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2010

An Interview with Tim Harney

An Oral History Conducted by Claytee D. White

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Voices of the Historic John S. Park Neighborhood

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

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Produced by:

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Recorded interviews, transcripts, bound copies and a website comprising the *Voices of the Historic John S. Park Neighborhood Oral History Project* have been made possible through a grant from the City of Las Vegas Centennial Committee. Special Collections in Lied Library, home of the Oral History Research Center, provided a wide variety of administrative services, support and archival expertise. We are so grateful.

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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Assistant Professor, Anthropology & Women's Studies

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John S. Park Oral History Project Manager

Claytee D. White, Director  
Oral History Research Center at UNLV Libraries



## Interview with Tim Harney

June 12, 2010 in Las Vegas, Nevada

Conducted by Claytee White

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## Preface

Tim Harney begins his reminiscences with an overview of his Irish-Catholic upbringing in Duluth, Minnesota. He recalls being smitten with the sunny west and moving to Las Vegas in 1965 to take a teaching position at Rancho High School. By 1973, the Harney family was calling the John S. Park Neighborhood home. He describes the attraction to the green trees and sprawling lawns and to affordable home prices. It was a close knit neighborhood where everyone had the same gardener, knew the local policeman by name, and where his daughters worked at the Luv-It Frozen Custard shop.

Around 1987, Tim decided to move out of the John S. Park Neighborhood. He sensed a change—having been broken into by the Hole-in-the-Wall Gang, watching drifters and homeless people sleeping in the yard, and seizing an opportunity to move to a new development. Nevertheless, Tim notes hopes for the neighborhood and reminds us that “It takes a village.”



ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER AT UNLV

Voices of the Historic John S. Park Neighborhood



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Name of Interviewer: CLAYTEE D. WHITE

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## **Interview with Tim Harney**

June 12, 2010 in Las Vegas, Nevada  
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**This is Claytee White and I am with Tim Harney in his office here in Las Vegas. It is June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010. So how are you this morning?**

I'm fine, Claytee. Tim Harney speaking. Good Irish name.

**[Laughing] OK. Now if you will tell me a little about your early life, where you grew up and what your parents did for a living?**

Born in Duluth, Minnesota. Mom, housewife. Six kids. Irish-Catholic. Father [John Harney] a firefighter. Democrats. [Hubert] Humphrey Democrats. [Laughing] All that. We grew up in our little parochial school and our Catholic high school and all that. Had a pretty rock-and-roll life, you know, up there. Everyone fought. Everyone in the neighborhood fought. That's what Irish Catholics do.

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

My father was a firefighter. And he and my uncle started a home oil-delivery company on the side, which they went to after their firefighting. We had a big house that looked good from the outside. Inside it was chaos. That's the way a lot of the people were up there. We had six kids. That wasn't very many in our neighborhood. Most people had more.

I went to the public school finally because my uncle who was the priest superintendent told my father that I probably needed a fresh start [laughing]. I was the first child in our family to ever not go to parochial school. But when I went to the public school, I can still remember, because they were all WASP [White Anglo-Saxon Protestant] Protestants and Jewish kids, so they all had 2.3 kids, and I'd never thought



about it before. Went to fill out the form when I registered. They wanted the name of your siblings. There was only room for four. And I sensed, instinctively, intuitively that this was a point of embarrassment, all of this breeding, you know, so what I did is I just denied one of my siblings. There was only room for three or whatever it was. I didn't say, could I have an extension form? Because we got a whole bunch of kids. And so that was kind of considered not cool among Protestants, the WASP types. But it was interesting.

It was a good life in Duluth, Minnesota. Great cold weather and great summer weather and a lot of water activities, a lot of sports and athletics. Had a good time. Went on from there. Played a lot of hockey. We were very good at hockey and we played a lot of that and other sports as well.

Then I went on to the University of Minnesota in 1960 and was privileged to be part of that university for four years. Great university. Loved it. Loved every minute of it and was challenged by it. Since I hadn't read anything in high school, it was new, this thing called studying and reading. And did OK there, pretty well, and played some sports.

And then headed west. We went to the Rose Bowl. I had never been out of what we call the Tri-State Area, which was about thirty miles [in] circumference, and when I went out to California on the train, I couldn't believe it. Palm trees were not figments of [my imagination]. I mean I saw oranges on trees and stuff and new foods. I didn't know all that stuff was true. And it was Christmas Day, I'll never forget it, or right in between Christmas and New Year's, we were driving in a bus that they had rented for us to tour, and we were in some neighborhood in Los Angeles [California], and I saw a man out washing his car, and I said, Wow! Here it is. Now you don't wash your car in Minnesota from about September till May, because it would freeze; the locks freeze and all that. So



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So I made up my mind as a freshman in college that I was leaving, for weather purposes, and so, '64-'65, graduation came around, and I left. I came west. And the place I ended up was Las Vegas [Nevada], teaching school.

**So what about law school? Where did you go?**

Oh, I didn't go to [law school]. I've got a doctorate degree in public administration. I went to USC [University of Southern California] for my doctorate degree. I just run this joint for the heck of it. [Laughter] These are all friends of mine. Many of them are ex-students. It's just a small world.

**So how did the family feel about you leaving home?**

Well, I think there was mixed emotions. My mother still loves me, and she's alive. My father questioned his love on a number of occasions, legitimately so. He once told my brother and I, to describe my older brother and I, we were not good kids, and he once sat down and looked at us around the kitchen table after we'd done something and he said, You know, when I retire, I'm going to get a trailer to live in, and every time you two guys find out where it is, I'm moving. And we looked at him, bewildered that our father would speak [to us like that]. My mother said, Now Johnny. But I understood.

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off place called Las Vegas. Pretty exotic. And they were supportive of it. We had four younger children at home. It wasn't exactly like they were empty-nesters. So yeah, they were fine with it and they came out and visited even in their little motor home.

**So [in] families like that, as large as that, do the older siblings help the younger ones go through school?**

I think they do in most families. I don't think my brother and I were very good about that. We were quite a bit older. There was a four-year gap between the next and the other four. So we probably were not the best kids growing [up]. I mean looking back at it, you know, parent conferences at the parochial school for my parents were a point of embarrassment. I mean they had to go down among their neighbors and friends and not be lauded and praised. And my uncle being the superintendent of the parochial schools, he was a really nice man and he like encouraged me to leave. [Laughing]

**So give me an example of one incident of misbehavior.**

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**Great. Thank you for that example.**

**Which year did you arrive in Las Vegas?**

Nineteen sixty-five.

**What was it like? What were your first memories of 1965 Las Vegas?**

I loved the heat. Lived in an apartment: Boulevard Park Apartments had just opened, right by the mall that was being built, the Boulevard Mall. I enjoyed the weather [and] the fact that you had an air conditioner. That was pretty exotic. So you could not only deal with cold (with a furnace), but you could also deal with heat with an air conditioner. I thought that was like pretty high-class. A modest little apartment we had there. At that point we had a couple of kids (no, not yet). But it was pretty basic. I was pretty basic stuff. That was 1965-66.

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The riots? Las Vegas was such a bad community then to minorities that you didn't really know it until you saw things and heard things happen around you. I had a very dear lady [who] remained my friend until she passed two years ago who was a student of mine. She just came into the school. She was a black child. She came into my remedial class. After a day, I could see that it was wrong, and I went very innocently, like dumb and innocent, I went to the counselor's office and said, You know, this girl should not be in the class. She's really smart. And I won't even use the words but [the counselor said], That's where we put those kids. So I made a stink about it and that was corrected, but not without words it would be uncomfortable to repeat even.

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**When did you move into John S. Park [Neighborhood]?**

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**Why?**

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**And did they attend school at the John S. Park [Elementary] School?**



Yes, all of our children, all four of them went to John S. Park Elementary and on to [John C.] Fremont [Middle School] and on to the old Las Vegas High School downtown. So all of them did that.

**Was John S. Park School integrated in any way?**

Yes. It was fully integrated. There was a place we used to refer to as the Naked City I think later I heard it was over by the [Bob] Stupak tower [Stratosphere Hotel and Casino], and those kids, many of those kids by this time there were Hispanic immigrants, a lot of Cuban Hispanic and a lot of the black kids, [attended John S. Park Elementary School].

(The [John S. Park] neighborhood was a little tiny bit integrated, although not too much.)

They would walk over to John S. Park, come down the Strip there and up Oakey [Boulevard] and right through our carport right on the corner. [Laughing] That would become a problem sometimes and we had to say, Don't sit on the cars, and stuff like that. But no, it was a fairly well-integrated school. And by the time they got to Fremont and then on to Vegas, it was probably a majority-minority by the time our kids went there.

**What was the community like politically?**

All Republican. A lot of Mormon conservative Republican. We were probably the only Democrats in sight, I think. [Laughing] It was a very nice neighborhood. A lot of kids.

**Where did the kids play?**

Well, the homes were fairly nice for those days, big, and almost everyone had a pool or a trampoline or something in their back yard, and so they didn't need to go to the park, although they would go down to the school park on occasion. Mostly they'd go to one another's homes for entertainment: larger homes for the day and pools and basketball rims and stuff like that. So really mostly they did that.



**So were you surprised to find that kind of neighborhood in Las Vegas in the 1960s?**

Oh yeah. That's what first attracted us to it. It was green. Everyone planted winter grass and everyone kept their lawn green and their trees green. It really stood out. Long before we lived there, if we had visitors, we'd always take them for a ride down Maryland Parkway and it used to be a tree-covered street with these big overarching mulberry trees or elm trees, and they were later cut down when the street was widened. That whole neighborhood, including the Huntridge area, was [beautiful]. Plus you could walk to everything. The kids could go to Saturday matinees at the Huntridge Theater and they could walk to the grocery stores. It was very much like a small town within the town back then.

**Tell me about the grocery store.**

Well, there were several. I'm trying to think of which one. They kind of turned over a lot. There was a grocery store down on the corner of Maryland Parkway, which is Twelfth [Street] and Charleston [Boulevard], and that was the supermarket. There was a little 7-Eleven over on Oakey and [Las Vegas] Boulevard and a couple in between. There was an Italian market (what the heck was the name of that?) that was kind of a little breads-and-meatball-sandwich place. (I'm just forgetting the name but I wish I could [remember].) It later became a little restaurant. All of those places were within walking distance. We had the first Marie Callender's [Restaurant]. That was a big deal. And then we had a lot of little [businesses]. There was a little pizza place there and there was a little Winchell's Donut Shop.

But the grocery store, you know, the kids would go down and shop for their mother. Our two middle daughters, for them to earn money, I said, OK, here's what you



can do. I'll do a profit-sharing with you. You take the ads out of the newspaper for stuff that we need at the grocery store, and then you go down and buy the groceries for Mom, (because Mom was working; she was teaching school) and then if you do the shopping for her (this is when they were fifteen or sixteen), then you bring home the receipts and you show me how much you saved using coupons, and I will double that for each of you, and that'll be your allowance. So they said, That sounds great, Dad! That lasted a while, and then I noticed they were losing interest, and finally they said, We don't want to do it anymore. (That was Ann and Stephanie.) They were embarrassed because they felt so diminished by having to go down with these coupons and stand in line with the little old ladies. [Laughing] They were spoiled. So they kind of gave up on that. So I wouldn't give them any money for a while.

**So kids their age, growing up there, when they look back on it now, when your daughters talk about growing up in John S. Park, how do they describe it?**

Fabulous. By coincidence, yesterday afternoon, we were visiting my daughter [Kimberly Harney Moore] who lives out in Green Valley with her husband. When my wife [Kathleen Harney] and I went to the door at five o'clock last evening, Sunday evening, a very different person than my daughter answered the door. Tyra Feuling [Jones] is her name. I hadn't seen her in thirty years, probably twenty-eight years. She's forty-two years old or forty-three. She grew up in that neighborhood as well, so we spent ironically quite a bit of last night talking about the old John S. Park Neighborhood and all of the fun they had. It was a close-knit group. Vegas High School and Fremont Junior High School were more bused-in kids, not just from the Westside minority neighborhoods but also from very far away; I think they used to bring in Spring Valley. So, they had this little core



group in there that were the John S. Park kids. They had a really very normal, almost Midwestern kind of upbringing there: trees and walk to your friend's house. Everyone knew everyone's name back then, unlike neighborhoods now. That was very much a real traditional neighborhood. A lot of pride in the neighborhood.

**How did parents feel about the freedom that they were allowed to give to their kids, and that change?**

I think that's why people lived there, by and large. I don't think we talked about it specifically. We just knew that our kids could be just as well eating at a neighbor's house. Kind of the way I grew up and the way a lot of these people grew up too, I think. The Stewarts (Stewart Sand and Gravel), Gary Stewart, they were two doors from us. The Binions lived there. Several of the Binion families lived right on our streets. Jack Binion, the hotel guy, was right next door to us. His brother Teddy [Ted Binion], who unfortunately was involved [in an incident], you know, he was murdered, I guess, or died, he was three doors down, and they had a sister who lived further down. They were all very gracious and nice people. Jack Binion and his wife's [Phyllis] two girls were just delightful. We'd go to their house; they'd come to our house. It was just very, very, very close. The whole neighborhood was that way.

**With those kind of neighbors, we consider those people part of the casino industry, so how did you see the casino industry then?**

I was pretty comfortable with it. I like the casino industry, and Vegas was a very easy town to navigate in those days. You didn't really have to have a lot of money to enjoy what Vegas was. You could go to a show in a showroom for five dollars.

**Even in the Seventies?**



No, by then it was probably fifteen or twenty, but not much more. I mean it was five dollars in the Sixties. It didn't really get ratcheted up very high until probably the Eighties, as I remember it. So we really enjoyed the casino industry. It was very accessible. There were literally in the Sixties no stoplights on the Strip. And you could move from hotel to hotel and see these wonderful, wonderful performers. I mean fortunately I have seen virtually every major performer of my parents' generation, from Jimmy Durante to Frank Sinatra to on and on and on. I mean I've seen them all, live, and at a very reasonable price.

**And could you take your kids?**

We took our kids to almost all of them at one time or another. It depended upon their ages. Four kids and we didn't have a lot of money. But yeah, the older ones we would take. When Circus Circus [Hotel and Casino] opened, we would very commonly [take our children there]. In fact, last night with Tyra Feuling and my daughter Kimberly, they were talking about [that]. Tyra lives in Salt Lake [City, Utah] now. She brought two of her younger children with her and she said, Remember when we used to always go to Circus Circus? She says, I took my children there. She says, It seems so small now. I was telling them how big it was. [Laughter] And we were laughing about that. So Circus Circus was a place that the kids would go. You'd take your kids there all the time.

There were not many other casinos that you would take them to a lot but there were a lot of places to go. There was Warm Springs, which most people have forgotten entirely, up toward Moapa [Nevada], a beautiful place. Warm Springs, Iverson's [Warm Springs] and Peterson's [Hot Springs] up there. It was just fabulous. There were dude



ranches in the valley here, a little bit of horseback [riding]. There was a lot of stuff to do. At least our kids thought so.

**Oh, that's wonderful. Tell me economically what John S. Park was like in the Seventies when you moved there.**

It was really pretty well off. It was descending. Susan Greenspun Fine and Mark [Fine] lived right behind us and they started much of the development of Green Valley. They built Quail Ridge and many of these places out here. But they were our neighbors. We had extraordinarily well-off neighbors. I mean the Binions, my gosh, you know. The Boyds. The Macks. [Bob] Stupak, of course. He came a little bit later but not too much. And the Findlays. You know, it was really, I would say, a very well-off neighborhood at that point; short of Rancho Circle, probably the next one. Maybe Scotch Eighties, Rancho [Circle], then our place. The Boyds and all those people were living there. And the Gordons and the Diamonds.

**Any neighborhood celebrations that you remember?**

Weddings, when the Binion girls got married, when the Smith girl got married. Yeah, there were things like that but no street dances. [Laughing]

**OK. How did the community participate in Helldorado? Any special participation?**

No. No, no, no. I don't think so. I think when UNLV [University of Nevada, Las Vegas] basketball became a big deal, virtually everyone in that neighborhood had UNLV basketball tickets. And that was at the old convention center, and that was a big deal. I mean UNLV basketball when [Jerry] Tarkanian first came here, it was a big deal, and all of those people [in the John S. Park Neighborhood] were big supporters. Everyone had tickets.



**That's right. I know that the community had a lot of Mormon influence. As a matter of fact, you have a big Mormon church there that was taken out not very long ago.**

I didn't know that.

**Yes, I can't say it was imploded but it was demolished.**

Oh really. I did not know that.

**Yes. So when you were living there, did you see that influence? Did you see Catholic influence?**

Oh sure.

**Tell me about the religious aspects.**

Virtually no Catholic influence that I could recall, but Mormon influence was very, very, very strong. You could see it with the political signs. Very good neighbors and a very good thing. We're not Mormon, but that didn't seem to be any disadvantage to us at all that we ever recognized or knew. They were active, talked a lot about, you know, they're going to go on a mission or they're going to go in the church. They had their dances and our kids frequently went to the ninth-grade Mormon dances. It compared very much to the neighborhood I grew up in when I was a kid, a Catholic neighborhood, and we had a few wanderers, non-Catholics and a lot of Jewish kids in our neighborhood too, and they would come to our [activities]. The Mormon Church and the Catholic Church feels very much the same, at least by my observation, very much interested in, make sure you have music, make sure you have dances, make sure you have social events for the kids, your little basketball team leagues; we had all of that when I was a kid. So it kind of felt the same. And we always invited our non-Catholic friends to our events and our children as non-Mormons always were invited to the birthday parties and the dances at the church or



the ward. So yeah, it was there but it was never considered anything other than a positive to us.

**Do you ever go back to the neighborhood [and] drive through it now?**

Every time I get close, I try to drive through. I do that when I go back to Minnesota too; I drive by my old house. I guess that's just in some of us, to drive by the old place.

**What are some of the changes that you see when you drive through the neighborhood now?**

It keeps looking like it's going to bounce back and then it doesn't. It is such a struggle. I have always theorized that the inner city made more sense to live in than [to] keep moving out and out and out and out. And I always thought that eventually that would be where it would be the most desirable place to live for transportation being easier, closer. And we still have some real good friends who live down there. I think our county commissioner, Chris Guinchigliani lives down there and has two houses actually in that neighborhood, and they enjoy it greatly. Very, very, very dear friends of ours, the Bavingtons [live there]. Tim Bavington is really, really kind of getting to be a famous artist now, has collections. Some of his paintings are in the Metropolitan Museum [of Art] I think. I know the Wynn Collection picked up a few of his things. He's done a lot of stuff in restaurants. He's like kind of big-time. Tim Bavington.

**And is he still in the neighborhood?**

No, he's from England, but a long time ago, and his wife Kim Crisostomo-Bavington was a dear friend of our daughter and she lived close to the neighborhood there, a little bit more down toward the [Mormon] temple. They live there. They bought the house right across the street from us. They live in the old Smith house, and they've really fixed it up



nice, and they have their two little children there, and they're doing very, very well in life, and they have these two wonderful little babies now, and Kim's in her mid-forties. But yeah, they loved the old neighborhood back then.

**So do you think that they would sit for an interview?**

Oh, absolutely. You'd love Kim.

**Good. I would love for them to give [us an interview].**

The Bavingtons, yes. Tim, the husband, is real quiet. He's a really nice guy and he's a very, very, very accomplished artist. He's a UNLV art graduate and is really kind of nationally famous. Not kind of; he's a big deal.

**I would love to include them in this project.**

And they live there now. They've been there for, I would say, twelve [years]. They were married there. Probably twelve or fifteen years they've been there.

**Oh, that would be wonderful because we call that group "gentrifiers." They probably moved back in from living out someplace.**

Before they were married, Kim lived down here on Warm Springs Road with her mother. Then when she was married with Tim, she went and moved to France for a while. Then they bought the old Smith house, which is a gorgeous house. Ed Smith. He's a banker here. He'd be an interesting guy to interview. His wife has passed, but their kids, Brandon, and Marilee, who married one of the Larkin boys, that's a very, very, very nice family. He was a Mormon bishop for years there.

**Well, if you will give me those two contacts, I'd really appreciate it.**



I will. I haven't talked to the Smiths in a while but the Bavingtons we see all the time. In fact, very commonly. I wish Tyra Feuling were going to be here. She's leaving this morning back to Utah. She has great memories.

**So when you look at the neighborhood now, the physical appearance, how has it changed since you lived there?**

Well, it was clear [that] everyone who lived there was pretty well fixed, except us [laughing], and it was immaculate. All of the lawns were seeded and green year-round. There was one fellow who did literally every lawn there. His name was Leo. And when he quit working there, it was about the time that we moved. We had an eighty-five-year-old gardener. Everyone had the same gardener: Leo. He had a Corvair pickup truck, probably the only one in the world, and it looked like new. He was in the neighborhood constantly. He was just this slow-moving, very nice [man]. Everyone knew Leo. He was like just a throwback from the neighborhood mailman kind of thing. And he would just work, not plod, but he would just work his way methodically through that neighborhood. He knew every tree, he knew every bush, and he took care of everything. It looked like a park. So the houses were, by today's standards, not as large or exotic for the most part, but they were exquisitely manicured and planted with flowers and stuff like that. It was a pretty remarkable neighborhood, a Phoenix in the middle of the desert. And everyone did the same [thing]. Everyone had their lawns green year-round and all that. Kind of a point of pride.

**And now for some reason that's slipping away?**

Well, you know, we got the flight thing going on in America. We let the inner city [disintegrate]. I lived in Mexico City for a while and one of the most fascinating things



about that [was that] the center of the city is the most gorgeous part of the city, and that's true in many Canadian cities too, you'll notice. But we have flight, and the middle of our cities become [downtrodden]. Even Minneapolis where I'm from, which was one of the last American cities to be lived in downtown, is gone now, it really has, and the shopping even is dying there. New York is probably our only one that really is still a downtown city. Baltimore [Maryland] has tried.

**So do you think with the mayor's [Oscar Goodman's] plans of rebuilding Fremont Street East and all of the things that he's trying to do downtown with the center, do think it will bring back John S. Park then?**

I hope it happens. I don't know [if it will bring back John S. Park]. I would hope so. They've tried so many things. Investors have a hard time. When you got blight next to nice, it's hard because you can't buy out the blight. It's just very hard to convert a neighborhood in downtown. They've tried it in Baltimore, they've tried it in some other places, Atlanta [Georgia]. I don't think the odds are good but yeah, in a heartbeat, I would move downtown. I love the downtown. I would love to live down there. Chris Guinchigliani and [her husband] Gary [Gray], they love it. We go visit them.

**And we have lots of professors at the university who now live in John S. Park.**

Yeah, I'm very encouraged to hear that. I don't find it real surprising though. I see it all over America, where the inner city just goes to seed and, I don't know if I'd care to say it, but I think it's mostly white flight that starts it and I don't know where it ends up. That's my observation, I can't prove it, but that seems to be the motivator, and it makes it tough to reverse those trends. Maybe this new thing with energy, you know, maybe we'll learn our lesson. We can't just keep moving further and further and further and further out.



**Tell me the one thing you liked best about living in John S. Park.**

It was a small town. The Strip was close. The hospital was close. You knew the gardener; his name was Leo.

**[Laughing] Yes, I love that. I wish I could find Leo. He's probably passed away.**

Yeah, Leo would be well over a hundred, way over a hundred [years old] now. The policeman was Tim. I can't remember his last name. [Laughing] I think he's still around; fairly young guy. You knew the police. You knew everybody. It was like growing up in Duluth. It was such a small town. Dorothy [Woods] ran Luv-Its [Frozen] Custard; that's a very famous [neighborhood business]. All three of our girls worked at Luv-Its Custard. They were the three queens of Luv-Its. And by the way, Dorothy's grandson, Greg [Tiedemann], still runs Luv-Its Custard.

**Yes, and they never have the time to talk. We wanted to interview someone from Luv-Its.**

My daughter Kimberly worked there for I think four years, and my daughter Ann worked there for three and Stephanie worked there for four. They were like Dorothy's daughters.

**I want to interview one of your daughters.**

Kimberly would be the only local one. Ann is in Hollywood [California] and Stephanie is in Carlsbad [New Mexico].

**Good. I would love to interview Kimberly.**

Yeah, she would love to talk about it. She knows Dorothy. They were her daughters.

They covered that place for about ten years.

**It's my first time I had custard.**

Yep. Luv-Its custard.



**I would love to ask Kimberly [some questions]. It's great to have that family, your generation, and then the generation that grew up there. That would be so wonderful for the project.**

Yeah, and she still knows kids from the neighborhood too. She would know some of them.

**Oh, this is amazing. I'd love any closing thought that you would like to say about the neighborhood, about your hopes for the neighborhood, about anything you didn't like in the neighborhood, just any closing thoughts.**

Well, why did we move if we liked it so much? Well, there were a few incidents that we had in the neighborhood. We got a lot of drifters, maybe somebody sleeping on the front lawn who had maybe a brown bag and a bottle. The defining event was we received a knock on our door, and it was from a fellow who was politically my archenemy. He didn't know I lived there. And he looked at me and I looked at him. I thought he was there to fight or argue. [Laughing] He was a union guy and I was representing management on this labor negotiation. But anyhow he said to me, eyes wide open, not knowing I was the person living there, he says, There's a dead person in your driveway. And I said, What?, and I looked over his shoulder and I saw a form like you see on a police drawing almost, lying face down, but a real person, not just a yellow tape, and obviously dead, in our driveway. He had been driving by with his wife quite coincidentally [and] had seen this dead person in the driveway. So, pre-cell phone, pre-everything, immediately my wife is calling 911, whatever you called, and getting the police and the ambulance and everybody over there. And we stood there together, the two of us. (In fact, that's him [showing a photograph]). We later became friends. We became



lobbyists together.) We were both just like, because we hated each other, and I said, Don't touch her! Don't touch her!

No, no, he said, we got to see if she's OK.

I said, No, no, just leave her alone, they'll be somebody here, we might hurt her, and maybe she's just laying there.

And we said, Ma'am, ma'am, and she was just dead. And the police car pulled up first, and it was Tim, the policeman, and he got out of the car.

I said, There's this dead lady.

And he came out and he kind of looked kind of casual and looked at us and looked at her and he said, Alice, get up! [Laughing] And Alice came to. Alice was just a neighborhood [homeless person], a tragic human, so sad. But she wasn't dead. She was just dead drunk and motionless. She was a street person. Sad, you know, just sad. But it had, as you can imagine, its own kind of humor to it. And Alice kind of groaned loudly and finally they got her up and put her in the squad car and took her wherever they take these poor people. And John, the fellow that had [told us about this], he came in our house, we had a glass of wine, and we've been friends ever since. So Alice brought us together.

But it [decision to move] also was after a car-keying incident, not from somebody we knew, [and] just from so many things happening, people sleeping on the lawn. And besides that, Mark Fine had moved—he was heading up the Greenspun stuff then—and Mark said, You got to move out to Quail Ridge. We're starting this new neighborhood out there.

And I said, I can't afford it.



He says, I'll help you.

I said, I can't afford it.

So Mark was very good to us and we moved out right almost next door to them and the Greenspuns and everybody lived out there, so we went to Quail Ridge, because everyone kind of took us under their wing.

So my final thoughts are: it would be a great place for anybody to have grown up. My hopes for the neighborhood are my hopes for a lot of this country, not just Las Vegas, you know, it takes a village. We need to have those places where we can walk to work and walk to play and people know each other and not living in rabbit warrens or in gated communities, even though we live in one. I think they're the undoing of our country, the gated community, and people don't even realize it.

**Because you're closed in and other people are closed out, yes.**

And you hire people to stand at the gate to keep out people like themselves. So yeah, I hope it all comes back. I think it would be just desserts that we stop living in McMansions and start living in closer proximity to one another and have a good time.

**While you were in there for those thirteen or fourteen years, were there ever any reasons for the community to come together as one to fight any [battles]?**

Yes.

**OK. Do you have time to tell me about that?**

Oh sure, sure, I love talking to you. There was a very famous gang in town. This is another one of the reasons, along with Alice in our driveway, [that we moved]. It was called the Hole in the Wall Gang. It was purportedly run by (and I think it was proven) [Anthony] Spilotro and an ex-cop and a bunch of other criminals, and they were breaking



That's great.

**Thank you so very much.**



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