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An Interview with Sarah Haggerty &
Lance Kirk

An Oral History Conducted by Claytee White

Voices of the Historic John S. Park Neighborhood

Oral History Research Center at UNLV
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University of Nevada Las Vegas

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This project was the brainchild of Deborah Boehm, Ph.D. and Patrick Jackson who taught at UNLV and resided in the John S. Park Neighborhood. As they walked their community, they realized it was a special place that intersected themes of gender, class, race/ethnicity, religion, sexuality and gentrification. Patrick and Deborah learned that John S. Park had been listed on the National Registry of Historic Places and that original homeowners, local politicians, members of the gay community, Latino immigrants, artists and gallery owners and an enclave of UNLV staff all lived in the neighborhood. Therefore, they decided that the history of this special place had to be preserved, joined with the Oral History Research Center at UNLV Libraries and wrote a grant that was funded by the Centennial Committee.

The transcripts received minimal editing that included the elimination of fragments, false starts and repetitions in order to enhance the reader's understanding of the narrative. These interviews have been catalogued and can be found as non-circulating documents in Special Collections at UNLV's Lied Library.

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Interview with Sarah Haggerty and Lance Kirk

February 2, 2010 in Las Vegas, Nevada
Conducted by Claytee White

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Preface

Sarah Haggerty and Lance Kirk are a married couple with two small children. Both are born and raised Nevadans—he's from Reno and she's from Las Vegas. Sarah has deeply rooted memories of the John S. Park area, her paternal grandparents' home is there.

As a couple, Sarah and Lance reflect on home ownership in both the Huntridge and John S. Park areas. Lance, an architect, talks about the house and the social communities. And ultimately asks the poignant question: *Is the community making us or are we making the community?*

Sarah reminisces about the transition in the neighborhood, a transition that she feels began in the 1990s as the original owners aged and their homes were sold to a new generation of owners at a time when the greatest growth in the valley was to the suburbs. She may harbor nostalgic feelings, but she is also a realist: *It's just different. We face different challenges but we have different rewards too*, she says..

Among the most significant changes is the increased Hispanic demographic, which she guesses to be nearly 50%. They talk about the challenge of getting these residents more involved in the community's social and activist causes. About crime, they observe that is isn't necessarily higher, but it is affected by the homeless population that gravitates there. Their wish list includes: sidewalks, parks, community centers, more restaurants. However, none of this discourages their love of living in John S. Park. They have been actively involved in projects that draw the community together, from door knocking to using social networking to assist those efforts.

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Voices of the Historic John S. Park Neighborhood



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Signature of Narrator Date

Claytee D. White 2/2/2010
Signature of Interviewer Date

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Lance Kirk 02/02/10
Signature of Narrator Date

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Signature of Interviewer Date

Interview with Sarah Haggerty and Lance Kirk

February 2, 2010 in Las Vegas, Nevada
Conducted by Claytee White

This is Claytee White and I'm in the home of Sarah and Lance. It is February 2nd, 2010. So how are you doing today?

Sarah: Very well, thank you.

So we're going to talk about the John S. Park Neighborhood, and especially this portion that you're living in right here. But first, Sarah, tell me a little about your younger life, where you grew up.

I was born here in Las Vegas. My dad was born here. My mom moved here when she was, I think, about seven. And my dad lived just on Bracken [Avenue] which is, what, three blocks east. Yeah.

Lance: It's on Bracken between Fifteenth [Street] and Thirteenth [Street].

Sarah: And then when I was born, we lived over here at a duplex on Saint Louis [Avenue], and when I was a year old we moved down to Fifteenth and Franklin [Avenue], so I lived on Fifteenth Street when I was her age [indicating daughter]. This is Molly, our daughter. She is eight-and-a-half months old.

Wonderful. Now Lance, could you do the same? Just tell me a little about your early childhood.

Well, I'm actually a native Nevadan but born in Reno [Nevada], so I grew up in Reno till I was twenty and came down here for college in 1990. So I've lived in Las Vegas for twenty years now, but grew up in Reno.

So what made you come to the better school? [Laughter]

The school [University of Nevada, Las Vegas, UNLV] in the State of Nevada that had an architecture school. So that's what brought me down here was because they had just been forming their architecture school and that's what brought me here, and I got my undergraduate and graduate degrees here. And I fell in love with the desert too. I like both, the high desert and the low desert. It's a wonderful place.

Wonderful. Describe the house to me as an architect would describe it.

[Laughing] It's very open. This was actually remodeled. We bought it recently, a year-and-a-half ago roughly. Before we lived in the Huntridge Neighborhood, so across Maryland [Parkway]. This was actually quite an extensive remodel when we came into it. It's very open, so there's three big rooms that are all about four-or-five-hundred square feet and they all kind of combine into one. It's got the original character with the fireplace there. The home was built in 1959. It was much more closed back then, from what we understand from most of our neighbors around us who came into the home quite a bit during the remodel, so they know what it was like before and after. And in fact I think even the people that remodeled it, they got it from the original owners. So it was an original home, owned by the family until probably 2007, 2008 maybe. But it was all closed off. This was a wall here, for instance, so there was one small door right where you're at here that went through, so it wasn't open like it is now, so they came in and gave it [a remodel]. That's what we loved about it was the openness. It still looks like an older home from the outside, but inside it's got newer amenities, and just openness, and that's how we like it. Family growing and open space.

So how many square feet?

Just under twenty-three hundred.

Oh, this is great. This is wonderful.

Sarah: Thank you. Yeah. We love the nice big kitchen that opens up to all the other rooms, so it's just a nice, open, flowing [space]. You can see everybody everywhere. [Laughing]

Great for entertaining?

Sarah: Yes, yes.

Lance: Oh yeah, absolutely. We do a lot more of that because we actually came from, like I said, the Huntridge homes, but we lived in eight-hundred-and-fifty square feet for ten or eleven years. So the two of us were there, and then Coby, and then here comes Molly, and [for] four people that was pretty small, so that's when we started to move up. So we didn't do a lot of entertaining there. We did, but it was very tight.

Sarah: Well, for over eleven years we had parties.

Lance: Yeah. But we did a lot of outside [activities] and stuff and we weren't really giving the family Christmases or anything. So now we're getting the honor to host this.

Sarah: Yeah, we never got holidays. We just had kind of parties and everybody would be in the back yard.

So describe this neighborhood to me and give me the name of the particular neighborhood we're in right now.

Sarah: This is Marycrest [Neighborhood] and most of these homes here are all custom homes. It backs up to St. Anne's [Catholic Church] and the [Bishop] Gorman [High School] campus, flows down the Oakey [Boulevard] hill, between Oakey and Saint Louis, and I think the Marycrest Neighborhood ends at Seventeenth Street. So the blocks

as you go down the hill, they're all custom homes and so it just has a really unique feel because all of the homes are different but they all flow together nicely because they all have the same period, kind of the ranch, Mid-Century [Modern]. Some even have more of a bungalow feel but they're all bigger. They're all larger than like the Huntridge bungalows.

Great. That is wonderful. So tell me the history of your living in this community.

Your first house was purchased when?

Lance: Nineteen ninety-eight.

Sarah: We rented it for six years before we purchased it.

Lance: That was in '98 we moved in there. Before that I was an apartment dweller, always in apartments everywhere. I was looking for a home. I moved in there first. But it's kind of interesting because I didn't like the home at first, because I was used to apartments that are new, [built] in the last five years. Everything was well-manicured. So it took a while for it to grow on me. Sarah, I think, had been used to it because she was living with her brother in her grandparents' house on Bracken.

Sarah: After my grandma passed away.

So tell me about the history of your family in this area.

My grandparents moved here in the early Fifties. (This is my dad's side of the family.)

My dad, my aunt, and my uncle all went to St. Anne's [Elementary School] and Gorman.

My dad was in the first class of St. Anne's that started at first [grade] and graduated at eighth grade from it. They all went to Gorman. My grandma was real social. She had bridge clubs. Everybody knew everybody. There was a pool at St. Anne's; all the kids would go swim at St. Anne's.

Then I was born here in '76, and like I said, we lived over on Saint Louis. Then we moved over onto Fifteenth Street. Then we got out of town for a few years, came back, lived over on the east side of town, but my grandparents still had the house here, and we were very, very close to my grandparents. I went to St. Joseph's [Elementary School], which is not too far. My grandpa would pick me up from school. They would take me to school. My grandma would always sign me up for some kind of extracurricular something-or-other. So we were always at the house at 1406 Bracken. We had dinner there every Monday. My grandma cooked a big meal, I mean a nice gourmet meal.

Is that a family night?

Yes.

So you're Mormon?

No. Oh, so "family night" is an official term. I just called it "family night." [Laughter] Our family is Catholic. I mean I'm not practicing. But every Monday my grandma would make a huge dinner and we would all come over.

What attracted your family to this area of the city, do you think?

Well, after the war [World War II] my grandpa got into gaming. They were from a small town in Pennsylvania. He went into the war. He was stationed up in the Aleutian Islands. He never saw combat, thank goodness. They were kind of trying to attract vets to the [Las Vegas] area, good prices on homes, and he had been up, I think, at a gaming establishment in Reno, and then he came here, and they were here ever since. My grandpa died in '93. I still, of course, stayed very close to my grandma and I even helped her out more without him there. My big brother moved in with her. I helped care for her

while she was ill, before she died, and then I moved in. I sort of moved in when she was sick and then just stayed living there. And then I met Lance, and after we'd been together a year we looked for houses because we wanted to be close, and we decided to move in together.

That is wonderful. Did you see any other influence of gaming in the community?

I don't recall ever thinking about gaming as a kid. Just seeing my grandpa come home with his suit on. My dad actually became a 21 dealer. But I never really thought about it or noticed it aside from them working in it, you know.

OK. I want to talk about the social aspects of the community. You've told me just a tiny bit (before I turned the recorder on) about the Flamingo Club. So I'd like for you to talk about other forms of entertainment that were kind of peculiar to the community.

Lance: Well, I'll tell you this. I feel like many of our closest friends are ones I met in the neighborhood. A few of them ended up having relationships outside [the community and] marrying somebody else. A lot of people that live in this community, which is quite large really, from Maryland to Sahara [Avenue] and all the way around from Las Vegas Boulevard down to even Eastern [Avenue], go to the university, or they're faculty at the university, so I've met them that way. Or just at community events, you know, with neighborhood meetings we've had [and] Flamingo Club meetings. We put together an annual party at PT's Pub at Christmastime, and we'll get forty or fifty people there, and it's just because we e-mail out and say, Let's all get together, no reason, but it brings everybody together on those types of things. But it's really the neighborhood that only show up. And I do more with this community than I probably do with friends I

have through work or other things. And it's not like we're not social with that but it's unique, yeah, and it's really kind of strange. It's very community-minded. And that's what I was leading to earlier when I was talking about [how] I wasn't really interested in here because I was more looking for a home that might've been brand-new or something, but when I came here and I got to enjoy it, I think it was more of the community that kept me more interested here, and becoming active in that.

Good. Where is PT's Pub?

It's right on Sixth [Street] and Sahara. So we try and keep it close to the neighborhood, and they've got a nice little lounge area and a great happy hour, so it's just a simple thing to get [people together], no effort other than sending an e-mail to as many people as we know and forty or fifty people show up.

I was really impressed by the Luv-In. Do either one of you know about the Luv-In?

Sarah: Oh, at the Luv-It [Frozen Custard Inc.] ice cream stand? Yes.

Could you tell that story for me?

Facebook™ was the connector of it all, because everyone just started posting this on Facebook™ and there's a lot of neighborhood people now that are also Facebook™ friends. But this comedian that is on [the television show] *The Office* (which we love), Mindy Kaling, she was on the Craig Ferguson Show, and she started giving him a hard time. (Did you see this clip? Oh, it's hilarious. You should look it up on YouTube™.) She starts giving him a hard time for recommending Luv-It Custard. She starts going off and says, That's the worst neighborhood I've ever been in. There was a man with no pants. There was drug dealers. She was calling it like the absolute worst spot ever, and they were joking back and forth and he's like, But did you like the custard? And she did agree,

the custard was delicious. But once people started seeing this, everybody started e-mailing it and it was on YouTube™ and Facebook™ posting it. Then they organized everybody going to Luv-It on the same night and getting custard and having the Luv-In.

[Laughter]

I think that was great. That showed community in 2009. But for that kind of community, it's almost unheard of anymore. I thought that was great.

What other community events have you been a part of?

The block party, which we've helped organize. John S. Park [Neighborhood] was doing it before we partnered with them, so they would have their block party. Lance and I became involved in the West Huntridge Neighborhood Association. We're still the president and vice-president of that neighborhood association over there. We still have our home over there in Huntridge, but nobody has wanted to take the post from us, so we still have it. So we partnered [with John S. Park]. Bob Bellis was the president at the time of John S. Park, so we would partner with him and we'd get the two neighborhoods together. They're not separated by anything. It's just the line of the homes and the style of home that changes. And we would get, gosh, I think we would get a solid hundred people. The City [of Las Vegas] would partner up with us. They'd bring this neighborhood porch, they call it.

Lance: It's a trailer with an awning so it gives you some shade and it kind of looks like a house with a porch so it just sort of gives you that feel. You park it on the street.

Sarah: Yeah, and they'd have the picnic tables out and we'd barbeque. We'd get a little bit of funds from the City and then really just neighbors chipping in and we'd do potlucks, all the side dishes. We've got a bouncy house. Music.

Lance: We usually tied it in with something, which was the neighborhood cleanup. So we actually got volunteers—there was probably twenty of us—and we went around the neighborhood to clean up. We worked with the City. Neighbors could actually put their stuff on the corner, or in front of their house, or if they needed assistance [we could help them]. [Then the City would] bring a big dump truck and take everything away without question and without cost. We coordinated a couple of those. One year we did it with a block party. But I mean we were going to people's homes that just didn't come out and they needed help. They were older, in their seventies or eighties. We would trim their trees and clean up and weed their front yards and move their stuff out for them. We did that probably to ten homes that Saturday, all day, for about six, seven, eight hours.

And then we've also done grants. Last year we had a grant from the City of Las Vegas and the community put up two signs. You might have noticed them. Up Oakey and across Maryland, there's a sign right there that says "Welcome to West Huntridge." We put those up. The community did all the landscaping. We got everything donated, so we had the landscaping donated, the labor donated, and the rock and things. We're considering doing another one this year; the [grants] are due in the next couple of months. But things like that are great to bring the community together, keep us active, keep us going, and then we meet quarterly too, so we have meeting quarterly in the

neighborhood. They'll fluctuate with attendance but [it's] just to keep active, what's on people's minds, what are our concerns, you know.

What are some of the concerns or issues right now?

Lance: It's always been crime. When we say that, it's not necessarily that it's bad. It's just [the] homeless have been an issue, always have been. Crime in a sense but also in a sense that it's not any worse than anywhere else. I say that meaning I don't think it's higher crime because most of us that know it and understand it and when we speak with Metro [Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, or LVMPD] they agree, it's not necessarily higher than anywhere else, but those are always the concerns.

Sarah: Yeah, not necessarily higher but different, too.

Lance: Yeah. It's an opportunity-type [of crime]. It's people walking through or certain happenings, so we're more defensive, I think, with what we're taught through Metro of how to protect and be aware of these things in your surroundings.

Sarah: Yeah, like, I mean, home burglaries [occur throughout the valley]. My brother lives in Henderson [Nevada] in a nice little kind of cul-de-sac, tucked-in community, [where] all the communities are separated by big walls, you know, they don't flow like this one does. They won't have their lights stolen from their front yards. We have those little like Malibu lights. Like we've had ours taken. So somebody walking by [commits these minor crimes]. We have more foot traffic, you know, people who are in greater financial need, homeless, semi-homeless, who will just [think], you know, Well, I could make some money off of that, and pop it out of your front yard.

And you are near downtown. How do you like being near the downtown area of the city?

I always loved it, just because of its relationship to everything else, you know, because we don't just spend time here necessarily, nor do we go always in Summerlin or always in Green Valley, but I work near Green Valley, so it's pretty quick, and we go to Green Valley to eat or to shop or to do other things with family, and we'll do the same to Summerlin or go to Red Rock [National Conservation Area]. So we've always liked that relationship.

Sarah: It's central. It's close to UNLV. We both have gone to UNLV.

Lance: But on the flip side, I wish there were more things down here like we find in other places, some of the different restaurants or shops. Parks is a big one, I think, community centers and parks, you know. If you were to look at maps of things like that, the newer neighborhoods obviously have more opportunity to bring those in because of development, and here, you know, there are smaller parks that have had challenges, like Circle Park for three years now almost. And even community centers; that's another one. I think this community could really use more of their own walking-to community centers, like you see elsewhere.

Sarah: And walking paths.

Lance: Right, there's not the trails, you know, and you get into Huntridge, there's not even sidewalks. We've gone out of our way to go talk to Councilman [Gary] Reese to say, We need sidewalks. How can we work together to get sidewalks?—quickly realizing that's just not a thing the City funds. The owners have to agree and put it on their properties' values and taxes and things like that, so it's a challenge to get those. But those are concerns, you know. We didn't go down certain streets with young children because

of that, and it makes for a challenge to get through there. So there's things like that we have to trade off, I guess.

Right. So how did you feel about Mayor [Oscar] Goodman wanting to build up the East Fremont [Street] area downtown with coffee shops and all of that?

Sarah: Oh yeah, we're all for that. We'd love that. We've enjoyed going over to the East Fremont and visiting some of the pubs. Sometimes we'll walk from here down there or to First Friday.

Lance: Yeah. We've walked that way absolutely. I'd like to see it keep going because I would like to have something to go to other than, you know, what we do now is more when we're out being social, but if there was more places to eat or shop along there, that would be great, absolutely. So we're all for that, and [for development] even closer. I know downtown is good, but I'd love to see that all along Maryland, you know, those kind of things where the community could go to a muffin shop or a newsstand or a coffee place, that type of thing, and be less car-dependent. Coming from a planning and a design perspective, this neighborhood is perfect for a walkable community [with] small little shops along Maryland. The properties are the perfect size for these small little developments. I'd love to see more of that.

Great. That's wonderful. So, politically, how do you see this community? I see you pulling together, doing all kinds of things. People in John S. Park fought the Stratosphere [Hotel and Casino] on several occasions. Have you been involved in any of that political activism yourself?

Yeah, a little bit. Less on the Stratosphere. Sarah and I were involved a little bit on the wedding chapel. They wanted to build a high-rise there. So that was the other one. That's

the thing you hear more and more from the community is they're kind of tired. I think they were a lot more tired years ago when in the last five years they were coming back more and more to defend the neighborhood and say, No, we don't want a forty-five-story building next to a one-story building, a hundred feet from you. And there was a lot of that going on on Las Vegas Boulevard on the John S. Park because of a lot of developers, but it's all subsiding; it's gone now. It's just not even going to be heard of, probably for many years, but I think we'll end up having to come back and defend again. And that's the same thing they're doing over there on Sixth Street and Sahara with the Southridge and Beverly Green [Neighborhoods]. We know with the West Huntridge we're going to have similar type of things, just developments that don't necessarily mesh. I think everybody else says it the same: we're not anti-development at all. It just has to be appropriate, and a high-rise thing, you know, next to a small, intimate community just isn't appropriate. Summerlin wouldn't want it. Green Valley wouldn't want it. MacDonald Ranch wouldn't want it. Other people [wouldn't want it]. So anyway, we're all for that; it just needs to be appropriate.

But yeah, people stay active, and there's a good-sized network, I mean hundreds of people, that we interact [with] through e-mails, and like Sarah said, Facebook™ and phone and just all that, so we all have each other's numbers, so when something comes up, people can voice a comment or a concern and many people will jump on it. Very democratically-minded down here, too.

Tell me about the demographics of the area now. And you probably have seen it change over the years. So tell me about the evolution over the years.

Sarah: Well, you know, when I think back to being a kid and with my grandparents, it was still all the original owners, mostly, you know, not elderly, not yet, not till I got [older], but Caucasian families that had been here since the Fifties. And then I really started noticing the neighborhood changing in about, I think like '95-ish, right around there, as a lot of the original owners were dying and then their homes coming up for sale, and that's when a lot of things got more rundown because there wasn't the same care. I think it's the transition that a lot of your inner-city areas face. So it really did change. I remember as a kid, there was hardly a yard that was not clean, manicured, well-kept. It was really hard to see it: suddenly the lawns dying, some of the big trees dying.

Lance: So when do you think that was?

Sarah: I think that was around '95-ish. Early Nineties is when that transition really started to happen.

Lance: That was coinciding with a lot of growth, too, meaning growth outside the valley, so people were moving away, therefore leaving these homes down here for other people to snap up. And they were inexpensive, too. That's the thing. They've always been inexpensive, so that always plays a role demographically.

Sarah: Now we see there's a large influx of young Hispanic families with multiple generations all living together. I think [the statistics that] the City gave us, we're about fifty-fifty.

Lance: Yeah, the high-forty percentile of Hispanic in all of these neighborhood down here.

Sarah: My family being a part of St. Anne's parish, too, it's interesting to see how it was when I was a small kid and my grandpa would take us over to light a candle,

you know, and now the English masses have very low attendance and the Spanish masses, I mean, on Holy Days people will have their cars parked all the way down the hill, and there's even like food vending and things up front now, you know, the corn on a stick, all kinds [of things].

Lance: So culturally you can see a lot of [change]. And the influence too on the commercial side of things, too. You can see that on Maryland Parkway, you know, the businesses that are popping up, and so that's a direct relation with that, too.

When you have social gatherings, do you see the mix in the community at the social gatherings, at the neighborhood cleanups and all of that?

Not as much, no. We've really tried hard, at least in the Huntridge Neighborhood, to get out and reach out to Hispanic [residents]. A lot of them don't even speak English. Sarah speaks Spanish, so we would actually partner. We'd actually go door-to-door. We tried. Like Sarah will go with someone and I'll be with somebody who speaks Spanish too, so we actually get an opportunity [to speak with the residents]. It's very difficult. The City of Las Vegas used to send out flyers and we used to send flyers, and they would just go unheard. We'd get a lot more Caucasians that would come to the meetings, but those are the ones who are more active. I don't think they're [Hispanics] not interested. I don't know what it is. It's a different type of culture, you know. We see them all the time, our neighbors we've lived next to and up the streets, there's parties all the time and they have all their friends and they're partying out in front. So I think there's just a disconnect somehow [in communication]. So anyway, we've worked hard to try and get there. We've even put our flyers in Spanish, as well, for all the neighborhood meetings. So, anything we do, we try and communicate that way.

Sarah: At a block party, we would maybe see a few Hispanic families come and, you know, the kids would enjoy the bouncy house, but really just a small number of the Hispanic community have even come to the block parties or the cleanups. We can understand that not everybody is interested in a meeting but the party, you'd think [they'd want to come].

Lance: Yeah, that's true, too.

Sarah: We haven't seen a mix of demographic space, really.

OK. You told me about the changes you witnessed over the years. Tell me what the community means to you.

Sarah: Gosh. There's a lot of nostalgia here for me. I mean when Molly and I were taking a walk the other day (she was in her stroller, of course) the seasons were sort of breaking on to the spring, and I was walking towards the block where my grandparents lived, and I just got this wave of nostalgia, like I could walk up, you know, like that feeling that I was going right to their house. So there's such an anchor to my whole childhood in this community, so it can really be very warm and comforting and, you know, so many great memories and smells, the smells of the different trees. Spring and fall bring back floods of just body responses, you know, just from my sense of smelling something, seeing something. So the community is really a direct thread to my whole life.

I know you haven't been here that long but what does this neighborhood mean to you?

Lance: I guess it still goes back to the community for me, only because, you know, with people like our friends and relatives we have outside the city, when we talk to them, none of them know their neighbors really. And you hear these kind of stories but

it's so true, and so I kind of say it like that. For instance, when we first moved in here, we were burglarized almost the day we moved in. We were moving in stuff and everything [and] the big stuff was taken, electronics and TV and computers and stuff. I sent an e-mail out to probably fifty people and then that spread to more just in the community. So they were aware. Somebody said they saw a car, who the people might have been, what happened, and then these people came back and said, Oh, something similar happened to me a week or two ago. That I don't think happens in other communities. And I when I say that to brothers and sisters and sisters-in-law and friends, [they say], I know Bob next door because I see him and wave to him. That doesn't happen down here. We know everybody on our street. But I almost wonder, Is it us, or is it the community? Would we do this if we lived in Green Valley? Would I go door-to-door and try to be a neighborhood watch? I don't know. We do these kind of things here. It's sort of a rhetorical question because I don't know the answer but I wonder, Is the community making us or are we making the community? I don't know the answer to that but I've been thinking about that because I want to be active down here. I want to care about things. Maybe it's challenges that make that. The challenges we know here, we have to work with. Maybe it's so perfect everywhere else, you don't have to worry about things. All that's taken care of.

Sarah: When things are esthetically beautiful in Summerlin, you don't have to get a group together to put some signs with some plants around on a corner that was just dirt and weeds, you know.

Lance: And when we were younger, we found ourselves going up there to go hiking and walking on the trails, you know, but we don't really do that much anymore.

Maybe we've gotten more accustomed down here, you know, walking on the streets here is just as comfortable and inviting, so it doesn't have to be in this beautiful desert area.

I love this neighborhood. I did an interview this morning in Summerlin, and now I'm doing one here. This is me. I just love this area. This is wonderful.

Give me a little about your background. Did you go to high school in this community?

Sarah: Yeah, I actually went to Gorman over here for two-and-a-half years and then I switched over to Valley High School for my last year-and-a-half. And then after that I moved out of town just a year to work at a ski resort. And I came back and went to UNLV for my undergrad, and then went pretty much right into my graduate program at UNLV in Marriage and Family Therapy right after that. Then we had Coby in 2003, and I graduated with my master's in '05. It's just been a blur ever since.

So do you work for yourself or for a [business or agency]?

I've been a contract worker. I worked for Nathan Adelson Hospice for two years and then they terminated my contract in January of last year. I was five months' pregnant with Molly, so it was sort of, you know, perfect timing. I had worked at another nonprofit agency before that, but always as a contract worker.

Lance: And now Coby goes to St. Anne's School. It's a good school and we wanted to have something close, and we get to walk him to school, so we really value that.

Sarah: We get a little bit of a slice of living in a smaller town down here, [which] the other neighborhoods [don't] get. I don't think you get a small-town feel in a lot of other neighborhoods.

Right, there's no small-town feel in the area of Summerlin where I was today. I doubt if they know their neighbors. I just doubt it.

Lance: Yeah, at least maybe an immediate neighbor, like I said, but to know the community and stuff, and I mean like I said, we haven't lived here that long but our neighbors all come out too, you know, they want to come out [and say], Who are you? How are you? What's your name? So they all came out and wanted to meet us, so the same thing kind of happens.

Oh, that's great. So tell me a little about your background after architecture school.

Well, I work at Lucchesi, Galati [Architects, Inc.], which is an architecture consulting firm here in Las Vegas. I've been there fifteen years, so I was there while I went through school, too. When I graduated [as an] undergraduate, I went to work there and then I've been there ever since.

So how old are you two? You look so young!

I'm thirty-nine.

Sarah: Thirty-three.

Oh wow! OK. I expected [you to be] a lot younger, so when you said fifteen years....

Well, thank you. [Laughing]

Lance: So, I've been there, and then just involved in the community in other ways, too, with a lot of the green building and sustainable design in the community, and architecture and planning; so I've been involved with that quite a bit through various organizations and actively involved with that. So, you know, if it's not a community thing, it's some other driving community effort that I try to stay connected with.

This is wonderful. I appreciate this so much. Is there anything else that you would like to add about the neighborhood?

Sarah: Gosh, I'm going to like e-mail you later. [Laughter]

Lance: No, just that I suspect, you know, there's probably other people who don't necessarily have the history of it and value that. I guess an example is when we have our neighborhood meeting at Huntridge, we have people still that come out that just can't stand the neighborhood, too. So you have the other side. I don't know if you'd be interested to talk to them, but they're more challenged on, I think, the crime is so bad, it's this and that, and we don't like somebody walking down the street or loud music, and to me that could happen anywhere else. But there are people who feel like that.

I would like to talk to one person like that. I don't know how I would handle that. I love the neighborhood. And I know that even when they had the neighborhood being put on the National Register [of Historic Places] in John S. Park, that there were some naysayers who did not want it. They thought that everybody would have to paint their house the same color and all of that.

Lance: Right. Right. And they couldn't do what they wanted. I know that's always a concern. But there are people from time to time that just can't stand it, and then they eventually move out or something like that, too.

Sarah: Or like our good friends that live over on Franklin, a young couple, they're both over at UNLV as well doing their master's [degrees], Nicole's parents moved here from Dallas [Texas] and they were a little taken aback by the neighborhoods where you'll see bars on the windows or somebody coming through and going through your trash, looking for cans or food, you know, just not used to that. I think we're used to

it and I think you're from a more inner-city neighborhood, you might be used to these things too. They're enjoying it and they're getting used to it but at first it was a little like, Whoa! Where did we just move to? [Laughing]

Lance: I would say that's probably the same with me at first, you know. It was more like, just taken back a second to see it, you know, and it took some time but, I don't know, you learn to work with that. What I learned is it's not a concern or a harm or a threat in any way, you know, it really wasn't, any more than anywhere else.

Sarah: Yeah, it's just different. We face different challenges but we have different rewards too.

But don't you think this neighborhood is so beautiful, driving down this street?

Oh yeah. Yeah. Absolutely. I love [it].

Lance: That's what we loved about buying in this area too, you know, because it is a little different. Again, when you go through the Huntridge, not every street is manicured like Sixth Street or Fifth Street or Fifteenth Street, so they all have a different feel. And the other thing we've noticed is the blocks change from year to year, because you had people who had lived there and they were at an age when they took care of things, or you had less renters and now you have more owners. So it can shift from Griffith [Avenue] is a great block to Bracken to Sweeney [Avenue]. They used to switch. The thing we try and do with the West Huntridge Neighborhood and a lot of these neighborhoods is, we're trying to stay active as a community so we can help people, or we can just get people informed that not only is it illegal but it's not very attractive to park two cars in the dirt in front of your house and leave your garbage on the curb for three weeks straight or those kind of things.

Sarah: Have a twenty-four-hour garage sale.

Lance: Right, you know, for two weeks. So education is a big part of that, but at the same time, getting people to sort of value community value, so that we can all make a better community for ourselves. It makes a difference, you know. We've even mentioned, it makes a difference taking a walk on Fifteenth Street versus walking on Eleventh Street with no sidewalks and it's just cars parked on both sides, we're walking down the middle, and there's dirt everywhere. And that's why we also had a neighborhood cleanup over there because literally I mean we'd walk and there would be garbage in the same place that had been there for months, and we're like, we just need to get this stuff cleaned [up].

OK. So now some of those streets with no sidewalk, were those designed for horses at one time?

I don't know that.

Sarah: No. I don't think so.

Lance: I don't know. Maybe. I just think in the Forties they didn't have sidewalks.

OK, because there's a community over on the other side of the Westside. It's called Bonanza Village. Really nice ranch-style homes. You can see the evolution in that area. But there are no sidewalks. And it was because at one time they were for horses.

Sarah: OK, yeah, yeah.

Lance: OK. That would make sense, you know. These are much smaller properties.

So probably not.

Yeah, it came up. I just think in the Forties they just didn't think of those things.

Sarah: Well, on my grandparents' block over here, Bracken between Fifteenth and Thirteenth, half the street has sidewalk and half the street doesn't, because half the street is Huntridge and the other half is Ridgecrest.

Lance: Right, and Huntridge doesn't have them.

Sarah: And you can see that on the five blocks that have half Ridgecrest homes, it's like that for five blocks, that half has sidewalk and half does not.

I really appreciate this. This is wonderful.

Oh, absolutely.

Lance: It's been great.

Sarah: Yeah, thanks for taking your time.

This is my pleasure.

Lance: Well, if you'd like, we could send you, because I suspect your e-mail is on here, just a list and some contacts of some other people if you want, especially with Dorothy, although she lives in Arizona now, but she was the one who lived in Carrie's house before.

I would like her name, with that information.

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