

AN INTERVIEW WITH ED MAY

An Oral History Conducted by Claytee D. White

African American Collaborative

Oral History Research Center at UNLV
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©African Americans in Las Vegas:
A Collaborative Oral History Project

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The following interview is part of a series of interviews conducted under the auspices of the *African Americans in Las Vegas: A Collaborative Oral History Project*.

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PREFACE

Ed May was born in Las Vegas, NV, the son of Edd and Rosetta May. His parents moved to Las Vegas the year he was born in 1955.

Ed's family was one of the founders of Victory Missionary Baptist Church where they became lifetime members. He grew up on the Westside. Ed's mother Rosetta May worked as a seamstress at the Stardust hotel. His father was a private pilot who worked for the air force as well as a construction contractor.

After high school, Ed May attended UNLV and he graduated with a criminal justice degree. Later he obtained a Master's of Public Administration (MPA) as well as a certification from Cornell University and from Harvard University. He worked at Centel as the first black negotiating chief in the company's history.

Ed recalls businesses on the Westside near Jackson street that were influential in building the community life where he grew up. He shares about his strong family values, his time at UNLV, work life, and his passion for golf.

Ed May started playing golf in the early 80's. He shares the influence Valley View has had on golf and mentions many influential members of Valley View that have assisted in the growth of golf for African Americans in Las Vegas.

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July 22, 2010
in Las Vegas, Nevada
Conducted by Claytee White

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This is Claytee White. I'm with Ed May. It is July 22nd, 2010. We're in his office downtown in the Regional Justice Center.

How do you like working down here?

I love it.

Fantastic. That is great. But you don't have to come in through the security area, do you, every day?

I actually come through another secure area and I just use my badge to access.

Okay. So it's a little different.

So, Ed, tell me a little about your early life, what it was like growing up here in Las Vegas. But before you tell me about that, tell me a little about your parents and where they came from.

Okay. I am the son of Edd May, E-D-D May, and Rosetta Turner May. My parents moved here in the year I was born. Interestingly, they both were from right outside Marshall, Texas. We just use the term Marshall, Texas. Both of them, their parents were farmers, so huge farms, so totally self-contained for almost everything. You name it they did it. It was just an interesting way of life. I actually loved it when I would go there and spend holidays. My parents, it was nothing for them on like a Thanksgiving weekend to drive to Texas. I mean that was pile up the kids and we would all just take off. But you picked up many unbelievable principles. My parents as I stated were from farmers, very strong Christian families. But you always knew where you stood, straight-shooters, but also the Christian values were instilled from—I can't ever remember not having that part and the importance of understanding that integrity was important. I remember my dad on many occasions from the time I was a kid—you always have to appreciate that name and you want to be respectful of that family name because you're not only representing yourself, but you're representing this family when you go out.

Wow.

It's something that I think stuck with me my whole life that you remember what impact as you're going out and behavior. None of us are perfect, but you remain remindful of that. Parents always took the position that you can do or be what you want to be, but it requires sacrifice.

I was the only son, the oldest child that when I was born in October 23rd in 1955 I was born in Las Vegas, Nevada, because my parents had moved here from Texas. It's sort of funny the year they got married. I have a little joke. I say, well, I guess I still feel part Texan because I was delivered here in Vegas.

But conceived there.

And that's what I say. You know, it's sort of interesting. So truly I'm a native. It was at the Southern Nevada Memorial Hospital, which is now UMC, University Medical Center, but that was what it was called at that time when I was born to my parents. Unfortunately when I was a senior in college—I'll just sort of go ahead and come back a little bit—my mother died when I was a senior in college, which was one of the most traumatic experiences of my life, the untimely death, but watching the suffering from cancer.

But going back to when I was young, my parents had five children. I'm the oldest of the five and following me were all sisters. Interestingly I always wanted a brother so, so bad coming up.

Of course.

But that never happened. And now as I've gotten older I can't even see, I can't fathom trading in my sisters for anybody. I mean absolutely we grew up close and we've remained close all of our lives.

It's interesting about families because both parents were farmers. My mother's parents were married over 65 years and have 15 children. My dad's family was a smaller one. They only had ten children. So it's a different life, different beliefs, different foundations. It's just absolutely interesting. My dad's family's property is still there in Texas, East Texas. The house is still there. It's boarded up, but it's still out there. Finally, my mother's parents finally have sold it to one of

my cousins. But it's just interesting in understanding the family bonds. Being one of the oldest grandkids, in understanding the numbers of my grandparents, one of the things I learned early is my parents ended up being almost like co-parents to a point of some of the younger siblings that they had.

I have an uncle who actually was in the military because Wiley College is right there in Marshall, Texas. We call it sort of like our family school for many relatives that went there. Our family dates back to the early days. So I actually saw the debate with Denzel Washington and all. I had an aunt who just recently retired from Wiley as a librarian there. But it was just real interesting to hear so many stories and have that kind of connection with the South and so many values coming up.

But there was also—not only was there the integrity that was instilled at an early age, but the importance of family, the importance of having that spiritual foundation, and the importance of respecting everybody regardless of what you may opt to do. Parents encouraged education throughout and the importance of learning and knowing that you're capable to matching anybody anywhere, knowing that you always would strive to be the best. My father, I think, put a little bit more pressure being from the South, always felt that a son had even more of a responsibility to be a man. Even though some of the thoughts may in today's environment be seen to be a little bit unacceptable to a point, you have an appreciation for the fact that he didn't sugarcoat it. You may not have necessarily appreciated it, I think at the time. I used to think they were overly strict. I used to think we lived in the church and were missing out on certain things. But now it's unbelievable. I truly have an appreciation because we still got a chance to enjoy life and for how I was brought up and what was instilled.

Interesting when I think back about coming up, there's another important component of life and that was humor. That aspect of it is sort of interesting. Levity seemed to always be an important part of our life. I think as my parents got older I think the level of strictness sort of wore out I think when you got to the younger kids. My oldest sister and I talk about that.

Okay, yes. They changed over the years.

But we always had a good time. I remember thinking how we would all be in a car driving from Las Vegas—it was about 1500 miles—from Las Vegas outside to Marshall with tea cakes and what we would call light bread and chicken and having a cooler in there—we would be just as content—and some sandwiches. I mean we would sing throughout the ride. And we probably would ask our parents are we there yet, are we there yet, knowing when you get to Texas you're almost about halfway. But we would joke and tease. I think I ended up picking up—especially at my grandparents'—both of my granddads had a unique sense of humor that was interesting, being able to tell stories and so forth. I think I picked up on some of that. It's interesting. You think that you didn't think that you necessarily acquired and later on you realize that you have.

Yes. Were you able to pass some of that on, those teachings, that integrity, that humor to your own children?

Oh, I think without question.

Good.

Sometimes they don't know what I may do or what I may say. Just to give you an example with the youngest one, I remember some years back sitting in restaurant up off—I was trying to think of the name of it, a turkey restaurant up off Rainbow near Alta. It's like a turkey roast of some kind. It was a young lady that was waiting on us. And somehow we were talking about things. Sometimes I'll reflect back coming up. And I mentioned about "Get Smart." And that was before even the new movie came out. And the young lady, she was young just like my young son. She said "Get Smart?" And I said, yeah, Maxwell Smart and I have a sense of humor. You never know what I may say just to enjoy life and that, a little line, edge to it and keep it interesting. She said what are you talking about? And I said, you know, Agent 86 and 99, his female counterpart. She said no. And then I did an impression of Maxwell Smart. I took off my shoe and put the phone in my ear, hello, imitating it. My wife and son climbed up under the—my son went all the way up under the table. He said, oh, no. And the young lady that was the waitress, she was in shock. Everybody in there started laughing. But I guess the manner that I did it, when I did it, and went through this little demonstration, it caught them totally off guard. But it was just the importance of having a little—you've got to have that balance in life.

That's correct.

You can get so serious because I think so much of life is how you can profess. And I guess one of the things I learned even earlier on, some sayings I remember one this pastor used to say with Victory. My family was one of the founding members of Victory in '61. My dad is still chairman of the trustee board. And he used to say—Victory Missionary Baptist Church. And Reverend Thompson used to say the church is not a museum for stuffed saints, but a hospital for sin-sick sinners. And it stuck with me. Matter of fact, I raised my hand. I said I really need to be there. But it was always certain things, you understand, because sometimes also there are certain statements such as you can be so holy you become good for nothing. And that tells us that life is about how you're treating your brethren. And you can sit back and say one thing, but it's all about how you interact, how you treat, where you're going, can you show a smile, and, if you have an issue with someone, are you resilient enough to bounce back? And also understand what did you do, what steps did you take to try and rectify the situation, and understanding sometimes you have to agree to disagree. And that's one of the problems that some people have.

Exactly. Exactly.

Unfortunately what I've seen sometimes people have a tendency to label folks. Always keeping yourself in check knowing that no matter what that obstacle is. I tell the youth with one of the youth groups and even with our junior golf at times that I've spoken with, but especially with Committee of 100 Men that it sort of reminded me of my parents when I was small. My parents gave me this train set. And I loved trains when I was young. I had this one train that you absolutely didn't put it on the tracks, but it was one that would go. I remember it going into a wall. Boom, it did not stop. It would change directions and keep going. And I remember thinking about that and I remember discussions with my parents about that train and my dad how he would interject some wisdom there in things that I never forgot to this day. And I continued and I probably even expound on it even more because the train didn't lie. One simple wall, one simple barrier stops it from going. Sometimes you have to change directions in life, but you keep going.

Wonderful. When your parents first moved here it was 1955. That was the era of the Moulin Rouge. The Moulin Rouge right now is being finally torn down. Number one, where

did you live? Do you remember that first location? You probably maybe not remember, but family—

When my parents first moved here they lived in a trailer court that was over near H Street, between H and D off of Owens. I think somewhere over in there. My dad has been in this house now for at least 50 years right off Gold Street, 1329 Gold Street, off the corner of Gold and N, right near Martin Luther King and Owens, right off that. He actually moved in it when it was brand-new. He has never moved even after my mother died and he remarried.

It's interesting. Every time my stepmother, bless her heart—I'm just blessed to have a wonderful, wonderful—because I had I thought an angel for a mother. And then to be able to cherish, truly cherish and consider it a blessing the kind of stepmother we have because she raised my younger sisters.

That's right.

So she stepped in. That's something that I truly cherish to this day. But every time she would talk, because my dad is a construction contractor and especially he started off in carpentry and so forth—as I said before he was already a private pilot and would do that on the side and has been with the survivor tour, my dad has, I don't know how many years with search air and rescue mission for the air force, auxiliary of the air force. Well, it's interesting. Even after his business started flourishing and then he tied in with one of the largest minority contractors and ended up working out of state for a bit, every time she would talk something about moving to another house or a different community or so forth, my dad would just continue to add on to the house. We just laugh. That house to this day is unbelievable. There are parts of it that would match any hotel room. He has a bathroom that I just can't even believe it.

Great.

But he's that skilled, that gifted.

Now, are you saying the street is Gold Ring?

Gold, G-O-L-D. 1329 Gold Avenue right off the corner of Gold and N. Matter of fact, to even

help you with where it's located, do you know where it's now the grocery store that's Food 4 Less in the community?

Yes.

Out of the side that walks you've got J Street right there. Then right when you're coming out of the parking lot, if you're coming directly out of the store's parking lot, you're going to walk right into J. You would either come over to Gold Street or Van Buren. So there's a block. Van Buren's on one side, Gold's on one side, and J is the one that connects both of them. If you go all the way to the end of the block on Gold is my dad's home. It's been there over 50 years.

Wonderful. Now, I know it is part of what we call the Westside, but what is that little community called?

That's always referred to as the Westside. It's sort of interesting. Across the street on the other side of Owens it's called like Highland Square. You've got certain segments.

Okay. Now, that's not Berkley Square, is it, where you father's house is?

No. Berkley Square is actually over right off Owens between H and D, back over there. If you know where D Street is at—

Yes.

—you'll see that monument over there of Berkley Square.

Okay, yes. At that old filling station.

Yeah.

Okay, good.

So that just gives you somewhat of a—

Well, the reason I wanted to know is because once I finish some of the projects I'm working on now, our next project is going to be the history of Berkley Square, the oral history of

Berkley Square. And I'm trying to get people already who live in that Berkley Square area. And your father just sounds like he would be a tremendous person to interview.

Oh, he would. But some of the people right in the community—it's sort of interesting as you've seen about the history of it there are some very small community segments that spun off of that. It's right down the road from it. Even when my dad organized church life, Reverend Thompson and his family were right in Berkley Square. Then you have what's called Highland Square over there where Reverend Whitney, Nathaniel Whitney was part of Evergreen. He's in another community over there. His son and I and the Simpsons' and—God, I could just think of so many of them. The street I was on, which is sort of interesting, notables were—I mean it was just—just that block of Gold and N. Then you had like a desert area. Then on the other side it was just like one little small group of houses. We were right there, families that were unbelievably close.

That's great. A real community.

Real community. You knew your neighbors. My mother was of such that it was like the neighborhood house. Of course having all sisters, my partners and me would be outside most of the time, you know. Maybe we would go through. It was just one of those things. But she would feed sometimes the neighborhood. That's what I used to think at times. They would, of course, come in if she's feeding and the parents were home. It was one of those things if the parents weren't home, company doesn't come there. But I had a cousin who lived back to back.

It's sort of interesting when you think about it. My family, like on my dad's side, they came out of a Baptist Church, (Amy I) Baptist Church where our family had donated land to the church right off family property in Texas. And then when they came out one part of the family, the Aimes', they were the ones that were there early on with Zion Methodist, Ruby Aime, who's actually my dad's first cousin, his brother's kid. But she's just like my dad's sister. I mean she was the only child. Well, not the only child, but her and my dad were like sister and brother. Very small family that she was part of. Yet, my dad's oldest sister at the time when she was living, she used to be the musician for what's now Pentecostal Temple that used to be Cox Upper Room Church of God and Christ. So she went there. And then my dad he initially went over to Evergreen Baptist Church. And then that's where Victory sort of spun off. He was one of the

musicians early on there, too, although he never likes to—you know, he doesn't do it anymore. But he was accomplished in his own right. That was one that he never wanted to truly claim.

Did your mother work outside the home at any point?

Yes. She did several things. My mother at one point was a seamstress at the Stardust hotel. I remember that. She has done homemaker with the state. She went on taking classes. She attended I remember school. But she was always about—she was just gifted, talented. I remember a lot of poetry and stories. Our church, I know when I was young they sponsored a team. They sponsored a women's basketball team and my mother was on that team.

A women's basketball?

Basketball team. We were in the City League. It was unbelievable some of the things that happened.

Who did the women's basketball team play against?

Against, teams in the City League for Las Vegas.

Oh, so there were other women's teams around as well. Oh, that's interesting.

Now, was your mom a member of the Culinary Union when she was at the Stardust?

I'm not sure whether she was ever a member of the Culinary Union because it was sort of off and on. My dad started off in construction. He was a carpenter before he became a contractor. There were many times, like segments of years and so forth, where mom would be at home a lot coming up early on and then off and on. I mean there was no question that her family, her kids, we were number one. We knew that.

That's great. That is wonderful. The life just sounds like a wonderful, wonderful way to grow up. You gave me another look at the corner of the Westside that I don't always hear.

Knowing that your parents were involved in the church so ardently, the Moulin Rouge was built the same year they came. What was the influence of the Moulin Rouge and

the places on Jackson Street to a community like yours?

It's interesting knowing that my parents spent a lot of time at the church. So, of course, coming up they were not necessarily a lot of customers necessarily of the Moulin Rouge, even. But I think there was an appreciation of having that in the community because, of course, my mother coming up worked at one of the hotels for a bit and having that and understanding where Vegas was, the challenges that it had in race relationships and so forth was absolutely astonishing. As we were coming up I think my parents continued to reinforce that because, as I come up and think about it I think because they kept reminding us of how blessed we were and how we were equal to any and everybody regardless of your race, I never had that inferiority complex at all going in. But you heard some stories about things that happened in Texas, or either, when you were traveling and see some signs, some of that, or even coming up you heard some things. But it was as you were going on personally having to go through. But I think there was that historical value that they appreciated it. Of course, my mother had some brothers, now, that could probably tell you a whole lot about the Moulin Rouge.

Okay, good. Now, what kind of impact—the businesses on Jackson Street were flourishing at that time.

Yes.

What kind of impact did that part of the community have on the community? What did you hear about it?

What I hear and what I even recall as I grew up and going to the Curtis family service station—it was right up there off H and Owens—or going over to Golden West Shopping Center, I mean the community was almost self-contained in a sense. The community, everybody was so—there was such a bond that you could almost do whatever you wanted to do. Later on my dad actually had a book and music store over on Jackson, right off Jackson. Unfortunately during the riots one year when burning took place, his store was burned. But he used to provide a lot of the supplies, books, Sunday school books, religious materials to various churches at one point in time. But that area I remember had everything from barbecue, Uncle Ben's, I mean everywhere, Hicks Barbecue.

I could sit back and remember even around the corner—I mean when we would leave church, slip out of church that we would do at times as kids, going over to Hamburger Heaven. And right across the street between there we would meet our friends from over at Second Baptist, over at Cox Upper Room Church of God and Christ, those things. I mean it would be like a central point where we would get together. It was just unbelievable. You patronized. Your cleaners was right there. I remember later on Sanders Cleaners and so many other things that were right there in the community. It was not unusual for you to—I mean your parents patronized. I mean it was just an automatic.

The barbershops and the beauty shops?

Yes.

What about—

I think Gladys's was up in there for so many years, Gladys's Beauty Shop. I don't know if you've heard of that one.

As a matter of fact, the story was—oh, this was before you arrived in 1954 when Josephine Baker came to Las Vegas. Supposedly one of the things that she went to the Westside for was to find a beautician.

In 1969 we had—and then we're going to get to golf after this—we had riots on the Westside, about three days of riots. What are your memories of that period?

Back in '55?

Sixty-nine.

Oh, yeah. I think of '69 some sad memories, real disappointed because I couldn't understand why we would burn up our own. I knew that there was frustration. I understood that, but it never made sense to me because I recall as I said before watching my dad's business get destroyed. I'm trying to think of which riots—it may have been that—that his book and music store was taken up during that time. I think sometimes you're trying to prove a point and you felt it was needed. I mean

there were certainly some frustrations, some aggravations that were absolutely legitimate, some inequities that were taking place.

I mean I remember when I first started bussing; one of the first experiences when bussing was early on in Vegas, going to middle school and how that happened. But it ended up turning out to be a great experience. But it was sort of difficult to understand why we were the ones being transplanted, the only ones that were getting that experience of being shuffled and none were being brought here into the community.

You were an athlete. Did the bussing have any kind of impact on playing sports?

They had late buses. So they accommodated a lot for whatever sports you were doing. There were late buses and also I guess coming up in a certain amount of it because we had like community baseball teams I remember coming up, Boy Scout troops. I think it was Troop 66 if I remember where Curtis Aime, one of my relatives, him and then later on my dad were scoutmasters. So many young men, some that were older than me and some younger, where it was just—it was unbelievable how active we were early on in scouting and how the trips and you learn so much when I was young and eager to get older because I had older cousins. Vale, for instance, I think graduated. He was a track star over at—there was (Linda Williams)—over at Western High School. I think that was in '66. But how he broke all these hurdle records. Then it was just like my family throughout has been involved in sports, both male and female.

And your mother.

Oh, yes. Of course, and I didn't even talk about my dad. He was a boxer even in the navy. I actually had an uncle who used to be a boxer here in Las Vegas who is now a minister, a retired minister.

So now, your father is still with us?

Yes. Thank God.

Yes. And would he want to be interviewed? We have a project called Early Las Vegas. And because of the nature of that project, I don't have enough black people as part of that

project. I would love to talk to a person with those kinds of values and with that kind of stature in the community that I've never heard of before. I've talked to the Jimmy Gay family and some other families. And I think I've heard of Ruby Amy before. But to talk to your father would be an asset for us.

Oh, absolutely. He probably would love it. He's retired finally. He's something else.

Good. Good.

I just absolutely cherish him. He has a whole lot of stories. You think I can go? He would—

That's wonderful. I would like to hear some of those stories especially after hearing you talk about growing up in this community and now to hear his part of that. That would be wonderful.

Yeah. We had baseball teams. He was one of the coaches I remember. As you get older you didn't necessarily have all the time. But I know my father was just—for me it was sort of remarkable him and my uncle coaching and uncles coaching and families and how we had one of the intramural leagues because our team was so awesome that I remember going and playing (Winterwood). They would challenge the ages. We would come in. We had kids that would just—we were an unbelievable team, unbelievably skilled team. We were so close. There were just so many things that would happen that I sit back and I remember those days. Matter of fact, a young man that I graduated with from high school, Ricky Towers, I think is still deeply involved in youth baseball. And I commend him for having leagues going on right in the community.

Okay, good. When men like you and your father hear the statements being made today about black men, black men not being in a home, not being available to raise kids, not being in the community, what do you feel? What do you think about all of that?

I think that there is—first of all, it saddens me. There is some truth to some black males not being in the home. Unfortunately there's that broad brush and people have a tendency to try and capture everyone and they miss those people that are staples in the community, those men that are staples. Sometimes I call it—as I've seen things sometimes we just may appear to remain silent, but we're

still there working, still trying to impart whether I'm talking with Committee of 100 Men, mentoring boys through that group. We try and make sure that that's all part of our responsibility. I don't care what you make. You're blessed with whatever you have. But part of what we're expected to do is to give back. You reach out, teach out and continue to teach the youth.

I found myself with my oldest son the other day. It was sort of interesting. And we were having a discussion about his daughter, his oldest daughter. And something I didn't think I'd ever do, but I found myself quoting the scriptures and giving the parable of the Prodigal Son. And it just came and flowed. And by the time I got through the story, he was like, okay, dad. And I shared his life and shared how this kid asked for an inheritance. You don't get inheritance when your dad's living. You're not entitled to it. And I gave that story and said but, yet, the dad knew that the son's judgment was not all there. He wasn't as wise as you would have hoped it would be. But by love he still looked out after him and gave to him. And he blew it all. And then what did he do? He blew it all and found himself in a pigsty. Then he came back. And what did that dad do? That dad opened his arms up, opened his arm up in anger at his brother, but he opened his arms up. And despite what all he had done, he forgave gave him. Because what? Simply because that was his son and he loved his son. And I drew the parallel. He's like, wow. God, I guess I'm finding myself doing more of it, but so many things you learn, so many parallels, so many parables whether it's directly from it. But you find it's in you.

I was talking to a little kid the other day just at a restaurant. He was going on about an accomplishment in scouting. And I shared with him, started reciting the scout laws—trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent. He said you were a scout? And I said yes. I said those are values you remember the rest of your life. I said that's all what it's about, learning.

Right. Tell me about UNLV, how you got there and why you decided to go to UNLV. And with parents like yours I'm surprised they didn't want to send you to the South to one of the black schools.

Or even to Wiley.

Yes, exactly. Yes.

It's interesting. I came close to leaving town. Came close to going into Annapolis at one time. That was one on the radar. Arizona State was also on the radar. For some reason I didn't want to leave home. I wasn't ready to go. I was sort of protective a little bit of my sisters. I call them to this day my babies. Them and their kids, they're all my babies even though family is family. You know, you have your family challenges at times, but we're all still close. But it was just interesting I didn't want to leave. I think when I realized that my mother was ill, I truly—especially when I got into my—I found out a year before she died that she was ill. She died in '77. That's when I knew. I said, okay, there was some reason besides being a little bit spoiled to a point, you know, being that boy. I wasn't ready to leave. Especially my dad and I were always close.

But, you know, mom sort of—she knew—I think about being a kid. My dad you had to eat what was on the plate and you sat down as a family. And my mom knew I didn't care a lot for fruits and vegetables. And my mom would just be sitting there. And so often mom would come up and she'd sit right next to me and she'd just eat off my plate the food because she knew with my dad you weren't getting up until you ate your dinner, whatever it was, as a family. And he would just shake his head. But that was mom.

That's great. That's wonderful. That is wonderful.

So what was your major at UNLV?

When I was at UNLV I was a dual major at one time of criminal justice and social work. I graduated out of criminal justice. I ended up later on getting an MBA—I mean MPA, Master's of Public Administration and then later on some certifications out of negotiations. I had one special certification from Cornell University and another one in negotiations from Harvard. Actually when I was in the private sector at what was Centel and then became Sprint, I was at the time probably the first black negotiating chief the company had in the system.

When I think of negotiator I think of the police department. So what do negotiators do in corporate America?

Well, I was over personnel. So I actually was the chief labor negotiator over labor contracts for the company. And so I'm the one who would go into the negotiations with the union. In all my time there never once had a strike.

Oh, that's wonderful.

Came mighty close. But it was always the relationship I think that I had. People knew on both sides—I had to deal with executive-level management and corporate, and they knew where I was coming from. I sort of had this saying. Even the bargaining unit leaders, the union leaders knew. You know, I had some of these southern sayings. Sometimes I would say if I say the chicken dips snuff, you better look under the wings for a can of Skoal.

I like that. I'm from North Carolina. I've never heard that one.

So we sort of had an understanding. They knew if I said, okay, this is final, they understood where we were coming from. But I have all of these.

And the last question about UNLV, tell me about becoming a Kappa on a campus without that black tradition.

It's interesting. First of all, I had a wonderful experience at UNLV. UNLV when I was there was the only time that UNLV has ever had a black homecoming queen. And that occurred when I was there. The white fraternities—it was sort of interesting—they had things like Greek Games. So when we came onboard the Greek Games went from just sporting events to things such as egg tossing and all of that. The rules sort of changed. But it was sort of interesting. Especially it changed tremendously. But also it was sort of interesting when we came in with white fraternities and sororities. It was almost like a rotation. Everyone sponsored someone for homecoming. And the relationships that we established were so strong that with the leadership of the student—I'm try to think of what it's called—we were able to convince them that it was our turn. And we were successful, the Kappas. I'm trying to think of one of the sororities. But we were successful in getting the black homecoming queen. You have to remember at that time when I started Vietnam War was not over yet. So you had students coming in and many things there, but there were a lot of awareness.

So did you have black sororities at the time? Or was this a student just from—

I think when we came on—I'm trying to think if there was. If there wasn't a black sorority at that time, they came on right after us because before I left school we definitely had. I think if I'm correct both the Deltas I think and AKAs came on either right at the time or right shortly thereafter—

Okay, good.

—that they came on campus because we had wonderful, wonderful time, wonderful parties. With things the university would give us we were able to—it was just enlightening, just experiences learning even more about your own, more about your fraternities, have a way of giving you even more insight to even how they became established and why they were established. And so that was just really, really appealing to me and you learned more and then the people I came in contact with. And then I started learning more about others, of course. Of course, without question, well, I can't even imagine joining another fraternity.

Well, fantastic. That's great.

But I have some close friends and family that are in almost every one of the other Greek, especially of the Divine Nine, other Greek fraternities and relatives that are in different sororities. And sometimes when we have family reunions it's almost like a—

A Pan-Hellenic.

Oh, yes, a small version of a Pan-Hellenic at times. But, UNLV the stories that we could tell about UNLV, days of watching streaking through the campus. Watching how the university was changing. The growth. Basketball team coming into national prominence. I had an unbelievable respect for the Tarkanians because of people like—I remember Robert Smith who was a point guard for UNLV talking and sharing with me, because we were young, about how Tark—was like brought in that family unit. He had a young family at the time of school. I ended up in a situation similar myself. So it was like wow. And how the counseling that would take place by Lois Tarkanian to him and his family and that balance of such an appreciation of dealing with

challenges of life.

So did you work while you were at UNLV?

Some. But it was sort of interesting. My dad being in construction, rather than letting me come to work for him, he had me to—I ended up at the old MGM.

Bally's.

Yeah, it's currently Bally's. And when they were first building it at that time—I'm saying okay—I took a drywall taper and apprentice job. And I couldn't figure out. I said why is my dad not letting me work with him? That would have been the smooth, easy round. So I got used to this. I was a drywall apprentice taper over there. And the Collins, which is one of the staples of Vegas, Sam Collins, one of the founding members of Victory—he's since passed—but his son Phillip was a journeyman taper at the time. I remember going to work and getting these checks that summer before I went to college. And that money was so nice. I had never seen anything like that. I remember working at a little Dairy Queen, family Dairy Queen and those small jobs coming up. And I would say, oh, wow, look at what I'm making? I was an apprentice at the time. But they had me knocking the mud off from the wall, from the drywall and taping while they were doing it for the first couple of weeks. I was thinking I'm making this kind of money; why do I need to go to school?

And then some fellows that I went to high school with and played ball—I'll never forget them—when they came in town they put me and this other fellow from the same community, a fellow like me, they took us off of what I call the cushy net. It wasn't the real-world type of job. They put us on the real sand pole in 150-, 160-degree temperatures when they were building. It would just get so warm. We had a sand pole and I'll never forget how I would be sanding up in there and it would be totally—I mean the sand would come in on sweating bodies. I remember that experience for two weeks. And I was so tired every night to where I couldn't even spend my check when it came due. I was too tired to move.

And I remember them going on strike. That was the second week, which I had been there. That was like the fourth week there. I remember me taking off of that night with a cousin of mine

that was making a trip to Texas. And I remember telling my mom I'll spend the rest of the summer in Texas. She called me on Sunday night. That was on a Friday night. And it just so happens the same day I called one of my cousins who was almost like a sister to me. Her and her husband were making a trip. I said I want to go with you guys. It was nothing for family to make these trips. So we got there. Both of my grandparents, of course, were in Texas.

But I'll never forget my mother calling me on a Sunday night. And I told mom I'll never be back. I'll be back in time to go to school. I've learned my lesson. But I have an appreciation for what it takes. They put us on that true grunt work. But it served as the motivation for me to have an appreciation of that work being done for a lifetime. I never will forget it. I'll cherish every moment of somebody doing it.

Oh, yeah. I grew up as a sharecropper, so I know exactly what you mean.

Oh, yeah. My dad, one of the things he taught me early—both of my parents were big about an education, having choices. My dad used to say there's nothing wrong with being a trash collector. You just make sure that you want to put yourself in a position where you're that trash collector because you want to be, not because you have to be.

Exactly.

And he said education is about options. And that's exactly what it's proven. And I've continued to share that with the young people throughout. It's about options.

So at what point did you begin to play golf?

Interestingly I think I began golf probably in the early 80s, mid 80s. What used to happen is I was moving through the ranks and they would have customers and I was in management. And I remember other individuals in the management team would say, oh, Ed, watch the fort; we're going to the golf course, so we're taking some customers out. Of course, the company had some country club memberships. And I would think I'm watching the fort. They would laugh and they would go on their way.

And one day I had a cousin of mine sometime in the 80s—I'll never forget—and he said

both of us have taken up golf. He was a young cousin of mine. And I said I think I'm going to do it. He was inviting me to join him and especially since we already knew we had an uncle that had been on for years to join, Uncle McCoy. And he said, oh, you need to join my club; you need to get on youth program, when I was coming up. No, I never did get into a junior golf program. And then I found myself getting almost immediately addicted to the game.

What does that? People tell me that all the time. What is it about it?

There is a sense of freedom, a sense of competition, a sense of environment, a sense of reflection, time to reflect when you're out there. You find some of the most beautiful places in a valley when you find a golf course. I've been all over Utah, all over the country golfing. In some places you find some of the highest peaks, whatever it may be, where you can oversee the valley or see different things or see somewhere golf courses are cut in majestically through unbelievable terrain. I've been down at St. Croix and it was just unbelievable. I'll never forget watching this bird of prey come down into a creek and just seemed like he barely hit it and came up with a fish that was about two feet long. I never would have imagined a fish that was that size in a creek. I learned to fish real early. That was one of the big things my dad and I did coming up. And I was a fisherman for years. I had a boat and all that.

Lake Mead?

Yes, Lake Mead. Oh, yeah, it was a biggie, although we did fishing all over especially in Texas, Utah, California, different places. But Lake Mead was our number-one spot. And my dad at one time—we have pictures of where he had—it was all in the paper—this trout by the intake tower if you're back here. That was before striped bass was introduced and the lake was so high. It's nothing like it is now. But the water was so cool. You could get the string of trout, and all kinds. We would go there. It was just unbelievable. I used to think a wonderful time for reflection.

But then I got into golf and I found my boat set up for years without touching it. And it was almost like, wow, I didn't have time. And then I can't even think of the last time I picked up a fishing pole. I yearn to do it. I've been out by the lake riding by it. But it's something I miss. But golf gave me that, almost that same kind of fix. But it took it to another level, too. It opened

doors relative to relationships with people of all walks of life. You saw people looking at individuals almost like—going to golf courses you see people that may not—it's almost like when you're on the golf course regardless of what color you are, all the sudden you see the mouths open and start talking to you, wanting to know about you, establish relationships. I remember as I moved up through the ranks some of that occurred based upon some of those relationships I had by spending that time. It gave you time. The four to five hours on a course gave you time with someone on a course. Or even when you finished it, sitting in a clubhouse. You didn't know who you would be intermingling with. So doors of opportunities can happen. But also lifelong friendships are very often established right at the golf course.

Good. Now, do you remember a time—this is probably not in your experience—but do you remember a time when blacks couldn't play on certain golf courses here in Las Vegas?

I never experienced it personally, but I remember stories from my uncle. I remember stories from people like Jimmy Bell Senior telling me. He was telling me about it. He's one of the founders of Valley View. I call him Pops. One of his daughters I went to college with and is a near and dear friend. Her and her husband happen to be Catholic. She's my accountant. She has (indiscernible) in Texas. We were at UNLV together. She's an AKA. I better make sure I get that right.

Yes.

But her dad is just an unbelievable wealth of knowledge relative to this golf club, a very small framed individual, small man, but mighty. I absolutely just—I can't even begin to tell you. There are few men in this world that I call like a second father and that's always almost the way I look at him. He called me son. If we were going to a golf tournament, some that I might not even think about going, there are times when I change my mind and say I'm going just so I can take him. His youngest son, Sherry's youngest brother, Junior, Jimmy Bell Junior is almost like a brother. I can sometimes talk to him and just pick up the phone, what's up? He's a character and a half. But it was just unbelievable those relationships that you have out of golf.

Tell me about the Valley View Club and what that club means to the black community.

Well, Valley View is an organization. I actually wrote the history, so I may just refer to it.

Of course. Yes.

Valley View was organized by 15 individuals in, I think, February 5th, 1958. It was initially organized as a means for predominately black golfers to unite in fellowship in a meaningful type of golf competition especially at that time since—I use the term since—certain doors in our community were not yet open to individuals of color. Soon after the organization they began to promote golf into minority youth into the community. Some of the individual founders that I'm aware of is like Felbert Cobbs; Uvalde Caperton, played football, his son went to high school with me; Johnas Geran, that's when some of the stories about the Westside, his daughter's a published author and she's written quite a bit about the Westside community and some of the challenges it had. He had his barbershop.

Now, you're not talking about Trish Geran, are you?

Yeah.

Yes. Okay.

Her dad. Jimmy Bell Senior, which I referred to; Dr. Garnet Ice; Henry Moore; Willy, they call him "Punch" Hughes; Jim Robertson; R.J. Robinson; Marshall Brunch; A.T. McCoy; Jimmy Gay; with the first president being Felbert Cobbs. That year they had the foresight—it's sort of interesting with them coming from different parts of the country—to unite with what's called Western States Golf Association. Similar groups. It was a national-type foundation, a group put together. And they affiliated with it during the latter part of '58. So they joined it soon after it was initially organized. And there are some people that I think about that joined, what I call some of the early contributors in not wanting to leave anyone out because there were many.

But some of the notables that come to mind—Willy Brewster, unfortunately passed recently. He was married to Virginia Brewster and a member of the community. Virginia, of course, was on the school board of trustees, still goes to church with me at Victory. I absolutely love her. I sort of picked up one of her terms, come over here and bless yourself, and I say that quite often.

Eldridge Clark, he's deceased. He was a grandmaster with my lodge St. Mark Grand Lodge Af & Am. Don Hill. Herbert Mills of the Mills Brothers. Richard McClendon. Robert McKenne. Of course, Dr. James McMillan. Woodrow Wilson, which you've probably heard of.

Yes.

Yes, and a City Councilmen, Dorothy Mills from the Mills family.

Now, was Woodrow ever a City Councilman?

Oh, Woodrow was a City Councilman I believe at one time, also.

Now, I know he was a State Assemblyman.

State assemblyman. Look at his history and you'll find that Woodrow at one time was on the city council. I think Woodrow may have been the first black on the city council. Let me check. You may need to check and verify that.

I can check.

But I'm trying to think back about those people that were on city council. I'm almost positive it was Woodrow who was on the city council at one point in time. Going back into the history of the club I remember interacting with him because I even remember some challenges he might have had at one time.

Right.

But I think if you go back and look at going back in the history I think you're going to find him as your first black city councilman.

Okay. I'll check.

I could be wrong.

I'll let you know.

But most of the time, mark my words, you can take it to the bank. I could be wrong, but I doubt it.

Okay. Alvin Wilburn. Bobby McKennon. Earl Richarda. Calvin Shields. Eugene Feems. I think Eugene might have been a fighter pilot at the time. But I know he was with the air force. George Simmons, he was with one of the federal contractors. His wife is Eva Simmons from the school district.

Oh, yes.

Roy White was also a notable guy. I think Roy might have also been with the junior golf program once. Good friends. Lorenzo Calhorn. R.J. Flowers. Dorothy Collins Smith, who was also with—Dorothy actually was one of the handicap chairpersons putting on tournaments, but she was also notable with the City of Las Vegas.

What does golf say about class structure in the black community?

I think what golf did and I think especially there was a focus on trying to make sure that the door—you sort of knocked down some of those walls relative to it; that we could do anything. We had a range of people from those that might have been garbage collectors to those that were doctors or lawyers. And so it sort of put everybody on a footing. It almost worked as a vehicle for helping you to reunite and helping some of those to remember where you came from.

Very good, I think that's excellent. So it was almost like a leveling force?

Oh, absolutely. And even to this day because we continue to remember it's not unusual for us to—I think there have been times when we're in a meeting. We had a junior golfer at one of the colleges—I think I might have mentioned this—at one of those colleges that needed help, one of the black colleges. And at the meeting Paul Pradia spoke up about this kid and what she needed. People started digging, started writing checks, pulling in their pockets to make sure she got exactly what she needed because her parents couldn't take care of her. She was going to have to come home. And she had been in our youth program.

Wow. That's amazing. So other than those kinds of things, do you have some also very set scholarships that you grant as well?

Yeah. Most of our scholarships have been given through Western States, which we're part of.

They allot scholarships per region. We're a part of Pacific Desert. But there have been times that we've done certain things, too. We'll do fundraisers. We'll do things. We actually have sent our kids—our group is now tied in. Even though we have our Valley View golf team, our team is tied in to First Tee.

Tell me about First Tee.

We actually have some board members on First Tee. That's part of PGA. So it's interesting. It's phenomenal. They opened their arms, invited us because they saw what we were doing. Every Saturday and Wednesday our junior golfers are having kids over at Craig and over at Muni. Later on they said, okay, what are you doing? Next thing you know—because we were struggling to send the kids to tournaments because they have junior golf tournaments. And they've helped to underwrite a lot of the costs and it's helped without question with getting kids scholarships. It's just unbelievable some of our junior golf people that are notables like Paul Pradia, Johnny Griffin, in the early stage especially, he and Lee. It's interesting with Lee.

Are you talking about Lee Hill?

No, not Lee Hill, the other Lee, Lee Daniels. I'm sorry. Lee Daniels. They were two of the ones that really helped start junior golf early on with Valley View. But these are individuals that have given. And you have so many people that are tremendous fundraisers like Dorothy Hawkins and Louis Hawkins that have just donated time and money. We've had one gentleman who is a cop and former police officer, former bodybuilder, former with Metro and with the football department. I was trying to think of him off the top of my head. Luke, Luke Young. I think Luke even played professional football at one time. But these are people that have been so dedicated. And, of course, our junior golf chairperson that we have right now that's actually on staff with First Tee. I've got so many names going through my head. But they've committed maybe with the exception of Jim, which Jim has done a whole lot when he wasn't being paid. People have given time, money, many of us, and just—even when they're out there teaching they're coaching, talking about life. It's just phenomenal. We used to have people from all races over the years come up and just all of a sudden—can our kids come out? Or just stand there and watch in amazement. It's phenomenal.

That is amazing. That is so good. What has it meant for black golfers to have someone like Tiger Woods who's been in the limelight and won so many awards for so long? What has that meant to you?

Tiger is absolutely cherished by our organization, by so many black golfers. He is relative to talent the epitome of what a golfer strives to be, wants to be as a golfer with his golf talents. You see how his dad, the impact that his dad had on him and you see all those doors that were closed. And it's almost not just being open, but sometimes being shattered, never to close again. And so Tiger, you look at what has happened to the PGA when he's in a tournament and when he's not, sponsorships. What the world loves to see. You have certain people in this world that have had such—I think certain impacts had an impact on the world and the United States whether you agree with his views or not. But he was a change agent. Tiger has been a change agent in his own right. Sitting back and taking a sport that's recognized for white golfers, strictly white and especially white males and all of the sudden many people—you've got to remember golf is a game. It's a mental game. It was recognized that we could be athletes. It was recognized that we could strive and try and feel. In baseball you saw that. It was recognized that we could strive and be success stories in football. It was recognized and seen because of our athletic prowess that we had some absolute wonderful, superb talents that had to be recognized by this country. But it wasn't recognized that we had—by some, not by all—but by some that we had that mental ability. Sometimes I like to say that mental ability and stability to remain in check when things are going—golfing requires you to think. It requires you to get focused. It requires you to—you can have one bad hole. Golfing is the kind of game that if you carry on that—it's like life. It's hard to get beyond yourself when you can't get beyond yourself. And it's such a game that parallels life. Well, that was one of the reasons why in many cases some people didn't believe that we had that ability.

All of a sudden Tiger, son of minority parents and especially his black father, who many people referred to over and over and over and definitely had such a wonder influence by both of his parents, but this kid showing this club. And you still have clubs. I had clubs out there where we weren't even allowed to join. And all of a sudden this kid has not only had an impact on the game, he's at the top of the game. So we can't do anything but applaud because we saw it as

someone carrying the banner for us, someone who is reflecting us, someone who is just almost like the pride you take when you see someone from the United States win that gold medal and that flag comes up and you see somebody teary-eyed and the whole nation feels it. Well, Tiger had that impact on the nation, but not only the nation, the world. But it started within his own community. From the time he was born we saw how it was about to happen. I watched that growth. I followed that growth of that kid.

Great. Wow.

There are some people in our clubs and so forth. And we even sent our kids over to one event where some of it Tiger has been behind some of the scholarships in sponsoring. People don't realize what he's given back to the community, what he's given back to our youth relative to scholarships, opening doors to schools and so forth.

That's right.

And so how much it's touched because that's a real big part of it. So what impact he had? Simply stated, as I use, we cherish him. We absolutely love him. And we realize he's a man and capable of making mistakes. But, yet, relative to golf every tournament when you look at the odds, it's Tiger. I sit back and think about the story, one of these things our former pastor would say. Don't put your religion in my back pocket; I'm subject to fail. Tiger's a man. He's failed. He's made mistakes. But relative to his golfing skills and what he represents as a golfer, we're still proud of him.

That's wonderful. That is absolutely wonderful.

Do you have any participation at all with the NAACP's annual golf tournament that they have here in Las Vegas?

We actually have. One of the people who runs it, Andy Brewer, was formerly one of my vice presidents and later became president of Valley View. So Valley View has a lot of supporters of that.

That's wonderful.

He didn't waste any time in sort of drawing from Valley View Golf Club. I'm just proud of Andy and what he's done with it and some of the others that have come through.

Good. What would you like to see as the future of black golf in Las Vegas? Anything special?

I'd like to see it continue to grow. I'd like to see the scholarships, local, become increased tremendously. I'd like to see more opportunities at the golf courses for the youth. I'd like to see one day a golf course that is minority owned. But I'd like to see there being continued growth and more recognition from the community of what's being done for the youth and the advantage. Right now we're starting to see some of our kids head into some of the high school ranks and the impact they're starting to have on their high school teams.

Good.

You don't always see it in the paper.

That's right.

But I think about Tomika, I believe, Demps and seeing her in state tournaments. Her mom, Audrey Demps, one of our female golfers in the club and I think current vice president of Valley View I believe, she is an IT manager at one of the hotels with two kids that she has just dedicated to seeing in golfing. Lee Daniels' granddaughter getting this national award, she was just recognized along with a few others, got a 10,000-dollar scholarship through golf.

That's wonderful because we haven't looked at golf in that way, we as the community. We don't see golf.

And many times golfing is one of those where if the kids get in we don't recognize the scholarship opportunities that are there in golf throughout.

And neither do we recognize the skill that it takes, mental, physical. We don't recognize those skills.

Oh, yeah.

If you could play golf with anyone on that person's team or against that person, who would be the ideal person going back in golf history?

Going back in golf history, of course, currently I would love the opportunity to play with Tiger. But I would also love the opportunity to play with Lee Elder and Calvin Peete, two gentlemen that—and also I think it would be interesting to play with Lee Trevino.

Great.

I like the gift of gab. I might have a little bit of it in me.

And where would this game take place? What is that golf course that you want to play on or your favorite one that you've played on?

Well, it's sort of interesting. God, there's so many nice golf courses. Where the Masters is played I always thought. I've actually got one of the pictures of a hole in my house. Yeah. I've never played there, but I always thought that would be a place I would love the opportunity to play at. We have a course that I've never played at and never even seen actually. But I have a relative that has.

Here in Las Vegas?

Here in Las Vegas. In management, one of the top management, Michael Aime, he's played there before and has seen it. I sort of feel like he learned on it, it's sort of interesting. But Shadow Creek is considered one of the premier golf courses. It was one that mainly the high rollers play. I would hear about Michael Jordan and some of those fellows coming in. But it's one that Steve Wynn built. At one time he actually lived there. I don't know whether he still has a home over there. But, just hearing about the wildlife that's there and how it takes oasis in the desert to a whole new level.

Yes. That's wonderful.

Also I'd like the opportunity to play with the President of the United States.

Oh, yes.

I would absolutely love that. I think I would do pretty good against the President.

Yeah, because I think he really likes basketball better.

But it would be fun, though. It would be absolutely terrific.

This is wonderful. On the phone you've already given me some other people that should be interviewed for this project we're doing. So unless there is something else you'd like to add, I just appreciate this so much. But this is the kind of material I'm looking for this segment of black golf that I'm doing.

Well, it's interesting. One thing I guess that I always hope, because there are so many people that are an integral part of Valley View and I've left off so many names—but I think over the years people like Trudy Reiney, God bless her sole, the impact that she's had over Valley View over the years, and people from entertainment, people from sports. When the black Tavern owners have had theirs, we've had people that have been affiliated with a part of it. And some of them—we just still try and—gives you a way to try and find a way to patronize and having an appreciation of us.

But also I think one of the things it did, one of the things that is important to remember with golf, it's not only that 18 holes you're out there playing during that period, but there's a piece that we haven't mentioned.

What's that?

We refer to it as the 19th hole. Nineteenth hole. What happens at the 19th hole? Well, 19th hole is referred when people are done playing for the day and that's the social time. That's where the camaraderie comes to life even more so. You get a little of the boasting, the bragging, people want to see how they do, people laughing and teasing about how somebody may have done also. But then it's like you're opening windows hearing about commentary on society, what's happening. And this is what—I can almost hear it now, as I've heard it through the years being the president of Valley View for a nine-year period and a member of Valley View for many years since I've been golfing. You can hear commentary on our community, what needs to happen. You may hear

commentary on our churches. You may hear commentary on our businesses. People sit back and they start discussing topics, what's happening whether somebody may give a little time, I'll talk to you later, opening that door, that window to I may need to mentor them or I may have to help somebody get through this legal issue they have on the side, maybe not on the books, that they've done. Hear about certain people that might have been doctors that have said I think this is happening. Tell me about what's going on. Take a few minutes to talk to someone.

You sit back—I think about Dexter Morris, who's in the Alphas, a different fraternity. I've played in the golf tournaments. But, not only when I go to Dexter for my glasses, I'm somebody who actually wears trifocals now. I think about the times when I played and he even invited me to play in the tournaments and played with him and all specks of life that happens. Nineteenth hole we sit back around talking with him about aspects of life, how youth—it's almost like you're having the window open up. What I almost see happening if you listen to all these various conversations take place at the 19th hole, dealing with addressing. You hear some of the most fierce debates going on about history of the United States, about our treatment of us, about what it takes to make this country better, the pros and cons maybe of the administration, what we need to do. Talk about somebody who's in there, what's happened, how somebody's treated at the 19th hole. That is what comes out of golf, too, that you see certain people, certain ministers play, certain things that happen where you might get someone you start finding out.

Some people will think about 19th hole maybe as the time to drink. Yeah, there's some of that that goes on. Yeah, there's some. Some people drink; some don't. But what happens there is a whole different chapter that really gets into what happens with golf and the meaning of golf and the importance of golf in our community. And I sit back and think about people like Dr. McMillan and what his influence on the NAACP has had and what they were dealing with, with the challenges. And I'm thinking and listening to some stories. I know that some of the plans for addressing and trying to overcome some of the barriers I know that some of that took place right at the 19th hole.

That is amazing. Listening to that was like listening to poetry. I really appreciate this so very much.

Well, I certainly thank you. Anytime. This community, coming up as a native of Las Vegas, you know, you're hearing about the West Las Vegas community knowing that sometimes people forget there were so many people. You might mention some notables. But there are so many silent champions that you don't hear about—

That's exactly right.

—that have had as much of an impact in the community that really made things happen because when you really start getting into the movers and shakers that's when you start getting into an understanding and appreciation of individuals with principle, individuals that had their minds to think that just because you jump out there with something, tell me what, why, when, and then let's have a discussion of why we should do it, what are the consequences of what we are doing, making sure that it's benefiting the community, benefiting us collectively because sometimes people get self-centered and want to focus just on themselves.

But, again, this has been hopefully an experience and I hope that I shed some light in hopefully those materials just giving you information about the junior golf and the history.

Definitely. And I will definitely use the materials. And I will make it a part of your— eventually this will be put in a book form. So I will make this part of the appendix of your book. But I also want to make sure that you don't forget to tell your father.

Yes. I will. I will.

Good.

I will certainly. It was just interesting. I think about so many facets coming back. I think as much as I addressed there are so many things that have happened over my life and experiences and influences. You know, I saw so much relative to it. It's sort of interesting. It wasn't too long before I was in the golf club. All of a sudden I started being asked to take a leadership role and how I got into it. And I sort of laughed with them and told them unfortunately work got in the way of my being able to be the premier golfer on the team. Yet, I got that competitive drive. And, yet, I've seen people want to play with me all the time and still do because they know when you

play with me you're going to have fun. You're going to laugh.

That's great.

We're going to have some stories. And I'll say in a minute if you don't want to have fun, don't play with me.

Great. That's wonderful. Thank you.

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