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An Interview with Terry Miller-Newcomb

An Oral History Conducted by Claytee D. White

The UNLV @ Fifty Oral History Project

Oral History Research Center at UNLV
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University of Nevada Las Vegas

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

Claytee D. White, Project Director
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Preface

Terry Miller-Newcomb was born at Southern Nevada Memorial Hospital in Las Vegas, Nevada. Her grandparents on both sides were Nevada residents, and her mother and father were born in Reno and McGill, respectively. Her younger sister Linda was born at Sunrise Hospital shortly after it opened.

Terry vividly remembers the way Vegas was in the '50s, '60s, and '70s. Las Vegas was very small in the '50s, and one of the town's boundaries was Tropicana Avenue. Beyond that was dirt road and desert. Terry and her sister and friends rode horses out in that area.

Terry's father, "Chub" Drakulich, taught drafting and Phys Ed and coached the basketball team at Rancho High School from 1955 to 1958. Her mother, Theresa Drakulich, was hired at the new Ruby S. Thomas Elementary School to teach kindergarten. Terry attended kindergarten through second grades at Tom Williams, and from third grade on went to Ruby Thomas E.S. Her junior high school years were spent at Orr Middle School, and she attended Valley High School through graduation.

"Chub" Drakulich was hired at Southern Nevada University (now UNLV) in 1958 to start the Phys Ed program there. Terry remembers Frazier Hall and the old gym where she played on the gymnastics equipment while her father conducted basketball practice. Her parents would host a party every Christmas as part of the basketball Holiday Classic program.

Terry chose to attend UNR after she graduated high school in 1974. She was hired at R&R Advertising in the summer of '78 and worked at the Reno office for two years. She then transferred to the Las Vegas office to work as account executive. She oversaw all advertising for Democrat and Republican campaigns, including road signs, radio and TV spots, and billboards.

Between 1984 and 1987 Terry made several major changes in her life. She started a master's program in a totally new area, worked as a church administrator for an income, and was remarried. She finished her master's in 1987 and opened a private practice in marriage and family therapy in 1988, which she continues with today. Her oldest daughter is currently enrolled at UNLV on the Millennium Scholarship.

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Terry Miller - Newcomb 10.10.05
Signature of Narrator Date

Address of narrator

Claytee D. White 10/10/2005
Signature of interviewer Date

This is Claytee White. I'm with Terry Miller-Newcomb in her home. It is October 10th, 2005. How are you this morning?

I'm fine. Thank you.

Good. Could you just tell me a little about your early life? Brothers, sisters, mother, father.

Sure. My dad is Michael Drakulich, and my mom is Theresa Caprio Drakulich. I'll just real quickly go back and tell you a little bit about them. My dad was born in McGill, Nevada, 1924. My mom was born in Reno, Nevada, 1927. They met at the University of Nevada Reno. My dad had just returned back from three years with the Army during World War II. He pledged the ATO house up at UNR, and my mother was a Pi Phi at UNR, and they met at one of the dances. They got married in June after they both graduated. They moved to Fallon and lived in Fallon, Nevada, for eight years and then moved down to here, into Las Vegas, in 1955.

Why Fallon?

They had jobs there. My mother had finished -- they used to call it, instead of an associate degree, they called it the two-year normal. She got her two-year normal and moved to Fallon to teach.

My dad was just finishing up with his degree at that point, I think. So as soon as he was graduated and they got married, they lived in Fallon. He was hired by Churchill High School. So he was the basketball coach and he taught classes. He taught Phys Ed classes and classes at Churchill.

So they lived there for eight years, and then they moved here to Vegas in '55.

Would you spell their last name?

Sure. D-r-a-k-u-l-i-c-h. It's Serbian.

Oh, wonderful.

They moved here. My dad was hired at Rancho High School. He taught drafting and Phys Ed, and he coached the basketball team there. I think my mom's first job would have been at Tom Williams School.

I was born a year later. I was born in May of 1956 at what used to be known as Southern Nevada Memorial Hospital. It's now UMC. I have one younger sister. She's four years younger

than I am. Her name is Linda Van Sitters. She lives in Reno with her husband and children. She was born at Sunrise. Sunrise Hospital had just opened up, I think, maybe six months earlier. She was born in 1960.

Okay, great. So just two girls?

Just us two girls.

Where did the family live when you were born?

We originally lived on Webb Street (sic; Avenue) in North Las Vegas. I remember the house really well. There were a lot of educators that lived up in that area, a man named Jack Daley. You may have come across his name in your interviews, Sid and Jack Daley. He was an administrator. Just lots of folks that were part of the early educational community around there.

Why do you think that community was selected by them?

I have no idea. You know, in 1955 and '56, the town was just so small. There was downtown. It's very hard to picture. Literally, there was downtown. There were a few hotels dotted along the Strip. You know, there was the Desert Inn. There was a Flamingo. Literally, there were just a few hotels dotted across the Strip there.

The center of town really grew out of the downtown area. So Webb Street, which is in North Las Vegas proper, was really not that far off of the downtown track.

So tell me what it was like in the mid to late 50s growing up here. You probably remember the late 50s, beginning of the 60s.

I do. I do.

So what was life like for a young girl growing up?

Well, in kindergarten we mostly took naps. I don't remember ever being taught to read in kindergarten. I think I was reading, but I don't remember learning it at school. Everyone took their mats, what we would consider a bathroom rug, and that was your sleeping mat and we'd go to school.

The earliest memories I have of the community are really centered on the fact that there were no malls. Young girls now days can't even picture life without a mall. My mom and I would go downtown on a Saturday, literally what is now Fremont Street Experience. There was Woolworth's. There were some stores downtown like Ronzoni's and just a couple of department

stores that you would do your shopping at. So if you wanted a pair of shoes, if you wanted something nice, you would go downtown.

The next thing that really popped up was a department store called Vegas Village. I don't know how many people have begun to mention that. But Vegas Village was this fabulous place to go shop. On one side, it was a grocery store. It would be what a Wal-Mart Superstore is today. But you would go to Vegas Village, and you could do your department store shopping on one side, and they would even have some small furniture items and appliances, you know, small appliances. But they would have dresses and shoes and all the things you would need. Then on the other side would be the grocery store. Yeah.

So as I moved through my grade school years, I was at Tom Williams through second grade, kindergarten through second. Then a wonderful school named Ruby S. Thomas Elementary School opened up. It was considered sort of a pilot school at the time because of its design, and my mom was hired to teach kindergarten there. It's over in Paradise Valley. It's pretty much behind the Boulevard Mall. So it's near Orr Junior High, behind the Boulevard Mall.

So from third grade on in the community -- and that's when we moved. We moved over by the Sahara Country Club. The community had expanded. The cross streets would be pretty much Desert Inn and Eastern, between Maryland Parkway and Eastern. Then as you drove south on Eastern Avenue, there would be the university. The boundary of the university was coming up on Tropicana, and there was nothing beyond that. Literally, it was a dirt road. We would go horseback riding out there. It was just very rural and there was no development.

Whose horses?

Well, you know what? My parents had a friend named Claudia. And to this day, I don't know Claudia's last name. She had horses. They would make arrangements on the weekends for first me and then my sister and I later to be able to go out and ride. So picture, once again, Tropicana and Eastern, just desert and hills and sagebrush, and we would be out there kind of trotting around on our horses. I was still in my late grade-school years at that point. So I was still pretty little and, you know, I didn't do anything else.

Did your other girlfriends at school also do this on Saturdays?

You know, my best friend from third grade on was a girl named Janet Ford. Janet and I

went all through grade school and middle school and high school together. Janet was very much into horses and all that. I don't have those early memories of Janet being with us. But now that I look back on it, I wonder because she and I, from middle school on, used to go up to Pioche to like a dude ranch, for lack of other concepts, kind of like a horse camp. We did that a couple summers in a row. So she may have been with me during those early years. I don't quite recall.

Okay. So now, going to Pioche, I haven't heard anyone talk about that. Tell me about that experience. How did it come about?

Well, we would go to Reno and McGill every summer, and Pioche is just one of the towns on the way up to Ely and then 13 miles out to McGill. There was a wonderful ranch called the Williams Horse Ranch. I don't know if the family still owns it. Once again, it probably was through Claudia, the person down here that helped me ride. We found it and Janet wanted to do it. So that's what we went and did.

So now, were these overnight stays? Did you stay for a couple of weeks?

Well, we stayed for a week. It was bunks, a little bunk house and the whole thing, and we learned how to do everything that you need to do to take care of a horse. At the end of the week, we'd be in the little, mini gymkhana, little, mini rodeo, you know, with a boot race and the greased pig catch and all the goofy stuff that kids like to do.

Good. I want to go back to Vegas Village for a minute. I was under the impression that was more than one building. It sounds as if it was just one building.

My memory is that it was one huge, massive building. I was little enough that when we used to go I gave it a nickname. For some strange reason, I called it Bingo Bongo. And whenever we went to Bingo Bongo, you know, everyone knew we were going to Vegas Village. So I had to have been maybe three or four to have given it a nickname like that when it was open and when we could go there. But I can remember going there to buy all my Monkeys albums and -- yeah, back when we had records -- that would be the place to go.

Well, that's interesting. So what else did you do for recreation?

Well, we were just telling our kids about this the other night. We were at kind of like a drive-through burger place, and we were trying to help the kids understand what life was like before McDonalds. There were McDonalds in California at that time. We would go to school

during the week. My dad, once he started working at the university, worked very long hours at the university, and my mom was always home with us by 3:30 every afternoon. But we would go to Vegas Village and do our grocery shopping usually on either Friday afternoons, sometimes Saturday mornings. We would pick out a TV dinner, and that would be our big meal that we weren't eating at home.

Right. That's a treat.

That would be a big treat. That's right. My parents, if they had a social engagement or they were going out and we had a sitter, that would be what we had.

You know, it's funny because as I'm getting older, everyone complains about the heat. I don't know that it's any hotter here in Las Vegas than it used to be in the early 60s. But for recreation, we rode our Schwinn bikes all over. So, once again, if you can picture between Eastern and Desert Inn and Maryland Parkway, there's a street called La Canada. There's Sunrise Hospital. There's Valley High School, which is where I went to high school.

So you've got this massive, probably mile-and-a-half square area where we were allowed to ride our bikes just everywhere. We had friends all throughout that area, so we would just be out. I can remember both after school as well as on the weekends just being on our bikes and just being out all day, and it had to have still been 105 degrees some days.

That's right. Now, your skin is so beautiful. Obviously, the sun did not do anything to it.

Well, I haven't had one of those photo tests to see what's really under there. But thank you. Well, I do think that the ozone was different then and we weren't getting quite as damaged as the girls can now.

So you went to high school.

I did, at Valley High School.

So now, Valley High School is located on Eastern, I believe.

It's Eastern and Vegas Valley Drive.

That's right.

And I walked to school. I have a funny story to tell you, though.

Good.

This is how safe Las Vegas was. All right. You ready for this?

Yes, yes.

I would walk to a public bus stop for junior high beginning as a seventh grader, pay ten cents and get on the bus and take the bus from my house over to Orr Junior High. And it was perfectly safe. You didn't worry about anything. At the end of school, as a middle-schooler, I would walk to Ruby Thomas, which was about three blocks from where the middle school where my mom worked and catch a ride home with her in the afternoon.

So, you know, we could no more picture nowadays putting a 13-year-old child, a middle school child, on a public bus and sending them probably about three or four miles off to school, and then trust that they would get off where they needed to get off and go to school and do what they had to do. But that's the way that we did that.

And your sister was four years younger, going to elementary school at that time?

She would go to school with my mother. She would go to Ruby Thomas.

I started to tell you how Ruby Thomas was very innovative at the time that it was opened up. There was team teaching in kindergartens. So there were two kindergarten rooms that were adjoined by sort of the storage-and-supply area and the bathrooms. My sister was taught by the other teacher in the other room, but she would spend part of her day in my mom's room, say, for reading or whatever. So my mom was actually able to teach her. My mom taught just so many kids to read.

My mom did two things while she was a teacher. She changed the entrance date for school. She moved it up so that you really only had kids that were mature enough by the end September, by September 30th, to start school, and she also was one of the biggest proponents of teaching kindergarteners to read. So that was one of the things that she really lobbied up in Carson and worked on.

So Linda, my sister, was at Ruby Thomas from kindergarten on. I was a fourth grader by then, by the time she started. She was taught part of the time by mom. And then, once again, I was over at the middle school at Orr. Valley hadn't even opened up. It was just getting ready to open up, I think.

Wow. Tell me when your father started working at UNLV. Well, it probably wasn't

UNLV at that point.

It was not. And I will show you. I have a sweatshirt that says NSU. That stands for Nevada Southern University. And I brought this out to show you. This was my dad's professional paper. The title of it is A Basis for Proposed Physical Education Program for Students Enrolled at the University of Nevada Southern Branch at Las Vegas. So this is the paper that he wrote up at Reno and finished the month after I was born that outlines what he would do if he were to start an athletic program at UNLV, which is exactly what he went and did. So it was called NSU.

He worked at Rancho from '55 through '58 and then in '58 switched over to the university.

So he began the physical education program?

Correct. Yes. That's what he was hired to do. My dad's mentor was a man in Reno named Jake Lawlor. Jake was a coach up in Reno, and he had really mentored my dad. They named the event center in Reno the Lawlor Event Center. And that was my dad's mentor.

So while my dad was at Fallon, when he made the move to go to Rancho, when he moved from Rancho to NSU, he would call Jake and ask Jake his opinion. Is this a good idea? What do you think about this? So he was kind of guided along as he made those moves.

So '58 is when he went to the university. At that time, if for future years the students listening to this were to look at aerial maps of what the university looked like, there was Frazier Hall. There was a wonderful woman named Maude Frazier, and they named one of the first strictly just educational buildings after her. And then there was the gymnasium, the old gym. It's now a history museum.

And literally, Claytee, that's where I grew up. If I could tell anyone what my recreational childhood was about, it was about going to basketball games with my dad, watching team practices, meetings and having just absolute positive and wonderful experiences with all of the young athletes that would come through that my dad went on to coach, counsel, mentor, teach, you know, all those things.

So the university in '58 consisted -- I'm going to say there was the admin building, there was Frazier Hall, and there was a gymnasium. I think that was about it. But the gymnasium was a fun place because when you walked in -- I don't know how it's structured any longer. I haven't been out there in years. But when you would walk in, they had all the gymnastics equipment. So

there would be parallel bars and big soft mats to land on and all that. I would play on those. I would flip around and do my cartwheels and my somersaults and do all my playing, and dad would get practice started with his athletes.

So there was the gymnasium portion, and then on the opposite side, where the storage area was for all the gym equipment, were the offices. You would go up some back stairs, and you could actually watch the practice from a second floor balcony.

So when I think of my early years, it was spent in that gym. Now, they didn't have that gym in 1958. You have to understand. This is one of the things that my dad, I think, was proudest of was that he was given a 10,000-dollar donation to start the athletic budget, and he decided to start with basketball.

He recruited from everywhere. You know, he would go to all the high school games here and look at all the young boys, the talented boys. But he was really one of the first to do a lot of active junior college scouting. He would go to the little junior colleges in California sometimes even in Utah, and then he would approach a kid and say, "If you ever want to go to school..."

I don't know how he wrung out scholarships plus uniforms plus whatever else you needed to run a program for printing up a schedule to anything. But that's how he first got started.

Now, who did this team play?

That may be one of those things that I pulled out in some of the stuff. He set up pretty much a junior college schedule. So after their first, you know, bid of putting some of the high school kids together here and he put his schedule together -- I think I have an example of a roster -- but it would be mostly junior colleges. They practiced at the Dula Center downtown. Are you familiar with where the Dula Center is?

Yes.

And I went with him -- we were a little matched pair during my early years -- to do all the practicing over there until this gym got built. I'm going to guess the gym was built in maybe '59, I would think.

I can look it up. Wow. This is exciting.

These are the early years.

You got to see the Running Rebels at the beginning.

Before they were the Running Rebels.

Yes, right.

Before they were the Running Rebels.

How did your parents' social life change when he started working at the university?

Well, I can still remember they had all their old group of friends from high school, from their teaching days at the high school. So still there was a family called the Knapps that lived across the street from us. The Daleys lived down the street. I think some of the older group really stayed together. They had close friends that came from northern Nevada that they had known, a man named Carl Smith and his wife, Cathy Smith, and they remained close friends with them. So their social life, as far as privately, stayed the same when my dad went from working at the high school to college.

While my dad was at Rancho High School, his team manager was a man named Corky Poole. His wife is Bobbi Poole. Corky goes so far back. He met my dad as a high school student, possibly junior year. They both went on to the university. Corky washed my parents' car the day that I came home from the hospital. So they go back to before May of 1956.

Eventually, they attended NSU. They were very active there. You can see both Bobbi and Corky throughout all of the early NSU and then UNLV yearbooks. Corky went on to become a coach at the high school level.

So when we moved from Webb Street, which would have been when I was seven years old, so about 1963, the Pooles moved across the street from us. They bought a home across the street. They went on to be my parents' lifelong friends. My sister's best friend is their daughter, Ann Sunstrom. You know, that goes on.

So as far as the social life, that core group of old-time Las Vegas educators kind of stayed the same. Later on, when it changed to UNLV and they began having a thing called the Holiday Classic in the basketball program, my parents would host a party at our house every Christmas and have everyone come over after the game. Administrators, coaches, players alike would all be at the house. I wouldn't say that it changed that much. They still just hung out with other teachers.

Tell me about the relationship of that group of educators to the Strip or to the gaming element in any way.

Well, I can really only speak from what I remember with my dad. And really, Claytee, this has more to do with the years when he was not so much the basketball coach any longer, but during the last part of his time at the university. So I'm going to tell you a story about what it was like when he was the golf coach with the various hotels. But I have no doubt that there was very much a hand-and-glove relationship that they had to have when he was coaching all the other sports. He coached basketball and then baseball and then golf.

But with golf, they would always have their tournaments at the Dunes, at the Desert Inn, at the Sahara -- it was off the Strip -- but the Sahara Country Club. They would very much be supported in every way. One of the biggest supporters -- and this is not a gaming connection -- would be Pete Findlay who was one of the original car dealership and owners here. So there's Pete Findlay and then his son Cliff, and now Cliff's children are running part of the Findlay automotive group. They were such big supporters of all the athletics, golf included.

So I was younger. During my dad's baseball coaching years, I was probably in high school and off to college. I don't quite remember those years as well as the basketball or the golf. But I'm sure that there was that constant support. There's also a need for a place to have a tournament or, you know, your grand prize or whatever it was. So they always had a good working relationship.

Now, you have to remember, too, there was no Thomas & Mack to play their games. They went from playing their games either at the Dula Center, then the old gymnasium, what we call the old gym, and then the convention center was built. And I brought that out to show you this was a pointillism style piece of art that was done by a man named Don Mett who's a very long-time artist and just a wonderful chronicler of Las Vegas. He did that of my dad.

That's what the dome of the convention center looked like. That's exactly what the original signage looked like. This was right on Paradise. This was where the current convention center is, but you can't get there now. There's the monorail. You know, it's not like this. You could literally drive up through the drive-through right off of Paradise there.

That's amazing. And I see that in that picture, they're getting ready to play UCLA. So they have really moved up.

Yeah. A lot changed in 12 years, yeah.

Yeah. That's great. Was your father a golfer?

Was my father a golfer? Oh, my gosh, yeah. He started golfing, oh, it would have been in the late 60s. I'll show you a quick picture, if I can. His last coaching assignment was as golf coach. He retired in '89, and he had been coaching golf at that point.

But, yeah, he was a big golfer. He loved to golf. The biggest mistake anyone could ever make in front of him is to say that they didn't see the magic of hitting a little white ball around a lawn because he would go off on how hard it is to hone your skills to be a good golfer and how it takes a lifetime.

My dad was known for his wit more than anything. He would find something humorous in most things. It was a very quiet, very dry wit. But one of the things that we used to tease him about is that he had never hit a hole-in-one until after he had his pacemaker put in. He got his pacemaker -- I think it was in November, and his first hole-in-one was something like January, you know, right afterwards. So we always used to tease him that he must have needed those little extra jolts to get the ball up and over and into the hole.

(End side 1, tape 1.)

He golfed every day except Tuesday, which was lady's day. He really didn't like Tuesdays that much because he couldn't get onto the course. He couldn't get a tee time. He passed away in December of 2004. He had a 2001 car that only had 22,000 miles on it because his golf cart was his primary vehicle. He would just drive around Sun City, or he could go anywhere. He could go to the grocery store, if he had to, in his golf cart. I don't know that he ever did. So he really didn't need it that much.

He golfed. That's what he did. We'd say, "How you, dad?" And he'd say, "It's a good day. I'm on the right side of the green." That would be what he would say. He was on the top side of the green.

That's right. So now, do you and your sister golf, as well, or your mother?

We do not and my mother never did.

Wow. Was he disappointed?

Not at all.

Oh, that's right, you would have been playing on Tuesdays.

Oh, well, yeah, we would have been taking up space.

That's right.

No. We were athletic in our own ways, I guess. I was more athletic than my sister. I'm trying to think when Title 9 really came into play. But, you know, women weren't involved in a lot of sports when I was in junior high and high school. We didn't play soccer, and there was no softball team for us. I think maybe tennis. We could play tennis.

So I became a cheerleader. I took dance for many, many years. There's an old dance studio in town run by Jeanie Roberts. I don't know if that name ever comes up. But it's just a very old-time dance studio. So I kind of went that route, more of dance and then cheerleading.

During the time that you were growing up -- toward the end of that time, really -- we had the test site. I think the underground tests had probably ended by the time you were born. But did you ever hear your parents talk about the test site and what was happening?

I don't. Probably the closest that I can remember ever having any discussions or overhearing discussions of my parents would be when they bought some land across the street from the entrance to Nellis Air Force Base. I remember them saying that this is a very small, little air force base right now, but someday wouldn't it be nice if we had that land across the street from them?

So as far as ever worrying about mushroom clouds and being downwind or any of that, that was not anything that crossed our minds.

Okay, good. So you saw the city grow and you've seen the city grow from probably 16,000 people, maybe a little more than that in '56, a little more, probably 30,000, to what it is today. During that time, if you had to tell someone right now, what is the major change for you in that growth?

Well, besides the traffic -- here's what I will say. And we all say this. If you were born and raised here, we all say the same thing. Literally, you could drive at a nice pace, not breakneck speed, but one side of the town to the other, in 20 minutes. I can still remember, as recently as ten years ago, being in this profound denial and thinking I could still get across town in 20 minutes. I'd say, well, maybe a half-hour since we've had a little growth, and then I'd be a half-hour late for everything, you know.

So if you can picture, once again -- and I don't know who will be listening to this someday -- but if you can picture West Charleston, there used to be a movie theater. That's been closed down now. That was the far west side, on the outskirts of town. The cross street there is probably Decatur, so Decatur and Charleston.

Western High School, now that was a trip out of town. I can remember driving from the Sahara Country Club in Paradise Valley area, going to a football game or a basketball game up at Western High, and feeling as though we were driving to Reno. We're halfway to Reno. You know, we would take the interchange, the 95 Reno exchange up by the Spaghetti Bowl. That had just been built when I was in high school. And we would take that. But still, it just felt like a trip out of town. So if you can just see that size.

There were so few high schools back then. There was Basic and there was Vegas High and Rancho and then Western, Valley, Clark and Gorman. There were just so few high schools during that time, and those were sort of the perimeters of the town.

So traffic is number one.

My circle of friends right now, as I am approaching 50, really consists of people that I went to high school with. Our closest friends are the Thompsons. Ken Thompson and I met as sophomores in high school. We lost track. He lived in California for a real long time, and I was here. We met again probably 12 years ago and have stayed in contact.

Our other close friends that we socialize with are the Mooneys. Charlie Mooney was an engineering professor at the university. His daughter, Sandy Mooney, is one of my closest friends now.

So I'm saying all this to tell you that there is still what I consider a very old-time core here. The biggest change that I see is the influx of retirees coming here for all that we have, you know, cost of living, weather, recreation and sort of being a historical link to any of what we consider "Old Vegas." That's the biggest dichotomy that I see as being an old-timer, just that there is still a core of folks that very routinely are still in touch with each other.

Well, one of the things that I laugh about was when the Boulevard Mall was built. I was at Orr Junior High School. Don't tell the safety instructors this, but we would go and I can remember playing on the escalator -- that is Penney's department store now -- while it was still in the box.

We would run up and down. You know, we would just walk over because Orr is right behind the Boulevard Mall, and we would be in the construction site.

It was just very much such a small town. Not that this ever happened to me, but if you were pulled over by the police -- Sheriff Lamb was our sheriff, and everyone knew the Lamb family and everyone knew everyone -- you know, they would say, "Oh, gosh, I don't want to have to call your dad. So just get home." It was just that kind of small town even back then.

I remember pulling out my almanac from 1974, the year I graduated high school, and seeing that in Las Vegas proper the population was 124,000. One of the things that I have on one of my cars right now is my dad's original license plate. I was able to keep the same license that he had from when he first registered his car.

So are you ready for this, Claytee? Do you want me to tell you what it is? C, which stood for Clark County, 8463. And that meant that there were just 8,463 cars, I believe. I could be wrong about this. But that's how old it is. I know that he's had this license plate -- it was the old blue-and-white license plate--and I think he had the same number even from before. But he's had that easily from sometime in the 60s. So that'll just give you an idea of the population growth and how much has changed.

Who instilled this sense of history into you?

I think my dad. My dad. He was a great storyteller. He would always be telling us, you know, what things were like.

This might explain a little bit of it. My dad's parents came straight from Yugoslavia. So they came through Ellis Island and ended up working for Kennecott Copper up in McGill, Nevada. So my dad's father was a miner. His mother, my grandmother, Grammie, may have had a sixth grade education. So all they had were their stories to tell. That's what they had.

My mom's family took a little bit different route. Her mother was born in Dean, New Jersey. It's near New Brunswick now. I'm not even sure if Dean still exists. My mother's grandparents came over from Italy through Ellis Island, and then my grandmother and her husband made their way to Reno where he was a tailor.

She worked for the Bureau of Mines, my grandmother did. She was a secretary. My grandmother at one point came down and worked in Boulder City on the dam project. She was a

secretary for the Bureau of Mines during part of the building of Hoover Dam.

So I personally think that our sense of history comes from the fact that Nevada was so young when we first moved here and it being the fact that my grandparents moved here as first-generation residents. So we had access to them. You know, I could listen to my grandmother tell stories about Hoover Dam and about Boulder City.

Do you remember any of those stories?

I do.

Could you, please, tell me some of them?

Sure. I will.

To finish up that thought, though, I do believe that that's where that sense of history and how important it is to Nevada comes from and the fact that we still had access to hearing them.

My grandmother did something that very few women did in that day, which is to leave her family in Reno. My grandfather had his tailor shop. He worked downtown for a period of time, and then he moved it to the front part of his home over on Forest Street in Reno and worked out of the home. So there was my mother and her two younger sisters, Josephine and Annette. They stayed put.

But this great opportunity came up for my grandmother to drive down -- I don't know how she got here or in what -- from Reno all the way to Boulder City and work. It was just for a period of time. I would say that it was probably less than nine months that she was able to work.

But literally, they built the tent city. I don't know if you've heard any of these stories. But they built the tent city. It was such a building boom. In Nevada we know what that looks like because we still have it going on here. But if you can imagine during one of our country's poorest times for there to be work like this and jobs like this...

Her leaving the family and coming down to work helped stabilize out their income, so she made that big trip down. Women and the other secretaries stayed together. I can't picture them being in a tent city, and she didn't talk to me about her accommodations. But she was away from her family for that period of months. You know, this is all post-Depression and everyone's working as hard as they can.

This is just an aside. I was grocery shopping with my grandmother years ago up in Reno.

And she said to me, "You girls have it so easy coming here to market."

And I said, "Well, what do you mean, Nonny?" That was her nickname.

And she said, "Well, like you can just buy chicken."

And I said, "Well, what did you used to do? Where would you buy your chicken?"

She said, "Terry, we would go into the backyard on Sunday morning and run around the backyard and catch the chicken and wring its neck and dip it in boiling water and pluck it and then cook the chicken. And we would have chicken on Sunday."

And I thought we have no idea how easy our life is. This is a woman, though, that raised three kids during the Depression. My mom was born in 1927, then her sister in '29, and then another sister five years after that. So she had three kids right during the Great Depression. She owned a home, paid \$2500 for her first home in Reno on an acre-and-a-half of land, beautiful brick house. And she was willing to leave her family to come down to be able to supplement their income.

Oh, I think that's a great story. Yeah, that is great.

Well, my grandmother was ahead of her time. None of the girls in her family were college educated. All of the boys were. They were either physicians or attorneys. But they were all just very bright and very resourceful people their whole lives. She lived until 93, to age 93.

Oh, that's exciting.

Yeah.

Before we get to your college years, tell me what integration/segregation was like growing up in Las Vegas?

There was -- I can remember being introduced to -- really the first time we were made aware -- let me start over.

Las Vegas, for the longest time, was sort of insulated from the struggles that were all going on down South. We were insulated for a very long time, it seemed like. As a child here, I had no idea of that Berlin Wall that divided our white community from our black community. I had no idea. I never questioned it or, you know, we were all together and we got along. There were no problems. This would have been in the mid 60s, right, mid to late 60s.

At Valley High School I can remember one of the first times where there was some sort of

conflict where the administration had to sort of mediate. Are we voting fairly for things like the cheerleading squad and making sure that everyone was well represented on the cheerleading squad? Those were the first times, really. So this was in the early 70s for me. This would be '71, '72, '73, in that zone, as a child that came up here.

You have to understand how I was raised: my dad had wonderful athletes, black and white, on his team. And I don't remember as a child making a distinction. One of my favorite athletes that my dad mentored was a man named Cylus Stepps. He was black, and Cylus was my friend. That was all. He would give me Juicy Fruit gum or Beeman's gum during practice.

We would be at the Dula Center. And there was no sense of are we in a safe area of town or dangerous area? There was no sense of that. So I felt lucky as a child to not see black and white because my world was athletes. And that's all that my dad -- we never discussed it at any length. My dad had a bigger problem between a lazy athlete and a kid that was hustling. I mean, I knew that distinction. I didn't know any other difference. So I think I had a little different exposure maybe just because I grew up around athletes of every color. It was great.

So high school was my first time where there was any kind of unrest or any of us having to figure out if our cheer squad was properly represented and if the voting had been fair in making sure that everyone could cast their vote.

So like I say, I think I was one of the lucky kids in terms of never being raised to think in terms of how our city may have been divided up, black, white.

There was a group of girls at one of the schools -- and I can't think of the name of the school -- it was a precision step group.

Would that have been at Clark High School?

I want to say Rockettes. But, of course, it's not the Rockettes. But there was a group that did precision drill team-type things. And I wondered if you remembered them.

Well, I'll tell you what I do remember. I was a Brandant, which was precision pom-pom drill team at Valley High School. But that was all to the pop music of the 70s, and we were called the Brandants. I remember a group, and I think they were the Rythmettes.

Rythmettes.

From Vegas High School. That's who you're thinking of, Claytee.

Yes.

Yeah. And they were fabulous. We never had any kind of competition, but they would have kicked us all around town if we had because they were great. They would just light the place up whenever they would perform.

Yeah?

Oh, yeah, they were great.

Okay, good. Now, tell me about leaving Las Vegas because it sounded as if you were in such a cocoon. This was just a wonderful place to grow up. Now you have to leave. What is that like leaving that close-knit family, leaving a close-knit community and now going away for the first time?

Well, I drove 470 miles in my Mustang II Gia and drove directly into the front entrance of University of Nevada Reno and moved in with my grandmother. So I didn't get far.

Did you travel alone?

No. Bill LeBaron. I had a good friend. And I'll tell you a little bit of a Nevada name. The first day of Spanish class in Orr Junior High in seventh grade, there was a seating chart. I don't know how Drakulich got next to the "L" for LeBaron. This kid turned to me -- because I've been teased about my last name my whole life, as you can imagine -- he turned to me and he said, "Drakulich?"

And I said, "Yeah." I don't think I said what about it, but. I said, "Yeah," waiting for it.

And he said, "My best friend in Reno was Gene Drakulich. Are you related?"

I said, "That's my cousin. He's my second cousin."

He said, "Oh, my gosh."

Bill and I became friends in junior high. We remained good friends all through junior high and high school. So when we graduated in '74 from Valley, he went to UNR, also. So he was in his car and I was in mine, and we rode sort of caravan style up to Reno.

So, you know, my cocoon -- I moved to Reno and I lived with my grandmother. My two aunts live up there. One aunt's in Reno and one's in Carson.

So this cocoon was statewide, really.

Oh, very statewide. There is no place I could go that I didn't have a family member, to this

day. We still have family in Ely and McGill, as well as Reno and Carson City. So there's family everywhere. So I didn't get far.

Good. So what was Reno like?

Redneck. Very different.

Oh, so tell me about that.

Very different.

How did you feel about that?

I looked like I dressed different. I think I felt different. I think from down here -- sophisticated is the wrong concept because this is 1974. I wasn't sophisticated in any way. But getting up to Reno, everything was jeans and sweaters. It was just very different for the Vegas kids. I don't know about the guys so much. I don't know how Bill felt. But the girls that came from Reno looked different than the girls who had just graduated high school that were from the Reno area.

So give me an example. What do you mean by that?

Just how we dressed. We probably dressed a little fancier and just kind of looked a little different. And I don't know if there was that -- I can't believe that there could have been that north-south dilemma even back then of, oh, these are the Vegas kids coming in, you know, like we're some sort of carpetbaggers, I guess. I don't know. Reverse.

So that was one of the differences: it was just very much more laid-back, a lot slower from what we were used to in Vegas. I loved it. It was a great place to go to college. Yeah, it was just a great place for a college experience.

Now, what was your major?

Speech, communication and journalism.

And you lived with your family the entire time?

I did not. I lived with my grandmother for one semester. I pledged a sorority my freshman year and moved into the sorority house by my second semester of my freshman year. I lived between kind of a combination of family, sorority and apartments during my four-and-a-half years that I was in school.

Okay, good. So now, four years in Reno. How did your social life change from the

high school social life in Las Vegas, horseback riding, probably parties and dances here in Las Vegas? How did that change in Reno?

You know, I think there was probably just more beer, for lack of a better concept. It was the same. It was the same. Except it was sorority. It was Greek life. So it was sorority and fraternities, and there were still dances. We had all of the Reno dances or the UNR dances. So there's Hell on the Hill Dance, Homecoming, Coconuts, which is an ATO dance.

What is ATO?

Alpha Tao Omega. And that's actually an important part of all this history. Most of the Drakulich men have been ATOs. My parents had their wedding reception at the ATO house up in Reno, which I have photos of. It was just a glorious mansion back then. By the time I got up there, it had pretty much been partied out and wrung out. So it looked really different.

But I can remember thinking when I'd be in the living room, oh, my gosh, that's the mantel where I got the wedding photo of my parents right there. What happened?

So I don't think that it changed that much. There was still a huge group of us from Las Vegas. Pam Tarkanian, Bill LeBaron, myself -- oh, gosh, just a lot of Las Vegas kids that went up to UNR at the same time.

It was your typical college experience. I don't think it's too much different for the kids now. Lots of keggers, lots of beer, lots of parties and some school thrown in here and there.

Yeah, I was very unfocused my first two years and did horribly. I found my majors that I loved, and I did great my last two years and then finished up. I think I had to take an extra semester of like nine credits to finish up. So I was done by '78.

Okay, good. Now, did your sister follow you to Reno?

She started at UNLV. She stayed at home. She stayed at UNLV for her first probably year, maybe even year and a half, and then she went up to Reno and finished up there.

Now, why do you think she decided to do it that way?

She's always been more of the homebody. She's always been. My dad and I had been very close, and my mom and my sister had been very close. I think she was just more of a homebody. And once I was gone -- you know, I was busier. I was always doing -- you know, there was a game to go to or something to be doing for school. I was always busy and kind of kept the

household pretty busy, I'm going to guess as I look back.

I think once I left, I think the household quieted down. It was just my sister as a high-schooler and my parents who were both working. I think they had a really nice quiet routine. So it was probably nice for her to have me gone.

I hope she hears this someday.

We have to make sure of that.

Did you date at Reno seriously?

Not seriously. I had a boyfriend that I met, oh, probably my second semester of my freshman year that I pretty much dated for the three years up until my senior year. And then we broke up. Then I did not date anyone seriously.

So once you finished Reno, did you move back to Las Vegas?

I didn't. I went to school in the journalism department with a fellow named Ed Rogich. Eddie was graduating at the same time I did. I worked in the publicity office of UNR for the summer school publicity and was feeling like I probably really needed to finally get off campus. You know, I had graduated, but I was still working on campus. I called Ed one day over spring break and just said, "Hey, Ed, what are you doing? Do you want to get together over spring break?"

He said, "Hey, what are you doing? My brother, Sig, is hiring account executives at his ad agency. Why don't you interview with him?"

So I came down to Las Vegas over that spring break and put my little resume together, as it was, and went to R&R Advertising. It used to be over off of the Strip. The Venetian is there now, the Venetian Hotel. They were in a little suite of offices. I was interviewed by him and hired.

So I was hired to work in the Reno office. It was the only statewide agency at the time, and I worked in Reno for two years, until 1980. Then Sig transferred me down here to work as an account executive. Shortly after I moved down here in 1980, though, the account supervisor --

(End side 2, tape 1.)

So you were an account executive and you are transferred here and you become the supervisor. Tell me what this is all about. What does this kind of an agency do?

Well, R&R Advertising was at that time, as I mentioned, the only statewide ad agency that

we had. It was the largest. There were really only two ad agencies that really specialized in political campaigning. That would be Joyce Advertising -- and a wonderful man named Jim Joyce was the owner of Joyce -- and then R&R Advertising, which was owned by Sig Rogich. So we handled hotels. We did marketing plans, all aspects of advertising, PR for hotels, for small individual retail. The bulk of the work, though, was designing, implementing and executing political campaigns for elections. That was basically what we did.

So you put together the ad itself for television and radio?

Sure. There would be a whole team, a creative group of print and artists, as well as writers. The account executives would oversee that. They would be sort of the producers, for lack of another concept there. Everything from billboards to the mailers to the T-shirts to the road signs to anything that you saw that was related to a political campaign. So TV spots, radio spots, all of it.

Did you have to be careful about your political leanings yourself?

I didn't. No, I never did. I was so young. I'm not sure at age 23 that I had a political leaning. You know what I'm saying?

Yes.

During those early years, I'm not sure. We handled both Democratic and Republican candidates.

But you did them equally, as well?

Absolutely. Absolutely. We handled Paul Laxalt's campaigns. We handled Harry Reid's campaigns. You do the best job that you can for your client. That was always the goal.

Good. Did you ever think about politics?

Never. That's like seeing sausage making. If you go to the sausage factory, you don't want to eat sausage, necessarily.

No. You know what? It's a hard life. Those men and women don't have much of a private life and they always have to be interacting and meeting needs. A public life is a very hard life. So that's the only reason I say never. I just think it would be a tough way to go.

We traveled everywhere. One of the things that we did was travel up to the Basque Festival in Elko, Nevada, with Paul Laxalt, who's Basque. And, you know, your days start very

early in the morning with a flight up there and all day shaking hands and listening and talking and interacting and then a flight back. And then maybe there's a dinner to go to at the end of that day. So I just think it's a real tough life.

Speaking of travel, did you ever do any foreign travel as an adult?

Yeah, quite a bit. And I'll tell a quick story. Gosh, if Sig ever hears this, all these memories are going to come flooding back.

We handled a really rough campaign one year. We had a wonderful senator who was not our client named Howard Cannon, a long-time Nevada senator, 24 years. He was being challenged by a man who was our client named Jim Santini. They had probably one of the roughest political campaigns that they ever had. Well, in the course of the campaign, they pretty much just -- I think they came out of it with the public angry at how rough the campaign got. And they elected a man named Chic Hecht instead.

So at the end of that, I was pretty burnt out because I had been in the middle of all that campaigning. I was really burnt out, and one of the first overseas trip that I took was given to me by Sig Rogich. I went to Italy. And I was actually able to take my grandmother, who was not born in Italy, but had never been back. She spoke Italian and her family was from there. So it was a paid trip for a week to Italy for two, and I took my grandmother.

Oh, that's wonderful.

So really the ad agency and that work was my first overseas travel. Since that time, I've had lots of cruises. My husband and I just got back from Italy this summer. We went for two weeks with some family. It was beautiful.

What was it like traveling with your grandmother?

Oh, fabulous because she spoke the language. All I learned how to say was "quanto costa," which is how much does this cost? But she could interact, so we were able to go everywhere and interact. It was a lot of fun. She was in her 80s by then. I'm trying to think. Late 70s. She may have been 79 or 80. And she was just in great health and a good sport. She went every place and we saw everything. Yeah, we had a great time.

So are you still in the ad business?

Not at all. I finally went part time. I resigned as the account supervisor and worked part

time for about half a year. I think I worked there through -- I'm going to say late '83, maybe '84.

At that point, though, I went back to UNLV and started my master's and switched careers completely. My speech communication degree I had really not ever done anything with. I was really working out of my journalism degree. But I had always been interested in things like non-verbal communication, interpersonal communication, and intra-personal communication. Isort of had been an ear for all my friends all growing up. I would be the person that they would vent to or unburden themselves to or whatever.

So I went back and started a master's program. At the time it was called Counseling and Educational Psychology and Foundations. But I switched careers. I went back and became a marriage and family therapist.

So between '84 and '87, while exiting the ad agency business and political campaigns in general, I worked as a church administrator in the middle section there just for income, then full time. I got married during this period of time and transitioned to full-time student, so it took me about three years to finish my master's degree, and I switched careers completely.

Oh, that's wonderful.

It has been wonderful. It's been a good career.

So now, are you self-employed now?

I am. I have been in private practice since 1988 and am just self-employed.

So marriage and family.

Marriage and family therapy.

Now, does that mean, then, that if there is a child in a family that has a problem, that you can see that child alone?

I can, yeah.

Okay. Or you can do the entire family?

Correct. Our training is systems-related, which means we often want to work with the whole family instead of just one individual, whether it's a teenager or just one spouse. We prefer to see couples and families and work with the whole system.

How does your husband feel about being married to a family counselor?

Honey, how do you feel about being married to a family counselor?

I get free therapy.

I like an open-minded man.

Yeah. He says he gets free therapy. I don't know about that. This is our second marriage. So we both went into this pretty clear-eyed about what life...You know, the work itself is always interesting because there is always a story, especially from Las Vegas. I've just heard the wildest things you can imagine, which I'll never speak of.

But the business itself is perfect for me having my three children. Pat's two youngest children also live with us. So I go to work, take kids to school by 8:30, I'm at my office at nine, and home between two and three.

Oh, I'd love it.

It is wonderful. And I only do that four days a week. As far as what this meant to me for my family, it's been just the best career change I could have made. If I was still in advertising, I would be traveling and working all the hours that I used to work.

And now we're gearing up for another election. You would probably be in the midst of all of that.

I couldn't even imagine it. Oh, yes, I couldn't even imagine it, although I have been watching with interest this new Ensign and Carter thing that's come up. It's going to be fascinating.

Yes, I think so, too.

It's going to be fascinating.

Now, tell me about UNLV. You're back at UNLV after playing around there, growing up on that campus as a girl and playing around. Now you're back in a professional school. What is the difference? Number one, what is the difference in the campus? Tell us about the appearance of the campus in general.

Well, even in the 80s, the parking was horrible. Any of the students listening to this are going to start laughing because it was bad back in the 80s. The only time it was probably any good was in the 60s. But back in the 80s, we walked everywhere. The campus was fully developed by then. It was massive and fully developed, although I was in a single college. All my classes were in one building. They were all in the college of education. So I never had to --

you know, I parked in one area and went to one building. That made it quite simple for me as a graduate student.

A lot of the professors that were in my college were college of education, so they knew my dad. There used to be a group of professors on campus, and they would play basketball together on Fridays at noon at lunchtime. Yeah, I think Fridays. So a couple of my professors, Bill Marchant and Fred Kerschner and some of my professors from the counseling department were part of that lunchtime basketball squad, Bill Marchant in particular. He was an advisor.

They all knew my dad, so they all knew who I was. When I started, I was still Terry Drakulich. I still had my maiden name.

On the campus, though, I was insulated. I got to go to graduate school in a little bubble because I was only in that one building. But my oldest daughter is 19 and at UNLV, and she's all over that campus. I mean, it's an all-day venture for her to get from one place to another.

That's right because she's taking the basics, probably.

She's all over the place. She's like a shotgun glass on the side of a bar. She's in this building and then she walks, you know, a mile to another building. So she really has to schedule a lot differently than we used to. We had a 15-minute break, and we'd get a soda, and then go to our next class.

Now, in her case, is she a freshman now?

Well, she's in her second year, and I'm thinking she's just finishing up her freshman year. She just started, yeah.

Is she going to do like you did?

Well, which is that? Not know what she wants to do for the first three years?

Yes.

Probably. She hasn't declared a major. She's really talented. She's a wonderful writer. She's a very talented writer. She just absolutely aces all of her English essays and all of that.

Wouldn't you just love to tell her to take --

I would love for her to just zero in -- I want her to do whatever makes her happy. So it doesn't matter.

UNLV has a great journalism school and a great English department. So...

Absolutely. Well, I've thrown out journalism a few times, and she didn't seem to take the bait. She'd be fabulous. She's just a really skilled writer. So we'll see.

How do you feel about her going to school here?

That was her choice. I tried to get her away. I wanted her to have what, in my head, was the typical college experience where you leave home, you're with strangers, you have to get along with a roommate who is weird, maybe, or anything, you know, just to have a different experience.

She didn't know what she wanted to do, and she was pretty practical about it. She said, "I've got the Millennium Scholarship. If I can finish my first two years here and maybe focus in on what I really want to be doing rather than wasting money as a freshman out of state..."

So she did her dad and me a huge favor, I think, by making that choice. But I still tend to say, "Go away, transfer, transfer and have" -- not that I don't want her to graduate from UNLV. I certainly would if that's what she wants to do. But my thing about a transfer was based on, you know, just getting away from your hometown and have sort of a cross-geographical experience where you're meeting people that were raised in a different part of the country. You know, I just think that's so broadening.

Anyway, so she's there. She's at UNLV. So we're coming up on a couple of different generations now at either UNR or UNLV.

Yes, I think that's great.

Yeah, it is great.

Yes, it's wonderful.

We had some early eating establishments here.

Yes, we did.

I know that you didn't go out a lot. You did a lot of eating at home.

Oh, I'll tell you the restaurants that we went to, though. They're just going to jump out at you.

Yeah, tell me.

The Swanky Club on Boulder Highway. Did you ever hear about that one?

Yes.

That's where they had smorgasbord. We're not Swedish, so we didn't really know what

that was. The first buffet. You know, they call them buffets now. But we would go to the Swanky Club for smorgasbord. You know, it was a trip. Boulder Highway was halfway to Boulder City.

If I look back on it now, Claytee, where do you think the Swanky Club was? I'm thinking it was probably where Sunset Station is now or Boulder Station, which is not that far. But it used to feel like we drove out of town.

For Chinese food there was a little restaurant called Gilo's over on Paradise. We would go to Gilo's and have Chinese food. It's long gone. I used to look for it years ago.

This was more during my high school years. Macayo Vegas was the big hangout for all the high school students. We would go to either the Macayo on Charleston, or we would go to -- there's one other. I can't even picture it right now. Macayo Vegas. We would just have chips and salsa, and if we were really splurging, a cheese enchilada for 95 cents.

We were not one of the families in town who went and ate at the hotel restaurants. We went to like the smaller local establishments a lot of times, although I can remember my first husband's graduation luncheon from college was at the top at the Dunes and it was beautiful. You know, just different hotels that are now gone that have been imploded and replaced, that's where a lot of dances would be. So we might be at Caesars Palace for a homecoming dance. We always went out.

Nowadays I think the kids tend to stay in their own gymnasiums, their own high school gymnasiums. But we would always have some convention area that we could go to.

So your high school dances?

They were at nice places.

What about the high school prom, then? It must have been a really nice --

Yeah. I'd have to look back through all my photos to see what they were like.

But more than likely, it was in a casino?

Oh, absolutely.

Now, how were the young high school students treated in the casino atmosphere during your day?

I don't remember. You don't have a sense of security being the way it is now or any of

that. When I was growing up -- this is a story from childhood that I can remember -- we would go to Disneyland in the summers. I can remember asking my mom and dad when we would go into the grocery store, "Where are the slot machines?" And they would always chuckle and say, "Well, Terry, we live in a state where that's the only place that you'll ever see slot machines." I was surprised about that.

So to walk through a casino on our way to a dance, it was just as natural as could be. It was no big deal. No big deal.

Did you see any difference growing up when our casinos were controlled by families? Do you see any difference in that and now that they're controlled by -- or probably in the 80s when they were controlled by Corporate America?

Yes. And this is an impression. I don't have any facts to back this up. But I think before Howard Hughes and before Corporate America took over our gaming here, it was just a lot more phone calls to say we're wanting to go see Shecky Green or we're wanting to go see a show. It was a quick phone call in order to maybe arrange for a night out. I can't remember from the 80s on that ever occurring, not because the town had gotten so big necessarily or that it was more corporate. Maybe it was just my parents. You know, my dad was retiring by '89 and not going out quite as much.

But I think there was probably just a little bit more of the old town. Everyone knew everyone and you could pick up the phone and make a call. You know, Howard Hughes changed all that. He did many things which were so brilliant. But one of his legacies is that Vegas hotels went from being East Coast based to being corporate based.

Yes. Do you remember any of the Vietnam War protests? Did you see any evidence at all of any of that in Las Vegas?

No. I can remember in high school watching the entire Watergate proceedings on TV. But that's all from that era.

When you were working already and you returned here as an account executive, I know you had been back and forth during those years. But living here again, what did you see as the major differences from high school and then six or seven years later when you're living here again?

Well, even in 1980, '81, '82, the population and the traffic was just so --

So you're already beginning to see that?

Yeah, you could feel the squeeze. I lived alone. When I moved back, I moved into an apartment. So there was a greater awareness of safety issues, just pulling into an apartment parking space at night and being aware of things. So just at a personal level, just some of those kinds of things.

As far as citywide, I worked so much. In the early 80s in Las Vegas, we still had to go out of town a lot for a lot of our production resources, a lot of our editing. Channel 8 TV had just put in a big state-of-the-art editing bay. I remember being able to go there and spend a lot of work time at Channel 8 doing editing there where we used to have to go to San Francisco or Los Angeles or other places to get editing done.

So I think maybe for as much as the city was growing, as far as industry and some of that, it was still the Wild, Wild West in a lot of ways. We were just, in the early 80s, coming onboard with things that the bigger cities had had for a long time.

But now there's probably nothing that we really have to go anyplace else for.

I don't think so.

No. Growing up like you did in a gambling town, what was your attitude about gambling?

It never crossed my mind. I'm not a gambler now. That's not a vice or an addiction I ever struggled with. My attitude towards it is that it is just another industry. It's the thing that makes it so I don't pay state income tax, and I'm grateful for every nickel that is spent here. I love our tourists. I love our gamblers that come here.

Now, the flip side of that is as a therapist I treat plenty of folks who struggle with it. So I do know that side of it here, gambling, pornography, the sex industry. There is a side of it that I see now as a therapist that impacts families.

Growing up as a young girl and as a Las Vegas family, we took it for granted. It was never an issue. Like I say, I wondered why the grocery stores in California didn't have the same fun machines that we had here.

Now that you've said that and now that gambling is in 48 states, have those problems

spread now throughout the country for people who have problems with gaming?

Well, I think anytime you have more access to something, certainly -- I've not seen many statistics, although it's probably a little bit like prohibition was. I don't know that gambling didn't occur in those states before it was legalized.

Right.

There's probably that trade there, too.

This is a good question for you. I ask everybody about the power in this city, in this county. With your background in campaigns and all of that, where do you see the power in this city? Is it in the gaming community, or is it in our government? Is it in the county government? The city government?

Well, let me think this through. I think there's the age old battle within the state of how much revenue Las Vegas and Clark County provide to the state commerce. So there's always, always going to be that. That's never going to change because of the population difference, right? Las Vegas will always have greater revenues.

So I think there's a sense of -- not entitlement. But there has to be an awareness throughout the whole state of where the bulk of the money is coming from.

In terms of power, because money and power go hand in hand, but in terms of power, what I have always seen is that sometimes power is held in the smallest decisions. So there are small commissions and smaller groups of people, I think, that maybe make a decision on how a parcel of land gets zoned that have as much power outcome in the big scope of this as you would think the governor's office might. Do you know what I'm saying about that, Claytee?

Yes, yes.

Having seen it behind the scenes, I think power is an interesting thing for any group of people. Sig Rogich enjoys that work behind the scenes to help with elections and to do that. I think those decisions are not big group decisions. They are made really just at the smallest, most private level in terms of if Jim Joyce -- he's deceased now -- but if Jim were to decline a political campaign and not handle the campaign and that particular candidate had to go elsewhere other than R&R or Joyce Advertising, that small decision could change the outcome of many things. So that's what I mean by how power is held.

I do want to say of all my work experience, for as crazy as advertising is, my most positive work experience was at R&R Advertising.

Okay, great.

It was a wonderful place to work. Sig Rogich was a fabulous person to work for, the most loyal, generous boss that anyone could ever have. Our circles don't cross now. But I can't imagine that that is any different for the people that work for him now.

That's wonderful. You are a female entrepreneur in a male city. I want to know about business practices in a place like this. I want to know what it's like being your own boss now after working for someone for years. The atmosphere of this city -- you probably can't compare it with any other city. But do you think it's different here for a female entrepreneur, just generally what it's like for a woman being in business and transacting business?

I may not be the best person to ask that question because my business is not divided by male and female as much as it is by who went to medical school, the psychiatrist versus the psychologist versus the therapist. And in my business, there is no male and female. I would say the majority of therapists are female, for whatever reason. But I don't have a statistic. I would say the majority of psychiatrists in town are male. There are some wonderful female psychiatrists, but still in the minority, maybe 70/30 for psychologists. So my business is not necessarily divided now.

I joined the Chamber of Commerce when I first got into private practice. I do my amount of pro bono work. It tends to be towards college students. That's my little soft spot. And if there's a college student who can't get help through the student health center or through their counseling services, then they're welcome to come to my office and I'll see them for free.

So my business is very insulated as far as how I can make decisions of who to treat, when to work and all of that. So I'm not sure my business is one of those typical "woman in Las Vegas starting out." I've always been very blessed. My business has done well from the day that it opened up, and it just has always done well. I just consider that a blessing, so I don't know that there's any magic formula --

(End side 1, tape 2.)

We were just talking about being in business, being a female and running a business. Do you see anything about your business that would be easier if you were older, if you were male, if you were...

My particular business and industry is not geared for the young. Think about it. If you have a 40-year marriage that's in trouble, do you want a 24-year-old trying to tell you how to fix that? Right?

But you look so young. Is that a problem?

No. No. Once they hear I'm almost 50...

Well, they don't ask. Once they meet me, they understand.

And you make sure that they know this.

Well, I've been in practice now since '88. So that's how long. I'm going on 18 -- well, and I was working before that. I worked at Bridge Counseling and Parents United before that. So I really have been working in the counseling field for almost 20 years. So that's not a problem.

So in mine, it's the reverse. I'm in a field where as you age, you get wiser and your age is more respected. I always say this in counseling. I feel like I've always connected equally as well with my female clients as my male clients, and I think there's a reason for that.

A lot of men don't want to come to a female therapist sometimes. But because of being raised by my father and being raised around athletics and around men, I've got such a comfort level in being able to connect with and relate to and find out about their activities. I can talk sports with them, and not in a superficial way, the way you see some women try and do. But I truly enjoy athletics. So I think that's all helped in the big picture.

Like I say, I'm not the best person to ask. I've not had any tough time of it in that way.

Good.

My dad always used to say, "Terry, connections might be able to get you in the door, but they won't keep you there."

So it's of interest to me that when I first interviewed at R&R, it wasn't my father that made any kind of a phone call. It was the fact that I had gone to journalism school with Ed Rogich. The irony was as Sig read through my resume, he looked at me and said, "Is this a joke?"

I was mortified and I thought, oh, my Lord, what did I leave out or what did I put in there?

And I said, "Excuse me."

And he said, "Did Eddie put you up to this?"

And I said, "I don't know what you're talking about."

As it turned out, Sig and I have the same birth date. I was president of my sorority; he was president of his fraternity. He graduated from UNR. We wrote for The Sagebrush, for the school newspaper. We were members of the Journalism Society. So my resume -- while probably Sig is 12 years older than I am -- had all the same stuff on it.

So I look back on that and, even getting my first job, my first real job, it was not a matter of who you knew or connections or anything like that. It was just if you're qualified to do what you're supposed to be doing, then you'll get hired.

And I still feel that about -- I don't know what other people that you've interviewed have said. Maybe because I am an insider, I have felt like everything was wide open in this state. That if you are passionate about what you're doing and you're qualified to do what you're trying to get hired to do, then you'll get hired.

Well, some people have told me that they think "juice" is really important in Las Vegas.

Isn't that funny?

Yes.

And I experienced the opposite. Maybe I didn't realize what doors it could have opened. But as far as working at R&R or graduate school or opening private practice, it didn't seem to play a big part.

Well, I think your father's counsel, though, is just very wise.

"Juice" can get you in, but it won't keep you there. That's right.

That's right. I think that's very wise.

You grew up almost in downtown. Have you been downtown recently?

Well, which part of downtown do you mean? Fremont Street Experience or --

Yes. Downtown, yes, Fremont Street.

Well, yeah. I went to the Centennial Parade. My husband and I were front and center with the old-timers. So I go downtown.

The irony is the older I get and the longer I live here, the smaller my world gets. I don't leave Summerlin. All my physicians -- I mean, if you think about it, you find a dentist, you find a doctor, you find grocery stores, everything is just in this little world here. So I don't get out.

I am more likely to spend time in the downtown area on my way to Nellis Air Force Base -- my husband's retired Air Force -- and going through that side of town than I am to be in Green Valley. I don't even know how to get around in Green Valley. That's like the dark side of the moon to me because we don't go there.

We just don't ever get to Green Valley. And I have great friends that live there that I went to college with and people that we love that live down there. The Pooles live there and the Sunstroms that I mentioned earlier. They all live there and I wouldn't even know to get to their houses because we just don't go over there.

Tell me how you feel when you go downtown now compared to the downtown that you grew up in.

You know what I would like to do? There are two things that I miss about downtown and if I could do them -- I miss the signage. I miss Vick and Vicky. I miss the old signage. I would love to be able to walk through the signage graveyard and just see what's there and see what's left.

Then the other area of our town -- right now it's probably -- other than your project, Claytee, I know that Lynn Zook has got a project going on that I'm going to be helping with, I think. But Springs Preserve is the thing closest to my heart. Downtown, I think we have Oscar doing a fabulous job of maintaining and promoting and developing as much downtown to continue to get the life back. And he's doing a great job doing that.

Oh, I agree.

But my heart, giving birth to third generation Nevadans, are those Springs Preserves because that's the --

So tell me about that. Tell me your connections with it.

Oh, my gosh. Well, to me -- I have no connection except that's where our town came from as far as the pioneers. So we have Bugsy Siegel and the Flamingo Hotel, if you look at the gaming aspect, and the Springs Preserve and the Mormon pioneers. Those are just our oldest parts of town that we have to absolutely protect and baby. I just think it's so special, a project that

they're putting on to develop that.

I haven't done a thing with it. I have my Springs Preserve license plate on the back of my car that I'm promoting. My \$30 a year is going to go to help something, I guess. But that's something I want to look into just because I think that's our oldest spot in town, more so than from my childhood, which is downtown, eating lunch at Woolworth's and going to the department stores and doing that stuff. I think the Springs Preserve is fascinating.

Okay. Now, that is wonderful.

Are there any other stories that you've thought of along the way that you haven't had a chance to tell me? Anything that you'd like to add that you can think of?

Well, I'm sure I'll think of all of them as soon as you leave.

That's right.

That's how it happens.

When you think of decades like the 60s, we talked about that, the 70s --

The 80s was just about business growth here. That's what the 80s was. And then, of course, the 90s is all the hotel growth. The 80s and 90s, with the beginning of the Bellagio -- well, when the Dunes went and the Sands went just to make room for the bigger hotels --

How did you feel about that? How do you feel about the mega resort versus those nice places like the Desert Inn and the Dunes and the Sands?

You know, I understand progress and growth, and I'm okay with that. Like I say, I'm grateful for every gaming nickel that comes into our state. Believe me, I'm a Nevada girl that way.

So I appreciate Steve Wynn and Bobby Baldwin and all of the corporate side of what's happened. I appreciate that. I am sad with every hotel they implode. I think for some reason the Sands probably made me most sad. And I don't know if that has to do with the Rat Pack days, because I had no connection to that at all. I have no idea. But when the Sands went, that was very sad to see that go down, that and the Dunes.

The DI was just always a real -- that to me was always our -- it was one of the oldest properties, but it was just one of the classiest. I just always loved the DI.

So I can't think of anything else. I know I have a lot of stories. I have a lot of educational stories about Ruby Thomas and what life was like there and some things like that. But unless we

did something that was more -- not necessarily UNLV based, but it was more just education in the community, it's probably more appropriate for that.

Well, this is great. This is wonderful. Your whole grasp of the city is just wonderful for this interview.

Oh, well, good. Well, I hope it helps. I hope it lends a little something else to the archive and what's going on. If there's anything else that you think of, please -- I'm here.

My greatest regret is that we didn't know to contact anyone. You'll want to know how I happened to call you. It was when we got the UNLV alumni magazine and there was a picture of my dad. That was my dad in that picture talking on the telephone.

That's right.

That's how I knew to call you.

That's right.

I'm not even sure I would have seen the article.

That's correct.

And I would have just beaten myself up if I had missed out.

Now, did you ever know Bruce Layne?

Yes. Yes. Bruce spoke at my dad's funeral. One of my dad's last public events that he did was Bruce's book signing in Green Valley. Don't ask me how he found it. Bruce, to this day, has always credited my dad with changing his life.

That's right.

I have one other quick story to tell you. I'll tell you one more story.

Good. Yes.

I don't know what kind of time frame you're on. You're probably a little tight today. But I could show you something real quick that you might like. But at my dad's funeral, there were -- many people were there. Many spoke at it. Jim Bilbray and Harry Reid attended. Jim Bilbray spoke and he said, "I've never spoken at a funeral before, but I just have to get up and say something."

Corky Poole and my dad's golf buddies, his cronies from Sun City, and Bruce, everybody was there. At the end of the service -- we had it in a really big church. It was at Canyon Ranch,

up in the north side of town. It's an auditorium and amphitheater-style church. It was a memorial, so the flowers were up and everything was still set up down front. We were all up in the foyer area, and I watched a man walk in, and he signed his name on my dad's memory book. Then he just silently walked down.

I had been talking to a group of people and I said, "Excuse me. I'm going to go down and see who this is."

He was wearing a long black leather duster. I walked down front and I said, "I'm Terry Miller-Newcomb. Chub was my dad. And, you know, I noticed that you came in late. We've already had the service."

This man was already crying, so I said, "Here's some Kleenex." The counselor part of me kicked in and I introduced myself again. I said, "My name is Terry."

He finally said, "My name is Jimmy Errington. Your dad changed my life."

And I said, "Well, tell me the story." I do like you do. I said, "Tell me the story."

He said, "I was a basketball player for him at Rancho High School. He encouraged me and got me the scholarship to go to NSU." And he said, "I wouldn't have gone to college if it wasn't for your dad."

I wish I had a nickel for every story that I've heard.

That's right.

My dad always used to say to me -- he always used to say, "I'm the luckiest man alive. I am less a professor and really less a coach than I've just been a counselor to all these kids."

And that's really what he saw his role being. And he was just as fair-minded with everybody as you could be.

How did he get that nickname?

Chub?

Chub.

Oh, he was so skinny. Growing up in McGill, Nevada, you talk about segregation. There was Greek town. There were the Serbs. There were the Italians. There were the folks up on the hill that owned Kennecott. Okay. No one knew who those folk were, I'm guessing. Well, who knows where they came from?

So it was just this little village within McGill, Nevada, which you have to understand is 13 miles outside of Ely, Nevada, which is small itself, right? So you know how small this is. Everyone had a nickname.

My dad was the youngest of six children to Milan Drakulich and my grandmother. His brother Steve's nickname was Bo-Bo. You know, everyone had a nickname. His sister Helen, was Yelly. They all had nicknames.

Well, my dad was so skinny when he was a child that they called him Chub just for the irony. So he got the nickname Chub and it stuck. His whole life he was always Chub Drakulich. So that's where the nickname came from.

It's amazing that you saw his photograph because we were looking for a photograph of Bruce Layne maybe with the baseball team, but we couldn't find it.

You're kidding? See, I've got it.

Oh, wow.

I've got it. That's what I want to show you.

Oh, this is wonderful.

If you've got just a minute.

Yes, I want to see that.

Isn't that funny?

Yes.

So you put in the picture of my dad on the telephone.

So the editor of our newsletter found that photograph and decided to use it.

Isn't that funny?

Yes.

Bruce and I talk. My dad was already sick and Bruce had come -- I'm trying to think if he came here to my house or over to my dad's house at the time because he wanted to kind of do the same thing. He wanted to get my dad just to talk into the microphone and get some stories. Well, let me show you what I was going to show you, if you've got just a minute.

Well, and I thank you so much for this interview.

Thank you so much. You are very welcome.

(End side 2, tape 2.)