considered the two best. Michigan State might have been up in that category, too, but I think that Cornell and UNLV were considered the very best. Jerry Vallen was the dean. He was the founding dean and he continued on for many years as a dean. There were other people that in the community were so generous. Art Ham, Artemus Ham Hall and other buildings were built. Jerry Mack and Parry Thomas [banker] are known for the basketball arena, but also they did something that not too many people know about and that was buying up land around the small campus so that the campus had room to develop because if the university had had to buy that land up later years it would have been terribly, terribly expensive. So Thomas and Mack contributed a lot toward that, too.

**Was Thomas & Mack built when you came here?**

It was finished during the time that Pat was president. I remember there was such a wonderful party given. Frank Sinatra came and entertained. They had a big stage like they do now for rock stars that come. But they had the seats set up on the basketball court. One thing that Pat negotiated was to have the floor removable because he had heard that possibly the National



Rodeo Finals would come to Las Vegas if they had a site. And so by having that floor that could be taken up and dirt put down, then for many years the National Finals Rodeo has come to Las Vegas. So that was one of the changes.

**That's a lot. Thomas & Mack was completed and the hotel school was started.**

No, the hotel school was already going.

**Okay. How about the law school?**

The law school, when Pat came as president, they said we're thinking about a law school. And he really wanted that to be done during his administration, but the financing was not there. In the early eighties the financing of the university—I guess financing everywhere kind of took a dip. I believe Carol Harter was president when the law school came and she asked Pat if he would serve as chairman of the search committee for the new dean. And so that was a very interesting job for him and he enjoyed doing that.

**How many years were the two of you president of the university? [Laughing]**

Well, Pat was president for five years, from 1979 to 1984. During that time he helped establish the UNLV Foundation and that was another of his things that he was most proud of. He was amazed and so impressed with the community interest. UNLV was a young campus at that time and still is, I guess, so there weren't a lot of wealthy alumni. So the foundation was organized in order to have fundraising in the community. Elaine Wynn, I think, was probably the first chairman of the foundation. Then Irwin Molasky also came in, I think, following Elaine. They were community people that really worked hard to fund raise for the university because there's a lot of things that need to be done that the state doesn't finance. And so Pat wanted the university not to be known just as a basketball team specialty; he wanted it to develop more academically and he wanted it to become more of a research university, and the foundation has certainly



worked hard and done that.

**Now, your two younger children, did either of them go to UNLV?**

Yes, Greg [Goodall] went to UNLV; he majored in hotel administration. But Karen went to Arizona State University; that's where she met her husband. She's still in Arizona.

**Almost each state they were in, one of them went to the school there, huh?**

Exactly. That's right. Karla went to Michigan and Karen went to Arizona State and Greg went to UNLV.

**Well, it's good you have one child that lives close to you that you can see frequently.**

Yes, yes. We see them always on Sunday and usually the girls come over once or twice during the week and sometimes they spend the night with me. So they're a joy to have here.

**Your present home...I'm thinking you probably didn't live here initially.**

No.

**This is a newer area.**

When we first moved to Las Vegas, we had a short time to find a house. As I mentioned earlier, the university did not provide a home. So on spring break of the year that Karla was a senior and the year we were going to move here, we came out here to look for a house. We wanted something close to campus; however, there was nothing close to campus. And so our realtor said, "Well, there's some houses over in the southwest; maybe we should look over there."

To make the kids happy about the move—kids are never really thrilled about moving after they've lived someplace for that length of time. At any rate, we needed to have a swimming pool in the backyard and my son desperately wanted a two-story house. And so those were our priorities is to find something that everybody would like.

While we were looking we stayed at the home of Margie and Brock Dixon. They were



out of town for spring break and they just opened up their home. They didn't know us at all. He was the vice president, acting president at that time. And so we found a house over in what's now called Spring Valley. At that point it was just a little bit east of Rainbow [Boulevard]. Rainbow was kind of the edge of town at that point. In fact, we were close to Flamingo [Boulevard], too. And Flamingo did not go through; you could not drive down West Flamingo and get to East Flamingo; you had to either go Tropicana [Avenue] or Sahara [Avenue]. So the city has grown dramatically since 1979.

**What year did you move into this home?**

Well, we didn't live in that house the whole time. We moved to a house over close to Desert Inn and Rainbow [Boulevard] and lived there for many, many years. We moved here to this house after Pat was diagnosed as having cancer. He wanted me to be in a house with a gated community. Also, I wanted a smaller house without a swimming pool and without such a big yard to take care of. So we moved here a little over a year ago. So we moved here I guess it was probably April of—after Pat died I kind of got mixed up on timing. I've been here over a year. So 2011 I guess is when we moved here. I don't remember for sure.

**I feel your pain at remembering dates. How many years were you married, then?**

We were married 52 years, almost 53 years.

**What is his characteristic you remember most about him and what was the best thing about being married to him?**

Pat [Goodall, Leonard E.] was a wonderful man, so honest; everybody that you would talk to admired him for that. When you're in the public eye people find something wrong all the time. But I was just reading something recently that somebody had written about him saying that if he said something you could count that he would do that. So that is an important characteristic.



He took care of me. I had gone from living with my parents to college to being married three weeks after I graduated. I had always had somebody to take care of me. Pat always took good care of me. Then when he knew that he had cancer, he did everything he could to make things easy for me. He got everything financially in order. He took care of getting me moved to an area that he thought would be secure for me.

So he really was such a wonderful person, great father, and the kids love him and respect him and that's about all you can expect or hope for is to have love and respect.

**Yes. Yes, I think so.**

So I was very fortunate to have met him. We had many happy years together.

**I think from you describe it sounds steadfast.**

Yes.

**Always there.**

Yes. Right.

**That's nice. Those of us who have been through a marriage like that know how fortunate we are.**

Yes. So Pat died in—I said we moved here in 2011; it was 2012 because Pat died just a few months after we got moved in. He had melanoma and melanoma had gone to his brain, which caused strokes. Then he became paralyzed on one side. So we moved during the time that he was in the hospital. So when the doctors said there was nothing more they could do, hospice said they would take care of him at home. So we moved him home and had a hospital bed here. So fortunately, he was able to be in the house before he died.

**Well, that's good. I'm happy for you that you had him as long as you did.**

Yes, I am very blessed.



**And now you're embarking on new activities, aren't you? That's brave of you.**

It's a necessity to do that. But we had so many good years of his retirement. He retired in 2000. He loved financial things. He and his friend Bill Corney wrote a newsletter and they had it for over 25 years. It was a small newsletter, but it was always highly ranked by the people that do the newsletter reporting. So he enjoyed that. Then he enjoyed lecturing at financial seminars. We traveled a great deal. We saw the world.

**Good. What was your favorite trip that you took, then?**

I had a lot of favorite trips, but one of the most interesting I found was the one to Africa. A friend of ours had gone to South Africa and told us how fantastic it was. So I thought, well, yes, that sounds good; we've not been there. And it turned out to be one of my favorites. We went to Cape Town; went to see where Nelson Mandela had been imprisoned for all those years over on Robben Island. Then we went on a photo safari, which was great. We saw all the big five animals. We were very fortunate to be able to see the lions and the elephants and the rhinos, giraffe—is that four? I'm not sure.

**That was four.**

At any rate, they said that quite frequently you'll see three or four out of the five, but usually not all five.

And then another trip I really enjoyed was a cruise that we took to Asia. China is such a fascinating country to visit and I really enjoyed that, too.

**I can't think of anything else, Lois. I mean you've got hundreds of stories, I'm sure. You'll probably think of them tonight. I appreciate so much your time here.**

Glad to help out. I hope that it can be used. Let me look at these notes. I need to see if there's anything I have.



**We have a little addition here to our interview with Lois. She wanted to tell us a little bit more about Marge Barrick.**

Okay, Marge Barrick is famous for the Barrick Lecture Series, but a lot of people don't know that she also wanted to help develop the faculty. Pat encouraged her along this way and they have what's called the Barrick Scholar Award for junior faculty members; that are given out annually and they get a donation of around \$2500. I think that's what they get. Then they have the Barrick Distinguished Scholar Award, which is for more seasoned faculty members, and they get, I think, a 5,000-dollar stipend. So I think it's important to realize that people long after they are gone can make an influence to the community and not just to students but also to faculty to try to keep good faculty at the university.

**It would take someone like you and your husband to point that out to someone that that was a need because we all know about scholarships for students.**

But it is important to keep your good faculty members at the university. It helps develop researchers, as well as professors.

**Okay. Thank you again, Lois.**

**[End of recorded interview]**





**Left-Right: Leonard Goodall, unidentified, Martha Gould, and Lois Goodall  
Andre's Restaurant—a dinner held in celebration of the grand opening of the James  
Dickinson Library's new wing. UNLV Collection, 10-11-1981**



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