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# An Interview with Peter V. Gratton

An Oral History Conducted by Claytee D. White

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*UNLV @ Fifty* Oral History Project

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

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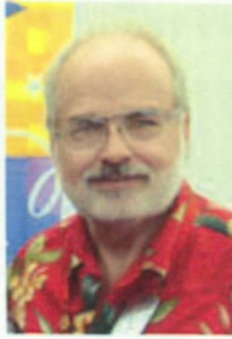
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The transcripts received minimal editing. These measures include the elimination of fragments, false starts, and repetitions in order to enhance the reader's understanding of the material. All measures have been taken to preserve the style and language of the narrator.

The following interview is part of a series of interviews conducted under the auspices of the UNLV @ Fifty Oral History Project. Additional transcripts may be found under that series title.

Claytee D. White, Project Director  
Director, Oral History Research Center  
University of Nevada Las Vegas



## Preface

Peter Gratton was born in 1944 in Staten Island, New York, where his father was in the Coast Guard. However, he spent his childhood in Minnesota. From 1965 to 1969, Peter was a member of the US Marine Corps, serving a tour in Vietnam. As his military duty was ending, he learned that his parents were relocating to Vegas, bringing with them all of Peter's belongings.

So Peter caught up with them in Vegas where he transitioned to civilian life in a new city by "bumming around for a couple of months." He decided to stay and took a keno job at Golden Gate Casino. In 1981, he graduated from UNLV and was accredited to teach history and earth science. This proved to be a good background for an opening at the UNLV library and he helped organize the map collection. With that, his UNLV library career was successfully launched.

At the time of this interview, Peter was Administrative Assistant III in the Library Building Department. In the following pages Peter tells of his experiences that lead up to becoming a Las Vegas resident and longtime member of the UNLV library staff.

ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER AT UNLV

UNLV Oral History Project @ Fifty



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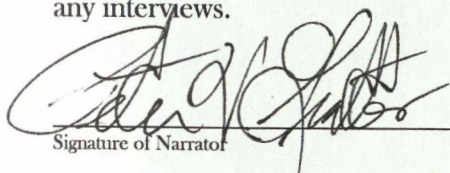
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PETER GRATTON

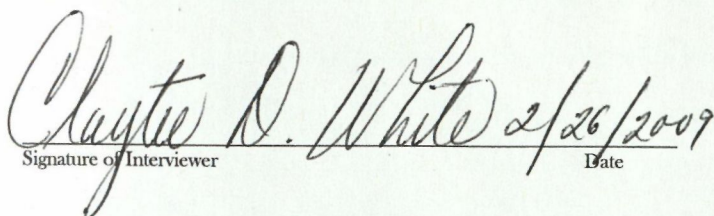
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**This is Claytee White. It is February 26th, 2009. And this morning I am with Peter Gratton. We're here in Special Collections.**

**How are you doing today?**

Good morning. Very well.

**Fantastic. So this is going to be simply painless.**

Sure. I've heard that before. That's how I ended up in the Marine Corps.

**Tell me a little about your early life, where you grew up, your mother and father, sisters and brothers.**

Okay. I have a very unusual beginning to life because I was born in Staten Island, New York during World War II. And my father was stationed in Brooklyn Naval Yard. He was in the Coast Guard. He was a small boat handler. He was originally from Minnesota. My mother was originally from Gulfport, Mississippi. And she was working for one of the big banks in Manhattan at the time. And they got together. And then my older sister was born. They got married in '42 [1942]. I always got the date wrong. Something like June 15th of '42. My older sister was born. And then I was born the day after Christmas in '44 [1944].

And I was seven or eight months old when my older sister died. She had kidney failure. And in 1945 pretty much nothing they could do. There were no dialysis machines or any of that kind of thing. And then a couple of years later my younger sister was born.

Well, my father stayed in the Coast Guard after World War II was done. And my understanding is that my mother was staying with her parents in Mississippi at one point, but it gets kind of cloudy in there. What happened was my younger sister then developed leukemia and she died in '48 [1948]. And my father was denied permission to attend her funeral. So in those days the military system was not like what people are used to now days. That's almost 70 years ago. And so when it came time to reenlist, he didn't. We moved back to Minnesota where he came from.

He basically grew up in Albert Lea, Minnesota, which is a county seat on one of the counties at the southern part of the state bordering Iowa. That's where we stayed until -- and now, there were no more children. So after my two sisters died, I was it. We stayed in Albert Lea until it was time for me to go to high school, tenth grade high school. And my mother decided since

they did not have a Catholic high school -- they had a Catholic elementary that I went through and a Catholic junior high -- that we were going to move to the next county over about 20 miles away. And we lived in Austin while I went through high school. And so I was basically born, spent about four years in New York City area, and then I grew up in Minnesota.

I went to college at the College of St. Thomas Aquinas, which is now University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, for a couple of years. Changed majors every semester. Didn't like the school. Said the heck with it and joined the Marine Corps in 1965. And so from '65 through 1969, I got stationed in California and North Carolina and the Republic of South Vietnam for a year in what we call I Corps, First Corps, which is the northern most area next to the demilitarized zone in those days.

So it was an interesting experience, frustrating. I was a member of the Marine Air Wing. We did support for the infantry. And I was a radar technician. Our radar controlled bombing runs long before satellite-controlled GPS and all this kind of thing. So we would tell them when to drop their bombs and get them on target and these kinds of things. We spent a lot of time being attacked by the enemy but never where we could shoot back. They would shoot mortars at us. They would shoot artillery at us constantly. They would set up rockets. So for probably seven or eight months, the time that I was there, we were taking incoming with nobody to shoot at.

I've discovered over the years the posttraumatic stress disorder from that is really a deep-seeded "you don't realize you have it." But the anger of not being able to fight back some say is more severe than the fact that you did something that scarred you or you saw something happen. I don't know. I have friends who were three tours, three years as infantry. And they say basically mine is a bigger stress because they dealt with theirs. They shot people. They shot at people. They did something. The frustration of being woken at two in the morning because they're shelling you again or being blown off your feet trying to get to a bunker.

**And you didn't have anyone to protect the area?**

Well, we had large bases and we had infantry that protected and that kind of thing. But they were shooting -- the artillery they were firing at us they were firing from 11 miles away in another country. So being the good Americans we didn't cross the borders.

**Oh, says who? Boy.**

Well, the people who crossed the borders did so like the Black Ops that you guys are used to now days -- Navy Seals, Force Recon, Delta Force, those kinds of people. So not in force. Now, Cambodia and Laos, there were installations. But most of the time they were listening installations. And they flew secret missions and they did that kind of thing.

But the way that war would have ended quickly was very simply the Americans went through the northern part of South Vietnam, went around into the nearby country and cut off the supply trail in North Vietnam. And it was proposed probably 5,000 times by major military minds. And the Johnson Administration wouldn't do it. So instead we fought one hand tied behind the back, one eye covered and told, oh, don't hit them hard. And so there was no way to win that the way it was fought.

It's very frustrating for those who lived through it because in 1973 when the U.S. military left Vietnam we basically controlled the country. But the American political machine decided we would not support the Vietnamese sufficiently so they could -- the South Vietnamese so they could stay free. So after two years of no support from us and no supplies and supplies from the Russians and the Chinese for the North Vietnamese, the North Vietnamese just rolled into the country. Everybody panicked and ran for their lives. And they just rolled up the country. There were all kinds of people that were willing to fight. There were all kinds of troops. They had set up things. They were going to fall back into the swamps so that the southern part of the country and all these things. And everything fell apart because everybody ran so quickly. Orders were never gone.

**So how do you feel about war now?**

War is one of the worst things that can happen. However, there's two problems. Bad guys. Bad guys don't fight by rules. It's similar to gun control. When you do gun laws, law-abiding people turn in their guns. All you have to do is ask the Australians how that works. They turned in all their weapons. Armed robbery is up 60 percent in Australia because the only people that have guns are lawbreakers. And they know you don't have one because you're law abiding. So they have no fear of being shot by a homeowner or anybody stopping them. And war is the same thing. The only way to stop people like the Saddam Husseins and the crazy nuts that are in Iran right now is show of force, peace through superior firepower. And people don't like to hear that.



Pacifism is wonderful. There's only two problems, non-pacifists and people who lie because people lie to take advantage of you, to get over on you, to take control, and then what can you do? If you don't fight them, they win. If you do fight them, they may still win. But at least you fought them. Better to fight and lose than to just give up, to acquiesce because they don't care. They do not care. If you cannot physically restrain them from doing it, they are going to take your property, assault you, kill you, grab whatever you have that they want whether it's your kids, your spouse, your home, your car, your money, your life. If they want it, they'll take it. And, unfortunately, where these people come from is the unanswered question. How do you get to be the way these people are? How do you get a country that thinks it's okay to bully their neighbors, to just take chunks of their neighbor's country or decide to take the whole country? And their thought pattern is so out of it compared to everybody else's thought pattern.

The best analogy years ago someone came up with, sheepdogs and wolves. The military and the police are the sheepdogs. The average population is sheep. They're peaceful. They don't cause any trouble. They don't expect any trouble. They just live their lives. Without the sheepdogs the wolves come and do whatever they want to the sheep whether it's the gangs on the street, whether it's the Mafioso people, whether it's the Russian Mafia, the (Accous), the Hanoi Boys, the 28th Street, the Bloods, the Crips, the whoevers. You've got something they want, they come. They'll take it.

**So after your stint in the military -- how long did you stay in the military?**

I was in for four years.

**Okay. So 1969.**

And then I got a letter right before I was getting out from Las Vegas. And I went I don't know anybody in Las Vegas. I opened it up to see my mother's handwriting. Dear Peter, your father and I have been to Vegas three times this last year. We have moved. We don't live in Minnesota anymore. And we have your stuff. We're renting. So here's our phone number because we don't know what the address will be when you get here. So give us a call and you can come get your stuff or we have room for you.

**Oh, that's wonderful. So that's how you got to Las Vegas.**

That's how I ended up in Las Vegas. I got here and I couldn't find a way out. I keep turning up

back in here.

**So that was 1969.**

1969.

**What did Las Vegas look like when you got here?**

My folks' first place -- one of their first places they lived in was at Charleston and Jones -- or, no, Torrey Pines. You could get from Torrey Pines to downtown Las Vegas in between 13 and 17 minutes. I think there was one stop-and-go signal and maybe two stop signs before you got downtown. About 250,000 people or so in the valley at the time. There was nothing on the south side of Charleston where Bonanza High School is now and the community college and all that. There was nothing until you went out to about Rainbow. And then there was this development of like two-and-a-half acre places and there were maybe 20 people, 20 houses. And you looked at it and went why do those people live out in the middle of nowhere? And now, of course, they'd like to live in the middle of nowhere because they've got neighbors up to their eyebrows.

**That's right.**

So I bummed around for a couple of months. I had just gotten a packet to apply for work out at the Test Site when they announced an 1800 person layoff. The only thing they had electronic left was electronic test equipment repair. And that's very specialized and I hadn't done any of that. I had used the equipment, but I had never repaired it. I was debating on going back into the Air Force and getting different training than what I had had because my radar set was really obsolete within a couple of years it. It no longer exists. GPS took the place of it. So it was pretty much an obsolete tube-type kind of thing.

And I got an offer to work at the Golden Gate in keno. So I went down there and they discovered that I'm good at keno because it's mathematics and it's hand-eye coordination. And I was a multi-sport player. My father was drafted by the Brooklyn Dodgers out of high school. He spent three years playing Triple-A baseball and then quit when they didn't take him to Brooklyn. My half brother, his first wife's son, was born. And he needed more money. So he quit playing. I have some skills at semipro level to college level in three or four sports. I'm pretty good with my hands. Coordination's there. And I'm a little bit on the brainy side. So it kind of all fell in.

So I got trained there. Went to work for the Aladdin. They sold the place. So I went

downtown to the Fremont. And I stayed with the Fremont for almost 13 years until they sold the place to the Boyd Group. And we all got laid off because they switched the style. We did machines with carbon copies. And they were using the old, by hand brush. And most of the places went to computerized. It became obvious that there wasn't a real future in keno anymore. So after a while I bummed around.

**Tell me what keno was like at the Golden Gate in the early days.**

Well, in the early days because you had people who had been in the early Chinese lottery at Bakersfield and those kinds of things, there were tickets that you could play that in today's game I don't believe a computer can handle the tickets. The Chinese used to play some unusual things. And we called them king tickets, Chinese king tickets, groups of one divided on the paper. Now, normally with keno you add all the possible combinations. So if I have groups of two, I can make fours or sixes or eights. With the Chinese king ticket, as a simple example, I have three single numbers, each one circled, and I divide it. And then I have another area where I have three more single numbers and I divide it. Now, I say I'm going to play this three over here and this three. So I'm playing two threes. But I'm going to play six fours. And the way that works is take one side as a three. Take a single number from the other side. Add it. Add the other single number. Add the other single number. And then you do the reverse. So it's two threes and six fours. However, with the formula -- let's see. I have to stop and do it in my head. Six, five, four, three. So you have 15 combinations of four with six individual numbers. But they don't want to play all the combinations. They only want to play those kinds of things. It was interesting and it was fun because of my ability to do arithmetic stuff.

**And to do it quickly.**

Yeah. And accurately. I became what's called a checker. I became a third man. You have a shift boss, his assistant and a third man. And in the big games you checked every ticket individually. They punch out manually the numbers that come out on a sheet. And you throw it on the tickets. And you run through every single ticket that's stapled together that they took in. And you note what the payout is on every ticket and as quickly as possible. And so I got the reputation from the keno players who liked to put unusual combinations together that I could figure it out and book it and there would be no argument about what it was and how much it cost to play and these kinds of

things. So at some juncture I was nicknamed "The Professor." I was 27 years old and I was "The Professor." So it was funny.

I trained a number of people who are still in the business. It's funny. One of them is now the manager at the Golden Gate. He went up to -- well, he had come from Bimini, Chinese ancestry. Come from Bimini. His son works out at the university here, computer people. Their last name is Chung Tai. And of all things they came from Bimini, which is a speck. I'm going to Chinese Bimini, okay. Somebody setup shop here, right? He said yeah. He said my grandpa was in the banking industry. And so he was like a CPA, but he wasn't certified. But we had a lot of fun with those days.

**What was the difference between working downtown at a place like the Golden Gate and then at the Aladdin on the Strip?**

Well, the biggest thing is your clientele because downtown you've got people that come in with ten dollars in their pocket, gamble four or five dollars, get a couple of free drinks, that kind of thing. The Strip you normally had real tourists because the locals when you go downtown you could get a free this or a free that. Prices were real reasonable. And if you went in one place and didn't like it, you just walked out the door and walked in the next one. On the Strip it's a hike between one and the other. And the Strip was going through -- now, this was around '71. The Strip was going through a lot of changes. They had places like the Castaways, which had no hotel, the Bonanza, which was like a little motel-ly thing. It was an all-cowboy wooden place. When you walked in -- the "Bonanza" TV show was very, very, very popular. The Bonanza was on what's now the parking lot for what's now Bally's. When they built the MGM, they bought out the Bonanza and demolished it to make more parking for the original MGM that had the fire. And the Bonanza, when you went in, it was all cowboy stuff. So hardwood floors, the Long Branch Saloon I think they had and all of these real cowboy-ie stuff. And it was a fun place, but it was just a little dive. But it was on the Strip.

And the Aladdin -- they were starting to put in the fancier resorts. And when Sam Diamond bought the Aladdin, he had been a casino owner and a mover and shaker for years and sold his place and did this and that and the other. And when he bought it, the Aladdin had a par-three golf course, pitch and putt, that was basically cement and Astroturf. And they took it

out, plowed it over and built the performing arts, the original performing arts center over it when Sam took over.

The pace at the Strip was in some departments very frantic, but in other departments was much more laid-back. The keno downtown, let's say like the Fremont, was face-paced, lots and lots of tickets, lots and lots of games kind of thing. The Aladdin -- we used to laugh, those of who you were trained downtown and went out to the Strip. We used to laugh that we could do what we needed to do on the Strip with our other hand. It was that slow. And graveyard shifts were just notorious. Friday night and Saturday night, that was it. That was the only time you had any real business.

I mean literally we would -- at one juncture I ended up as a boss again, but on graveyard. And then I didn't get my pay raise and this and that. So then I got a job downtown. And that all happened. I was transferred in a shift and getting promoted as they sold the place. So, you know, I got caught in that Catch-22. So I still had the job. I still was supposed to be. But I hadn't got a pay raise kind of thing.

Well, literally on graveyard we would, after a certain length of time with no tickets, we would run a game just to change the lights on the board so that somebody might see some numbers that they used to like to play and say, oh, my numbers are coming out. I mean there were hours when we had three tickets.

**And was keno supposed to be one of the most popular games at the time?**

At the time they hadn't gone to the dollar keno yet. They were still doing 60- and 70-cent keno. And when they went to the dollar tickets, it no longer became, oh, I've got some change; I can play a game. It became a gamble. It became like playing 21 or bigger slots. When it was originally started it was a nickel-dime kind of game. You could play for 60 cents and you could win \$12,500 for 60 cents. If you hit six numbers, you could win a thousand dollars for 60 cents. Then they went to 70 cents. But then the corporations got in the act and they tried to make everything pay.

And what the corporate structure has done to gaming is every entity is its own separate and is all expected to make money. And that's why the old-timers complain about the food and beverage and stuff because they give you lousy booze from house booze. They cut corners on how they feed you and things. And, see, in the old days food and beverage was never supposed to

make any money. Food and beverage is what you gave the gamblers to keep them in your building.

**So now everything has to be a profit center.**

Yeah. Everything has to break even or make money. And that's the way corporations are. But that's not how gaming works. So the better corporations are learning and they're making the money by doing the big buffets kind of thing so that people will pay more for the buffet.

Have you heard about the new M Resort that's coming down the Strip? It's all the way down.

Yes. I've heard about it, but I don't know --

**Supposedly they want to go back to more of the old style.**

Yeah. Yeah. Because in the old days if you were gambling the boss would just give you a chip to go get a free meal. And comps now are based on your player card, how many hours, what they put in as they watch you, what you've gambled and this and that and the other thing. In the old days if you were around for a few hours and you were gambling a little bit, the boss would just walk over and hand you something. What worked best -- the downtown clubs, a lot of them had coupons plus comps. So what would happen is someone who was gambling quite a bit on the slot machines but not at big slot machines, you know, nickel machines or three-quarter machines and these kinds of things, somebody might hand them a chip to go to their snack bar, not full comped at the restaurant. The Golden Gate was a good example. They had a little hot dog stand in the back that did shrimp cocktails, hot dogs and sandwiches. And they'd give you a chip to go back there for a free sandwich. Well, you had to pay for your drink, but you got a free sandwich. And if you wanted more, you paid more. And then they would on occasion give somebody a comp to go eat in the main restaurant. But they tended to give you a ticket to go get a free shrimp cocktail or a free hot dog or a sandwich, those kinds of things. And that works well with people. If you have a snack bar and you can give them a little complimentary sandwich, whatever, a drink, two-for-one, people appreciate that because it's, hey, I don't have to worry about keeping this last five dollars; I can put it in a machine. I get a free sandwich.

**That's what they want people to do.**

Yeah. And you keep them and they come back because you treated them nice. It's why the California Hotel downtown was the only place that was smart enough to cater to Hawaiians

because the Hawaiians used to come into the Fremont and they'd go to the California, their friends. And in my case I dealt with them quite a bit because I had some friends from Kauai, the Yamamotos and the Hamoras. And Hamora Noodle Factory and the Yamamotos had a bowling alley across from one of the big pineapple places. And so both of these families had some money. And they would go to the California Club and get comps. They would play at the Fremont, and I couldn't get my boss to give them comps. So they would come and visit with me for a couple of hours and then go back to the California Club. When they first came over, they came to the Fremont. They liked the Fremont. We had entertainment, a lounge. They closed the lounge and turned into like a buffet. And they weren't getting comped to this stuff. And at the California Club, one of their people over there, marketing people got smart and realized we got a lot of Hawaiians; let's just start comping these people because the word's going to go back to Hawaii, come to the California Club; that hotel, they'll take care of you. And that's why they're -- I know they've done Hawaiian motifs and all kinds of things down there. And they do. People come. They arrange junkets, flights in and all these kinds of things. And this was a prime example of penny-pinching corporate thinking costing the Fremont a lot of money.

**So how did you get out of the gaming industry?**

Well, basically when Boyd bought the Fremont, I did the usual look around and try to find. And what I was finding was that almost every place I went was either they weren't hiring, they were switching to the new computers and paying people minimum wage to run the computers because they tested a computer at the Fremont for two years with us that was supposed to be able to do what we could do, figure out tickets and that kind of thing. And eventually it did get that good. And that's when all of a sudden, boom, the Fitzgerald? Fitzpatrick? Fitzgerald?

**Fitzgerald's.**

Fitzgerald's. They put in computers. They also were owned by the same company that owned the Stardust and the Fremont. They put computers in. And then four or five places on the Strip put computers in. And so pretty soon, no matter where you went, they were putting computers in. They didn't need experienced knowledgeable people. Whoever they had for bosses didn't have to know much either. All they had to do was be able to punch the button the computer or shut down this computer and turn that one on kind of thing. So basically, as we would say in the old days,

the gig died, no more. It wasn't anymore. It was like diving horses at Steel Pier or something. Basically they still have the game, but it's all computerized kind of stuff. It saves them a lot of salary.

So I nosed around. I checked with the city and the county and the state. And there was an opening here. While I didn't have library experience, I had a teaching credential. So I went. What I had done is I had gotten my teaching license. However, in the way of the world, the person who took over as head recruiter for the Clark County School District had been the vice principal at the school that I had just gotten done student teaching in history. And his comment was I don't really like to hire graduates from UNLV because they have a Nevada bias. And I looked at this man. And of the 20-something people in my graduating class in 1981 there was one native Nevadan. She was born in Henderson. And the rest of us were from all over the country. And so he pushed for recruiting and getting people from other states. So I got an interview. That was it. Never got interviewed by a principal. It was just like, okay, I guess I'm not going to teach in the school district.

So then I came out here and I applied. And they discovered that one of my teaching credential fields is Earth science. They had a map collection that was a disaster. They were trying to file maps by the stock number. Then the stock number is the longitude and latitude on the bottom right-hand corner of the map. So it has nothing to do with how you would find the map unless you're really unusual because every quadrangle has a name. And you go by what size map you're looking for. And you go into that index and you find the name whether it's Red Rock East or whatever it is, Spring Mountain. And that's what you go look for. Well, by trying to stack them in by these crazy numbers, they're not alphabetical at all. They're all over the place. And so when I mentioned to them, no, no, that's not how you store maps; you need to do this, that and the other thing, I got asked do you think -- you've got to go to one more interview with the director at the library, but do you think you could start soon? And so I interviewed on Thursday and Friday and I started on Monday.

**Wow. So was that in Special Collections?**

No. Actually government documents, government publications. Well, truthfully it's been awhile and I lose track of whether we were government publications and then government documents or



the other way around. But we were our own department. They put me in charge of maps and processing and the student workers. And for the next 14-plus years I did reference and I was the map specialist. So I taught the in-house people how to do map reference. And I went through a number of bosses. I went from jumping up in the morning and happy to go to work to wanting to go to lunch with my boss to trying to avoid seeing my boss for as many days as possible.

**So who were some of your bosses over the years?**

Well, I started out with Chester Davis. Chester had started in Las Vegas, New Mexico, Highlands University. And he had 30 years experience or so when I worked with him. Chester was in his last 50s. Started in '85 here. And Chester had been head of technical services for the county library. They had some major issues and he just said that's it; I give up with you people. They threw out all their records, all their serials because they had a jobber hired. So why did they need these old records? And the jobber went bankrupt within six months. They had no clue what subscriptions they had paid for, how much was left on their subscriptions, nothing. And Chester was in the middle of that. And he just threw up his hands. He came over to UNLV as the head of circulation. And when the head of government documents retired, Alice Brown, Chester took the transfer up and took over. And so Chester Davis for a while.

Then Ken Schott, S-C-H-O-T-T. I forget if it's two T's or not. Ken's out at Henderson Community College. I'm not sure what his title is in those days.

Then Maggie Ferrell Pahramovich. And Maggie was superior to the point where they had her do a year's not internship, but as a consultant in Washington, D.C. for the Federal Depository system. And while there, Montana State offered her the associate dean position for their system, not for one library. [Now, Dean of Libraries at the University of Wyoming.]

Then the next one was Amy Pastilli Quinn. And Amy was -- I don't know how candid you want me to be -- mentally ill. She was a habitual chronic liar. And it didn't matter what it was. She got in a great deal of trouble with the faculty here and was denied tenure at the last minute. They were trying to put a report for the provost. And everyone was supposed to do a chapter on their specialty. Hers was the only chapter that was blank. She didn't even give them a rough draft. She didn't give them an outline. Nothing. And they had to turn the report in one week late waiting on hers. And they still turned it in with nothing. And her thing was her department. She

could have copied it out of the depository system manual on what it was and turned it in. It was just like there was a great deal of personnel issues, a great deal.

When she took over there were three people in the department -- myself, Mary McCoy and now Sidney Lowe. It used to be Sidney Watson in those days. And we were getting commendations. We were getting referrals from five states. So we were pretty good at what we were doing. And the first thing she did was reassign us within three weeks of taking over. It was running like a Swiss clock. Commendations, recommendations, all this stuff. So the first thing you do as a new boss is change everybody's job. So that told us right off the bat. So Sidney got transferred. Mary McCoy got transferred. And the only reason I didn't get transferred was the person I was going to replace came back in their old job. So I got stuck with her for a few years.

And then eventually I got rescued by Dr. Ken Marks, who took me out and stuck me in charge of inventory and the move to the new library. And I became one of the people I work for, Dan Catchai, who was the building committee chairman. And so I did inventory. I did surplus and furniture move.

And then I started working for Daryl Privott, who was hired in as the building manager. And at some juncture I was supposed to go back to maps. But it was decided that the new person in charge over there really wasn't fond of me. And it was decided that Daryl and I worked so well together as a team that we'll just leave the crazy man with Daryl and we won't have to deal with him. And so the maps in the library unfortunately are the worst you'll find for a library this size anywhere in the country.

**Are you talking about the maps we have up here?**

Yeah. Simply because the collection has never been addressed. The predecessor to Dean Marks was going to enclose an area up there and turn it into a map library with me in charge. He had hoped to have oversized copiers, possibly GIS, depending on federal grants kind of thing. And we were going to start out with myself and some student workers and then see if it became big enough that we needed to have a classified for me to supervise kind of thing. And the debate was how big the budget was going to be, how many states were we going to collect kind of thing. And what happened was electronics took over and that dean didn't come to fruition for the project. He was replaced. And basically they get the free stuff from the depository system, but there's no effort to

collect in any organized, random. It's all just kind of whatever shows up shows up. Unfortunately, it's the one big disappointment because I'm an alumnus. And so the geosciences department takes care of their own. That's the only reason there hasn't been a great uproar about the lack of material. That, plus, a lot of it is now online. You can do a lot of things through the satellites and the Google Earth and all of these kinds of things. But the historical collection that this place should have available versus what's available was just pitiful, the only word to describe it. You know, I hate to be that blunt, but it's pretty pitiful.

**So tell me what UNLV looked like when you came.**

Oh, okay. For me I came in '77 [1977]. So there was a building boom. They had built quite a bit and they were paving parking lots that had been dirt lots. And where we're sitting right now in the library here, of course, was a dirt lot for a long time. Then they paved it because they knew they weren't going to have any building on this site for probably 15, 20 years. So they just paved it to make it easier. You used to be able to drive through on Harmon down through what's now the mall beside the classroom buildings and out and then connect to the road that comes in beside the dining commons. So we had a problem. We had to put in speed bumps because the taxis were barreling through here at 45 miles an hour. It was a shortcut to get to Maryland Parkway. And while we didn't have anybody killed, there were a number of accidents, people injured and that kind of thing. And a lot of what people -- the grass area where the trailers are now --

**Trailers?**

The ones right out across from us.

**Oh, across from CBC.**

CBC. And across from the backside of the library.

**Yes.**

The main side library, that was a softball field. So everything got moved to the outer edges over the years. But that was a softball field. And there were the classroom building complex and all of those student services buildings, all that, all the new dorms. Basically they had Tonopah. Tonopah Hall was the dorm. And nobody lived on campus. Everybody was a commuter. Wide open campus. And every time you turned around they were building another building and they were doing another "what are they doing, what are they doing?"

And when I came in '77, the library was a three-story round building because in '79, '80, '81 -- I think they completed it in '80, the addition, the rectangular building, which is now the law school.

**The law library.**

Yeah. Well, see, they're kind of in between because the law library is in the upper two floors. And then the bottom two floors are other entities.

**Other stuff, yes.**

And the round building is really the law school. So it's kind of a shared thing. But when they put that in with the overhead walkway, the whole campus went what the heck is going on? And the reason for the overhead walkway -- nobody's probably ever told you.

**No.**

There was a master plan to take out Lilly Fong building and build a new student union right there.

**Where Lilly Fong is?**

Where Lilly Fong is. Now, the problem they ran into is -- that technology building?

**Yes.**

Okay. And you notice that bunker in the ground there. Well, there's a bunker there for HAZMAT material. And what they discovered was the cost of removing that bunker and all that cement, which is all HAZMAT, was as much as the building amount that they were going to put into the seven million or eight-million-dollar student union. So that stopped it dead in its tracks because the technology building is a little brick thing. So the technology building, the Lilly Fong, the parking lot behind Lilly Fong and that HAZMAT bunker, all of that was supposed to be inside the new student union. And that's why they have that great big wide, wide walkway under the two law school buildings now, old library buildings, was because that was the main entrance into the new student union.

**Ah, that's what it was going to be.**

Yeah. See, originally they tried to add more floors to the round building of the library. But there's a fault under the building. It won't take any more weight. So originally it was one story. They added the two stories. When they added the third story, they put a dome on it so you could not add a fourth story to stop someone by mistakenly adding another story down the road and having

the building fail. So that's why that crazy dome ceiling on the library because people were like what the heck is with this third floor ceiling? What is it, a trapeze?

**The little lights.**

Yeah, the little, tiny lights twinkling at you, some of them. But the others were burned out. Oh, they had fun trying to change those lights.

**Oh, I can image.**

Oh, that was a five-year project. Every five years somebody got up there.

**That's good information.**

Yeah. That's one of the strange things because when they said we were going to build a new student union, we went, well, what are you going to do with the one at the top of the hill? And I guess the new one's idea was to have more activities, more offices, more this, just bigger, easier to use and just sort of phase out the old student union, pretty much what they did when they did the renovation. You've got a lot more usable space, meeting rooms, places to eat, all that kind of thing because the other one -- the whole campus was originally designed for under 10,000 students.

And the original designers designed a community college, a junior college.

**Because we were a junior college almost.**

Almost. And the point was 1800 students kind of thing. And they figured, well, maybe it will get up to five or 6,000, maybe 10,000, a small four-year college, not a university, just a little college, you know, because they can go to California for university or Arizona or whoever kind of thing. And so everything was built that way. And it's the same thing in the valley. The valley was built for under a million people. And as you see having to come back through an expand, a divided highway from three lanes to five lanes on each side, oh, that's a little painful especially to people losing parts of their property to the fences and that.

**So which was the most impressive building that you remember over the years?**

Well, the most impressive building to begin with was Flora Humanities because you came in and you had this massive seven-story building and then there were a bunch of one- and two-story buildings. So that was always the focal point. When you came in you went, oh, the big one. Oh, where's the president's office? Right at the top floor. Oh. Vice president's too. Top floor.

Whenever you were looking for a vice president or provost or somebody high up, just go in and go

up to the top floor and go excuse me, where's the office for the vice president for? Oh, down one and over they usually answered kind of thing.

The engineering complex, when they built that one, the old one, that was pretty spectacular. People were really startled about that.

The thing that nobody could ever understand was why they never rebuilt the swimming pool area.

### **What swimming pool?**

Well, there's an indoor swimming pool over in -- I'm sorry. I can't think of the initial. It's called an auditorium. And it's a big Olympic-sized pool. And things leaked for years. And so there's issues with it. But it's a massive undertaking. They have to tear it down and they don't have this. And you can't remodel the building and all this. And it's an indoor pool. So that means basically tear down and rebuild. So they were always wondering about that.

And then just kind of every time you turned around it seemed like another department was getting a building. And then when they built the classroom buildings, everybody kind of went, oh, that's a good idea, more classrooms and not 5,000 offices and two classrooms, you know, 5,000 classrooms and one or two offices because that was the biggest problem we had was they had expanded so much there was no room for the departments. And, you know, you've got to have offices for the faculty. You've got to have department office. You've got to have the ability to communicate and find it and do and do and do. And people were in closets. We used to laugh. And I think there still is one person in what had been the custodian closet. It didn't have water in it. In Lilly Fong when you go in there's a big auditorium in the main -- when you come in from either entrance, there's a big auditorium on either the right or left, depending. The very first office is this teeny, tiny, little box. And there's somebody in it. And down the hallway there's a couple more that used to be storerooms. And somebody's in the office because you look at it and go there's no windows and there's no window in the door. And you go and you see their office door is propped open with their name on it because otherwise you can't tell if they're in.

### **Wow. That's amazing.**

But that was the norm. The library people who were here in the 60s and early 70s, the library was like one or two rooms in like Maude Frazier Hall. And then they finally built that one-story round

building for them. And that was funny. I don't know if anybody ever explained to you what the design of the library being round was all about.

**No.**

Originally it was a wagon wheel. There was a circular desk for reference with two openings. And the reference people sat inside that circle. And the stacks were arranged like the spokes of a wagon wheel. So whenever you came in with a question, I would take you around the desk and point you down the correct stacks. Well, the problem with that is as it comes close to the desk there's not a lot of wasted space. But at the far ends, that fan shape, all that's wasted space. And eventually they outgrew the ability to do that. And the next thing you knew they started turning stacks sideways to get more ranges in. And then they got the addition on the second and third floors kind of thing and they did the same thing.

At one juncture they came up with compact shelving for one area down there. And that was very, very helpful because it really expanded because the building was never designed to handle the amount of traffic that it was handling before. Even before the expansion they couldn't. And then once they expanded it was sort of okay for a while, but then it still was crunched to the walls after a while.

Some of that compact shelving is in use right now at DRI's [Desert Research Institute] library and of all things -- and this was funny and this was my doing because I put the word out to all nonprofit organizations, too, that they could come and get surplus material. Liberace's Museum, their storage area has compact shelving from Dickinson Library in it so that they can move the material much, much -- and store a lot more because he had so much because his career was so long. And I mean we're talking those beautiful robes of his with the fur robes and all the stuff and then all the awards and musical instruments and all the things that he has because, candidly, they would have to expand that museum probably three times to be able to put everything on display because the man had -- well, when you get a -- I say 40 years, probably longer than that -- 40-year career and you were a headliner. And when they ask him, well, what got you into the fancy clothing, he said I was in the Hollywood Bowl playing. And I had someone sit down at the piano and I went quite a ways up. He said and they were sitting in a black suit and all I could see was a black speck. He said so I got this big colorful outfit so they could at least see

me. And then I started the exaggerated hand movements and all of these things. He said showmanship.

**And it was. It was.**

Oh, yeah. He could play the same song as three other people and you liked Liberace's version of it better because, well, first of all, he was always smiling. He loved being on stage. And it was so funny because his brother George, who played the violin and played with him for years, was such a quiet man. Of course, his brother George was probably the wild and woolly one offstage. But on stage his brother George was --

**I don't think he could probably be any more wild than Liberace.**

No. And not go to jail.

**Yes. How did you feel about the Maude Frazier Hall coming down the other day?**

I wished there were some way they could have saved it. But doing what I've been doing the last eight, nine years, the renovations to retain it was just prohibitive. The shell would have been all they could have done. And it's really in the area that probably should be the main entrance to the university. You know, if they expand that to what they're talking about doing and making it a really here's the university -- because right now you come in Harmon. You're in the back area. You know you're in the back area. You got the intramural field, a ball field. What are these weird little buildings? And then all of a sudden you stop. Well, here's the library and here's the museum. But where is the university kind of thing? You know, I get that. That was the funniest question. When someone would say where's the university, I said you're in it. They said okay. In that case where is the? And we go from there. But, yeah, it's one of the few universities that doesn't have the big grandiose main divided entrance coming in. It was never considered to be important.

With Maude Frazier Hall needing to come down and a couple of the other old buildings that probably are going to be in the same boat like the old fine arts building, Grant Hall kind of things, they eventually will come down simply because it's just going to be cost prohibitive to try to retrofit them because all this stuff has got asbestos everywhere because in the old days we put asbestos in to prevent fires. So you had asbestos-wrapped steam pipes that kept the hot water. You had some of it in the ceilings to prevent fire from going through the ceilings. And then the



mastic, the glue that puts the tile pieces on the floor, had asbestos in it also to retard fire so that the tile didn't as quickly catch on fire and then you have all those hazardous fumes from the gas from the tile melting and all that kind of stuff. So there was all good reasons for it. Unfortunately, we didn't know at the time that stuff will kill you, slowly, but it kills you.

**That's right. What are some of the benefits that you've received, not just the regular health benefits and all that? What are some of the benefits you think you got from working in a university especially opposed to working in the gaming industry?**

Oh. Well, in the gaming industry I got a handshake and a check and called the night before and told I was laid off. So that's pretty much how it goes with the gaming. What have you done for me today? Not recently, today.

The university's been interesting because it's allowed me to expand. I have a teaching credential, a BS in education from here. I have an associate degree from the old Clark County Community College. I had gone to college, quit and went in the Marine Corps. Then I came back. So naturally they weren't going to admit me because I had just quit. I didn't withdraw. I just quit. So I went through the community college. Got an associate with honor's. Got a bachelor's, a BS in education from here. Then came out here and worked. And then I've done my certification for a school media specialist, school librarian stuff.

And I've had a lot of interaction with a lot of interesting people. I've worked with one fellow for the better part of two years on a tell-all Kennedy assassination book. And he had a hundred-thousand-dollar contract staring him in the face for a conspiracy book. But he needed to come up with facts and figures and these kinds of things. And after two years what it came down to was somebody shot Kennedy from the book depository. The first shot they missed. The second shot they hit him in the neck area. And the third shot they hit his bald spot. We can't tell you for sure if Oswald pulled the trigger. But the guy had Oswald's gun and he was shooting from that window because people saw him hang out the window. They couldn't identify him. But they saw the rifle out the window. One or two people saw the first round miss and hit the asphalt and spark. So when he got all done he came up with a book that said basically the Warren Commission got it right. So they weren't interested in it because they were looking for the conspiracy or the grassy knoll shooter and the this shooter and the that shooter. And it came down to the fact that -- the

most remarkable thing was that the weapon actually cycled and worked three times in a row. At one point in my --

**And that rifle was able to do that?**

Yeah. Well, see, it was the Italian military rifle. It was supposed to be a good rifle, but it wasn't. It's a pitiful rifle. And when you try to use one, they have a real bad tendency to jam. It's a bolt-action rifle. And so the fact that he managed to cycle it three times in under ten seconds, which is easy to do, and it not misfire and nothing go wrong with it was more remarkable than anything else because the shots were terrible. He missed a person sitting in a car.

**He missed the car evidently.**

He missed everything. He hit them next down here when he's aiming for his head. And finally the last shot he hits him in the head. He had a four-power scope on the rifle. And the longest shot was 148 feet, not yards, feet.

**Wow. He was that close. I didn't realize it was that close.**

Well, see, that's the thing. The conspiracy people always want to do -- there's a hole in the back of Kennedy's head and the front of his head blows out. He wasn't shot from here on some angle and it skidded off and all this kind of thing. There were all kinds of oddities and things, echoes and this and that. Oh, well, they heard this and this. No. The people that were there from Texas knew there were three shots. And the bullet that went through here on Kennedy hit Connelly, bounced off his wrist and ended up on the floor passing through all these body parts, but it didn't hit any bones until it hit his wrist. And the bullet is not pristine. It's got deformation on it. It just doesn't have very much. And that's a factor -- okay. It went through one person. Slowed down. Hit another person. Slowed down. So by the time it hit something that would have deformed it, it wasn't going that fast. And they say, well, it couldn't because he was in a jump seat. He was down lower. It's one of those fold-down seats that the limos have.

**Yes. Yes.**

You're familiar with those things. They're weird and there are all kinds of angles. Well, he was sitting in the jump seat, but he was sitting forward. And when he heard the first shot, he turned to see what was going on. And that's when Kennedy got shot for the first time, the second shot, because as a hunter from Texas he heard a gunshot and goes what the heck? Ow. And he got hit.

And then Kennedy took the fatal one because the first one wouldn't have been fatal, that one. Kennedy goes like this because he's wearing a back brace. He had a very degenerative spinal problem. And so he was our second commander-in-chief who could have probably just as easily been in a wheelchair.

But, that. I worked with a lot of the columnists here in town because in the old days, before everything got online, stuff from the legislature I would get it in the library quicker than you could get it from the legislature because they mailed to the libraries first and then they mailed to individuals. So the Smiths and the Germans and these people would come in. And we'd get the stuff and we'd help them. And it got funny, you know, because every once in a while somebody would do something strange. And it was entertaining. I got a new boss. And one of the columnists had come in. And the boss had said something about, well, just talk to me and I'll be able to help you. And he called back the next day and I answered the phone. And he said, oh, are you there, Pete? I said yeah. He said I'll be down in about an hour. I need some work to look on this new bill. And he comes in and he says who's this new person? I said, oh, that's the new boss. He said oh. I said they just started. They're trying to, you know, get in good with you guys. He said, well, I'd rather deal with you after four or five years. I know what you don't know and what you do.

And then, of course, a lot of the people we've had over the years have been really enjoyable to work with. We've had some real characters. We've had everything from -- one of the gals here couldn't get promoted. She typed 80 words a minute. Couldn't get promoted. Ran into somebody. They introduced her to somebody else. And she now runs the International Society for Veterinarians annual conference. She has a staff of three. But she couldn't get promoted to library assistant three here. And I'm going wait a minute. She types three times faster than anybody else in the building and you can't promote her.

And they did the same thing to me. I worked two and a half careers out of my pay grade and was denied an upgrade. And then they did the complete statewide evaluation of library assistants. And they came in and explained to me that I was going up from a library assistant two to a library assistant four. And they asked me how long I had been doing maps and all that stuff. And I said, well, since the second day I started working here. And he said, well, that's way out of

your pay grade. You're not at the level that can handle that work. And I said, well, so in other words, if I put in for an upgrade, I'll get my upgrade? He said guaranteed because I will get the paperwork and I will just sign it for you, Peter. I said okay. So I put in and I got my upgrade. But that was two and a half years in and a year after someone from Carson City had come down and messed up my upgrade.

The director of library at the time wanted an LA-3 and an LA-2 in the department along with a librarian, just nice and neat. And the problem was I was doing more technical work than the LA-3 was and I was the LA-2. And so the report written was ridiculous. My supervisor, Chester, looked at that and went what in the world? It said that I frequently asked for assistance and reference questions and this and that and the other thing. And Chester went the quote I gave him was in a year and four months he's asked me twice for assistance. So I knew what that was. I said I understand, Chester, thank you, but obviously the director doesn't want to okay the promotion. So that's the way it goes.

I look at myself in the mirror every morning. I have a personal honor code, which is no lie, no cheat, no steal. So I tell people if you want a candid answer, I'll give it to you. If I feel you don't want to hear it, I won't answer. So if you get silence, you may not want to ask me again because I'm going to tell you the truth because I don't buy with this stuff. That's why where I'm at and why I haven't risen anywhere. Three times I've been offered sections and three times something has happened. The map section. I was offered the government documents section, but it requires a librarian from the Federal Depository system to sign off. That's what it requires. And none of the librarians were willing to sign off and have me effectively run the department. They wanted the supervisory pay and the department kind of thing. And I don't blame them. But they could've accommodated me in a better manner, but it didn't happen. And it's water under the bridge. And that bridge is slowly going behind me.

**Yeah. So what are you planning to do now?**

The first few months I've got so much backlog at home. I'm the odd person. My second wife and I have been married now 25 years. She had been married twice before and was not capable of having children. My daughters are 25 and 23. Well, it's 25 today.

**Okay. Wonderful.**

I asked the doctor about that. I said, well, what's the problem? How come she's pregnant? He said, well, it's your fault. I said, well, but what about all this can't have children? He said, well, if you make them happy, they have children. So I have a four-year-old granddaughter and a soon-to-be two-year-old granddaughter. And so they keep me hopping. And so everything at my house is backlogged because just a lot of stuff.

So this school year I won't try to get any subbing in. But come September I'll probably sub in the district. But because it's the same retirement system, I can't take a job offer even though they will offer. If I put in with everything, they will offer me one of the library positions because with that much experience in library versus the people who are teachers who have just gotten certified I was told that they would offer me without too much trouble.

**But you cannot accept.**

But I can't accept it because then I have to give back the retirement money. And I, of course, will start at like \$29-\$30,000. And my retirement pay is probably going to be \$25-\$26,000. So I may well do like an acquaintance of mine. He subs on Mondays and Fridays only for all those teachers who need a three-day weekend because they can't handle their kids anymore. And believe me I understand that one. These kids are a handful and a half. My wife is retired after 21 years with the school district, 40 years of total teaching.

**In the classroom?**

In the classroom, yeah. Second grade, third grade. Everything from first grade up to about fifth grade. I don't think she taught fourth. But in the school district here second grade doesn't have those standardized tests that they give three, six, nine and 12. However, because she was in an at-risk school, they were averaging six to eight standardized tests a year because every one of these grants in these programs for the Title I schools comes with a testing.

**So they're teaching to the test.**

The kids are so young that they have never taken these tests before. They're not all done the same way. So you're spending two weeks how to show the kids how to bubble in answers to a standard test and how to use a test booklet that has the answers on it versus a Scranton sheet kind of test. And then the problem where she was teaching is it's two-thirds Hispanic. And out of that two-thirds a good ten percent no habla English.

**And she doesn't speak Spanish?**

Well, very little. And it doesn't really matter because the standardized test is in English.

**That's true. Yeah.**

So no matter. And we had a couple of cute stories with people where the second grade kid was teaching the kindergartner and momma and poppa English.

**Yeah. That happens in a lot of families I'm sure.**

Oh, yeah. They had some really good people. One little landscaping guy said my kids are going to know how to read and write.

**So what are you going to miss most?**

The people because once they took away my reference desk duties, then the interaction with the general public is pretty much -- but I'll miss the people, the guys from the facilities, the skill/trade guys, all the people I've worked with for years here, the people I've come to know and love.

But it's been difficult because I'm one of those people who likes to do a superior job and I've always done a superior job at whatever I do. When I left the casinos, they went to replace me. My replacement lasted two and a half hours. And when they got done they pulled out this from my job, this from my job, and then they discovered they had forgot I was a training officer. So I was replaced by three people.

**Wow. That's something.**

And the same thing happened. I was doing the job. There were two of us. And they brought in a third person. And they took 30 percent of my job and made that a full-time job for someone else. And I'm going but, but, but.

**What is your favorite UNLV story when you're sitting around talking to friends having a beer?**

I have a couple. But I think my favorite is the look on the face of the secretary over in athletics when she got the check when UNLV won the basketball tournament. It was a one-million-dollar check for one million dollars. And she was just like ahh. She had pictures of her and the check. She made Xeroxes of the check. It was all over the check and stuff.

**That's wonderful.**

And it was funny because the excitement on campus was what do you mean a million dollars? We

got a million dollars for winning the -- well, we need to win the tournament every year.

**What has basketball meant to this school?**

Well, it's given the name recognition throughout the country. But, unfortunately, also it means we're a basketball school. But the problem is when they got into the big tiff with the basketball coach the next person they hired was a total incompetent. And I've been a youth coach in half a dozen sports. When someone once asked me to list all the sports I've been involved in, I went, oh, my god, do you really want to hear all of this? I said as far as a coach, you know, softball, baseball, soccer, basketball, baseball, football, tennis, chess kind of stuff.

And we're no longer a basketball school. So what are we? We were a basketball school. We're not anymore. Lon Kruger is an excellent coach. But it takes decades to get the recruits to come back to you after what happened to this program. Rollie Massimino was a laughing stock when he came here. And he came as this great coach who had won the national championship. Only the problem was they beat St. Joseph's. They played them three times that year. They lost to them twice by great big numbers. And St. Joseph's had a bad game and got in foul trouble and they lost by two points. And that was his old coaching resume. And he was a lousy recruiter and he was not much of a coach. So that destroyed it.

The things that have happened on campus have always been interesting. It's always fun when one of the vendors or subcontractors decides to break a gas line or run over a fire hydrant or drive up the street. My favorite one of all there was a person driving on the quadrangle and on the sidewalk. But they were driving up towards the student union. So somebody flagged him down and told him this isn't a road. Well, how do I get to (it)? You can't. So they then proceeded to drive up and turn around in front of the student union and drive all the way back down instead of going out on the -- and we're just sitting there going -- they had come into the parking lot between Beam Music Center and the fine arts building. And they had just driven right up.

**Oh, okay.**

There didn't used to be a big curb. So they had just driven right onto the sidewalk and off they went. We had seen them from a distance. They were going down by what's now where the engineering complex was. And all the sudden we saw them backing up. And we saw them coming this way. And it's like -- I realize they're huge sidewalks, but.

And, see, now what we get is the kids who walk on the street beside the Lied Library thinking it's a sidewalk because there's a light area in there that's actually supposed to be a drainage thing. And they think that's the sidewalk because the sidewalk's up against Reprographics and hidden. So cars come whizzing in and here's people waltzing down the street.

**That's right.**

I'm trying to think what else. We've had some interesting Halloween parties where people came in some really interesting costumes over the years. And we've had some really good little times. But they decided that they would change how we were organized and it failed. And then it didn't revive. In the old days the classified association in the library more or less sponsored all the parties and took care of everything and got everything going and the faculty kicked in a little bit and helped somewhat. Then it went to all-staff. Then the all-staff was disbanded. And then it sort of didn't come back. And then now sort of it comes out of the administrative offices. And, see, the thing was we had potlucks, we had this, we made contributions and all these kinds of things. But we never had alcohol. The students were always invited. Everybody participated. And now it's kind of like a dinner party.

**Well, so the Christmas party is.**

Yeah. And, see, the thing is there are people who will not come because of the alcohol. And your students aren't allowed because of the alcohol.

**But the students are gone anyway by the time that party is put on. They're gone home for the holidays.**

Yeah. But you know what I'm saying? It just kind of -- we used to do Thanksgiving. We did Halloween. We did a little of everything kind of thing.

The morale was higher. The biggest morale issue now is simply the fact that they've taken away the ability for most of these people to get promoted. There are so few classified supervisors now that it's not even a viable option for a large number of people.

**Oh, okay. So most of the supervisors now are faculty, not classified. I see.**

Yeah. They've gone into professional. And that's really -- basically it means now for a lot of these people whatever they're doing now, 20 years from now they'll still be doing the same job. And if you can't grow or get promoted or do something, it's very difficult to keep a good attitude.



**So what do you think about then having -- because now we have that Texas University thing where more people can go to library school. Do you think that's going to help a lot of people?**

That's helped probably a dozen people.

**That's right.**

But a lot of people look at graduate school and they don't understand what it is. They think it's the monster. They think it's a giant dragon, really difficult, impossible for them to do simply because they're not the kind of people to barge in and try. I don't want to say timid. But they're cautious. And caution works up to a point. But sooner or later you've got to get in the water.

**That's it. That's it.**

I mean you cannot get anywhere and be super cautious.

**Yeah. You've got to sometimes take some risk.**

**Well, I really appreciate this. Is there any closing thing that you'd like to say that you'd like to see in the future on your interview?**

I don't know. It was a fun run while it lasted. But it's about that time to come skidding in with a drink in one hand and a cigar in the other and go what a ride.

**That's right. That's exactly right. I really appreciate this, Pete. Thank you so much.**

No problem. Thank you.

Aladdin, 7, 8  
Alice Brown, 12

Boyd Group, 6

California Hotel, 10  
Catchai, Dan 13

Davis, Chester 12  
Desert Research Institute, 18

Farrell Pahramovich, Maggie, 12  
Fitzgerald's, 10  
Flora Humanities, 17  
Fremont, 6, 8, 10

Golden Gate, 5, 6, 7, 9

Liberace's Museum, 18  
Lilly Fong, 15, 17

Marine Corps, 1, 2, 20  
Mary McCoy, 13  
Maude Frazier Hall, 18, 19, 20  
Marks, Ken 13  
Minnesota, 1, 4  
Mississippi, 1

New York, 1, 2

parties, 27  
Pastilli Quinn, Amy, 12  
Privott, Daryl 13

Sam Diamond, 8  
Schott, Ken 12  
Sidney Lowe, 13  
Sidney Watson, 13  
swimming pool, 17

Vietnam, 2, 3