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# An Interview with Dr. Donald Moyer

An Oral History Conducted by Claytee D. White

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The UNLV @ Fifty Oral History Project

Oral History Research Center at UNLV

University Libraries

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  
Director, Oral History Research Center  
University of Nevada Las Vegas

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## Preface

Dr. Donald Moyer was born on a farm in Central Illinois. His parents were farmers, but moved to Decatur, Illinois, when Donald was six. Consequently, he went to grade school and high school in Decatur. He then earned a bachelor's degree at the University of Illinois in Champaign, Illinois. His master's and PhD were taken in psychology at the University of Chicago.

Dr. Moyer has had a long and illustrious career. After college he helped raise money and students for the University of Chicago and then moved to Portales, New Mexico as director of finance for higher education in the state government. He next served as president of Eastern New Mexico University for five years. From there he came to UNLV in 1965 as chancellor/president, a position he held for 3 years, and worked in marriage and family counseling for almost 30 years right here in Las Vegas. He spent a year in the Los Angeles area doing commercial psychology, and then became vice president at University of Alaska, working there for 7 years.

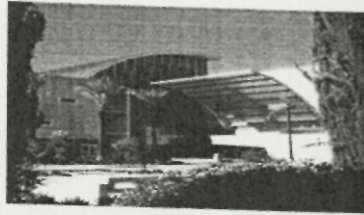
While president, Dr. Moyer focused much of his energy getting regents, community members, and the faculty and student body to recognize the needs of the university. His wife's contributions to this effort were invaluable, as she made their home a warm and inviting place. By bringing these people together into a cohesive unit, monies could be raised to add buildings, staff, and schools that would enhance the quality of education, raise the reputation of the university, and develop UNLV into a leading institution.

Much of Dr. Moyer's work during his time as president was "emancipating" UNLV from UNR. This meant creating a faculty senate working only for UNLV, having regents who really represented UNLV, and finding people in the community who would volunteer time and money to carry out the vision of a great university.

Today Dr. Moyer and his wife enjoy living in Las Vegas. They stay current on what's happening at UNLV by attending meetings for retired faculty and administrators. Their two daughters have moved to Las Vegas as well, so they have a rich social and family life. He still practices marriage and family counseling, and sees UNLV as a school which will continue to grow in reputation and stature.

ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER AT UNLV

UNLV Oral History Project @ Fifty



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Ronald C. Moyer                      4/17/07  
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Claytee D. White                      4/17/2007  
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**This is Claytee White. I'm with Dr. Donald Moyer. It is April 17th, 2007. We're in the Reading Room of Special Collections.**

**How are you this morning?**

Very good.

**Fantastic. Just to get us started, tell me about your early life, where you grew up and about your family.**

Well, I was born on a farm in Central Illinois in the corn country. My parents were farmers. But by the age of about six, they moved off the farm to Decatur, Illinois. That's where I went to elementary school and high school and finally to the University of Illinois in Champaign, Illinois, and of course on from there.

**Did you have any sisters and brothers?**

No, I was an only child.

**Tell me what kind of farm.**

It's corn country. Corn is the main crop. There's very rich, dark soil in Central Illinois. We had horses and cows and the usual things on a farm. But corn was the big thing.

**Did you have to work in the fields?**

No. We left the farm when I was only about six years old. Oh, I remember many experiences with the farm and farm animals, sick animals and horses and cows and all of that. But we left the farm when I was still pretty young.

**After leaving school, did you get all of your degrees at Champaign?**

No. I did the bachelor's degree and then went on to the University of Chicago because we moved to Chicago. I did my master's and Ph.D. in psychology in Chicago.

**What did your father do in Chicago?**

He didn't live that long. He died while we were still in Illinois. Both parents died while we were still in Illinois.

**What was your major?**

It's always been in psychology or related to it. I've done psychology most of my life. For almost 60 years I've been a marriage and family therapist and am still doing it part-time.

**That's fantastic. So tell me about some of the first jobs you had after the Ph.D.**

Well, I did a lot of work here in Las Vegas in marriage and family for almost 30 years. We went to the Los Angeles area and I worked a year there in psychology, more of a commercial psychology. Then I became vice president at the University of Alaska. I spent seven years there. Ever since we came back to Las Vegas, which was about 1975, in that area, I've been doing psychology.

**Did you spend some years in Chicago after college?**

Yes. I worked for the University of Chicago with alumni to get money and students. From there I went to Portales, New Mexico, and became president of Eastern New Mexico University. First, though, I went to New Mexico as director of finance for higher education in the state government. Then I became president of Eastern New Mexico University and was president for five years before coming here to Las Vegas.

**So that's how you got involved in administration in New Mexico. So did you like the Southwest more than the Midwest, more than Chicago?**

Oh, yeah. The Southwest is contagious. There are many great things. The weather is usually pretty good. Oh, we've had such great times. Portales was a small town, but we had a lot of students. They were good students and they come from all over that area. Those were five great years that we had before coming here.

**So how did you hear about the job at UNLV? It was not UNLV at the time.**

I can't tell you exactly how I learned about it. I think somebody told me that there was an opening or going to be and that I might just fit into it. So I think I wrote -- I let it be known and they had me in for an interview.

**Now, when you got here you were really the first person to carry the title president.**

I came as the chancellor. They later reversed it. A guy named Miller was the chancellor at the Reno campus. You see, when I came it was Nevada Southern, and that really sounded like just a junior college. We had to begin to work very hard to find a better nomenclature than Nevada Southern. There was Northern Nevada. So we went through quite an exercise to finally get to UNLV.

**Well, tell me some of that process.**

Well, it's a little bit hazy except I know that we were in the south and we were come-lately. The



north was well organized in higher education and they saw us as just a branch of themselves when I first came. I said that won't do. So I spent a lot of energy in the first year, at least, in getting emancipated as it were or getting on an equal basis. It finally came out with Mr. Armstrong being president and a guy named Miller being chancellor and then I'm chancellor down here. Then they reversed it and they made us presidents down here and in Reno with the chancellor being over both of us, coordinating both campuses.

**So now, you came in 1968. Am I right?**

1965.

**Oh, you came here in 1965.**

And stayed until '68.

**Okay. So tell me what this place looked like in 1965.**

Well, in some ways it was just a widening of the street front. It had Maude Frazier Hall and Grant Hall facing Maryland Parkway. There was a Boy Scout center over on the east side. That would be the south side of the campus. There was a foundation building, religious, Catholic and Protestant together just above that. Then there was a dormitory way on out for athletes mainly. That's where the athletes stayed.

The first floor of the library was there. The classroom building was -- I think it's now called Wright Hall. I'm not quite sure. But the one phase of it was standing there and that's where we had our classes. My office was in the round part of that building. The old gym was out here. We called it the old gym. I don't know what it is now. Oh, the radioactive people were over here on the north side of the campus. Their buildings I notice are still in there.

**Desert Research?**

Desert Research. So there was a lot of nice distance between the buildings, which you don't have now.

**Right. Space is too valuable. That land is valuable.**

It is.

**Who were some of the people that you worked with when you first arrived?**

Well, we began to realize that if we're going to go anyplace with this branch of the University of Nevada -- and that's all they wanted to call us -- that we really had to get emancipated. The best

way to do that was to get a lot of community leaders behind us. So there was Thomas and Mack and there were, oh, just any number of hotel people. We spent a lot of time getting the Tropicana in with us. It turned out that many of these people helped us financially, but they also helped us get political power.

So within a year we began to know that we could get emancipated. I had to scrape all the years I was here to get completely on our own under the canopy of the system. But they wanted to make us always just a branch of Reno. Reno got -- their student ratio was about eight to one. Ours was about 20 to one. We really went to the mat with these guys. And, you know, after you fight so hard you don't stay long because you burn yourself out with them. But I spent five years.

**Who was the governor?**

I believe Sawyer was the governor, Grant Sawyer.

**And what was it like working with Sawyer and the people in the north?**

Well, you had to kind of get them down here and let them know what our problems were and what our intentions were. That's what we tried to do; get them on campus and entertain them in our home. We had a home up toward the Strip with several others. The Macks and others lived in that area. We had a beautiful pool and a living room that surrounded it. Jewel, my wife -- and she had help -- and I entertained all these people because you had to make friends. You've got to get to know them. They've got to get to know you. Then you can begin to say now here's what we're trying to do. I hope you're with me.

**So now, Jewel had a very, very important role to play.**

Oh, yes. With the gals, the wives on campus, she was a great partner. All of that together helped us get to the point where we could begin to take a breath and say we're somebody.

**It's interesting that you continue to say 'get emancipated'. Tell me about the school colors.**

You mean UNLV's colors? I can't tell you very much about the colors. Somehow that just doesn't come to me. There seems to be some red in it.

**That's right and what about the name, the Rebels?**

Oh hey, the student government was the real rebel. We always had the top students in our home to work around the pool and decide what we could do. We had some fantastic guys. Gosh, I don't know what they ever did with their education as they moved on. But I have pictures of these guys

in the groups. We buddy-buddied. We had to, to get them to really work with us. So we had the students working.

The faculty began to cohere. Now, there were certain ones that were a little bit miffed because they didn't get the job. We had leaders that really did turn with us. So my job was working with the faculty leaders, the student leaders and the community leaders. In five years that's how we got free. We got all those guys working with us.

We often had the regents down here at meetings. Dr. Anderson, for example, was the leader of the regents and he didn't want to give up anything from Reno for us. We really had to scrap with him. I don't think he ever became our friend. We forced him around a little. But after you work so hard like that and make some enemies because you're really taking away from what they want, you better move on, and that's what we did.

**So that's what you and your wife had to do.**

**But before you talk about moving on, tell me some of those accomplishments that you felt were made during those five years. Is there anything special that you would like to emphasize?**

Well, we had a faculty senate, which used to operate under Reno. But we got our own faculty senate. We had to keep the faculty with us, and some of them were a little hard. Some of them lost out getting my job. But in general, they did very, very well. The great names don't suddenly come to me, but I certainly have a list of them because I had planned to perhaps use them.

Of course, in the community there was E. Parry Thomas and Jerry Mack. This was really a team of guys, like William Boyd and Art Hamm. Jake Houssels was the chief man over at the Trop. There was Judy Bayley, Paul McDermott, Marjorie Barrick, and Jackie Gaughn.

**So some of the same people that you cultivated in 1965 through '68 are some of the same people that still are very, very instrumental in doing things.**

They gave money and their name is on -- Lilly Fong comes to mind. Juanita White was from Boulder City. She was on the board of regents, and she became our friend. And, of course, there is Leonard Goodall, who is still here. Jerry Crawford was my dean. Maybe I'll see Jerry at this meeting where we're having next week. I also remember Holbert Hendrix and Bill Carlson. Now Bill wanted this job very badly, so I don't think he ever warmed up to me very much. But he

joined us eventually. Herman Westfall was my business manager. I can't leave out John Wright. You remember those names. These are great people. I have to take my hat off to them. We couldn't have done what we did without them joining the team.

**At some point did you have the governor, the community leaders, the student leaders and faculty -- everybody in your home at the same time?**

Well, that was really too many. The regents would have meetings down here and we would try to have the regents. Then we would have faculty gatherings with the leading faculty. Our home I don't think was ever big enough for all of them. But we had the leaders, and we also had the student leaders often. We treated them like adults, and they just bloomed it seemed.

**That's wonderful. Where was your house? Where was it located?**

It's just off Las Vegas Boulevard. The street doesn't come to me at the moment. But it was on Park Place. We had the Macks. Many, many different people who were in the industry lived around us.

**Before you came here of course, even if you work with a community, you did not work with a gambling community.**

It was new to me.

**How was that?**

That was good. I found out these guys -- they were for us and we could get them on our team. The only problem in my time was that so many of the heads of casinos were only employees of the larger corporation that wasn't fully here. So we could work with those guys. They often didn't have the power to give money that I wanted from them because they were simply employees. But that's changed greatly now I think. Certainly, Las Vegas is on the map as far as the gaming communities. We had to work pretty hard to get some of those guys to give money because they weren't in charge of the money.

But Jake Houssels and many others, we met with those guys on a regular basis, at least once a month, and had a meeting and told them what we needed and how they could help us. It is so important to get everybody with you if you can.

**That is wonderful. I really enjoy this.**

**Tell me about working with the students at that time. Do you remember any of the**

**topics or issues that you dealt with, with the students?**

Well, I almost hate to say this. The students were instrumental in getting my name on the student union building. They really fought for it. I don't know if it would have ever happened without them.

We talked about all kinds of things, like food service on the campus. If there was a faculty member that was giving them a lot of trouble, we might talk about that because we did have one dean as I mentioned earlier that turned out to be pretty "skitsy" and we had to get rid of him and he didn't want to go.

**Tell me about that dean.**

Well, he was from New York University and he had good credentials and he was highly recommended. We interviewed him. He seemed pretty good. But then he kind of got crazy on us and he would do strange things. He got into a rage at times. We realized we had to get rid of him and he didn't want to go. But we got on him and he finally left.

**How did it feel to have your name on a building?**

Well, when I mention my name to somebody else, it's, "Oh." So you become kind of known. Even though they didn't know me personally, their reaction when I mentioned the name just felt good. So it does get your name around. We worked pretty hard, so they decided to do that. I don't know if they'll continue it or not. It's probably up to a lot of things. But it always felt good. So many people knew me by that building, not by me.

**Now, even though William Carlson was a dean and we consider him the first executive officer of the school, you are really the first president of the school -- chancellor then president.**

That's right. Yes. That was quite an emancipation. When we got named president and began to have regents that really represented UNLV, that really stopped the thinking that everything was centered in Reno. We began to be more equal. Of course, I think we've outgrown them now many times and are probably the leading university. I don't know if they would like to hear that, but I think it's so.

**Especially now that we have such a well-known law school here.**

That's right.

**So you're probably right.**

We have many other well known schools as well. Dental school -- I mean all kinds of things that I never dreamed you'd have the resources to have.

**What do you think about today when you come on campus?**

Where to park the car; it seems like there are millions coming here. The traffic coming in you know. The things that really stump me are the buildings. They're so varied in their design, and that's great. But they've got these letters pointing to it and I don't even know what the letter stands for. So I can get lost real easily. I did have an old map so I knew where this library was, kind of. But to find it I had to ask somebody. The main sidewalks don't quite go where you want them to go. You have to take a sidetrack. But that's not a big thing when you know how the campus lays out.

**Yes. So many buildings interrupt the sidewalks.**

And they are so close together. I remarked that there was a great grassy knoll between here and the parking lot and it had beautiful trees. But that was the only one I saw. Maybe there are a couple others. There aren't many.

**Yeah. They had to get rid of a lot.**

**Earlier you mentioned on tape a meeting next week. So just for clarification purposes, what kind of meeting are you coming to the campus for next week?**

It's the retired faculty and administrators. I think it's been going on for a while. We've probably attended three or four years of it. I think Carol started these things because she was always there and usually spoke to us and introduced us. It's been quite a thing. I guess the new president will continue that thing next week. Then, of course, his installation comes just a couple days after that. We'll probably be at that. There's a luncheon following that and we'll probably be at that.

**Great. When the group gets together like that, the past administrators and presidents, what is that like?**

Well, it's fun because we say, "Are you still living? I didn't know you were still among the living." It's that sort of thing. People that you hadn't seen for a long time and you're so glad to see them, they want to get off and reminisce a little bit about how it was when they were here and what we did and maybe some things we didn't do that we should have. It's always stimulating.

We have a lot of fun just interacting.

**Speaking of fun, when you and your wife first came here back in the '60s, mid '60s, it was a time of turbulence all across the country. I know you did a lot of entertaining in your home. But what kind of outside entertaining did you and your wife participate in?**

Well, I don't know if we participated so much as we did go to the shows. We did get to know the chief administrative officers and they would often have cocktail parties. I can remember some cocktail parties that were in beautiful ballrooms. We had some special meetings in the hotels ourselves where we had a speaker come in that would be interesting to everybody. Of course, we were promoting the university at the same time. But we used the hotels because that's where the money was if there was going to be big money. Somebody was related to the hotels.

**At that time were you conscious about setting a standard as president? Being the first president, what did this mean to you? Were you trying to blaze a trail for others or how did you look at that role while it was happening?**

Well, I had been president for five years over at Eastern New Mexico University and I learned a lot about universities, of course, in that setting. In university development as you well know it takes money because we have to build buildings and we have to fund specific projects. Even the state doesn't do all of that. In some places the state does pretty good. But we've got to get the community with us because they feed in the students and we've got to work the student body. We want good students. We have to keep the faculty pretty happy. We have to honor those achieving things in their teaching career and the community itself. I think we've got to worry about the faculty and the curriculum and the students that are going to enjoy it and profit by it and the community that's going to be great supporters and then the donors. Who is going to give us those extra dollars to build those beautiful buildings?

Those that have followed me have done very well with all these buildings and I can guess the millions that have come in from donors to build those buildings. It's unbelievable.

**I think you're right. But I think you also started some of that. Some of the same names that you said to me earlier, community leaders, those are some of the same families that we're still working with, the Boyds, Thomas & Mack and the Houssels.**

I just dread to think what would have happened with the land if we hadn't had a Thomas and Mack

because those guys knew we had to grow. They would buy up the land or they would get the people who owned the land to give us a good price so we could buy it. We wouldn't have near this without those guys that had the money and the juice to get it.

**So tell me, is there any land around here that you wanted but could not get?**

Yeah. We wanted the land on the corner of -- what is that?

**Is that the casino that used to be the Continental and is now Terrible Herbst?**

Yeah, Terrible Herbst. We didn't want to go that far because that's a busy intersection. They said, well, we can get big bucks out of that and we think in the long run -- we'll sell it and give you the bucks. So they did. And, of course, the university has honored them with the Thomas & Mack Center and they deserve it. Thomas is one great guy to run anything and Mack with him. They were tremendously talented people and influential.

You have to play that game if you want to build a university and we enjoyed it. You begin to wonder what you can do next and you kind of find you've exhausted most of it around you. So you move on.

**Now, you talked about our relationship with the north. Even today sometimes we hear rumors that the funding is set up so that the north is still getting more of the money. Do you think that's true?**

Well, I haven't been around Nevada, of course, for a long time in the state government. But I think that's true because the roots are very deep in the north. They have a lot of influence with the legislators of the state. I think the south has made a lot of progress. But there are still those families up there. You know, they're still jealous. They don't want us to outshine them. It's competition. There's no question.

**So we still have that competition?**

Yes. Yes.

**When you talked about some of your major accomplishments earlier, you talked about the group accomplishments. If you had to give me one major thing that you did, what would you say?**

Well, I don't know. I took a lot of pride in trying to develop the school of --

**(End Tape 1, Side A.)**



We worked closely with Mr. Vogliani, who was the director of the hotel association here in Las Vegas. We got him to see that this was a place -- Cornell University had had the big food and hotel service program. We got him to see that this was the place to really have one that was equal with Cornell and be a leader in that area. Gabe Vogliani really got on the wagon with us and began to talk it up among the association. He led the Hotel Executives Association. I mean we got him excited about the fact that we could produce employees that were as outstanding as any employee that could come from Cornell, that this industry was the industry here and that this would be a great service to them if we can have a great school. And it began to grow.

**So really when we look at it from that angle, we can say this university helped to build the Strip, as well as the Strip helping to build the university.**

Yeah. We interacted all along. You know, the talent on the Strip, of course, the big names and so forth, we didn't -- but we developed a great drama department, too. I don't know if they fed to the Strip. But drama and theater began to be a big thing here. Jerry Crawford was my dean and, of course, that was his field. The Flora Dungan center and all those buildings over on that side of the campus weren't here. They were in our dreams, but I never saw them until I came back. It's amazing when you get ahold of the right people what can begin to happen.

**That's right. Now, did you ever meet Dr. Zorn?**

Oh, yes.

**So Dr. Zorn became president after you.**

Yes. I didn't have much influence on choosing him. That didn't mean I didn't like him. But I was moving out and so my influence died.

**So where did you go when you left UNLV?**

Well, we went to Los Angeles and kind of took a year of reminiscing and thinking. I worked with a group where we help people find people for marriage. And that was an experience. There were some (indiscernible) in that group that we were having some trouble with. But it was an experience of how do you devise tests and things that represent compatibility between people? That really got me going more in marriage and family. We had some tremendous experiences trying to develop ways to help people find their mate.

**Any exciting stories?**

Well, I don't remember any great celebrities that we brought together. But these guys I worked for were sometimes a little bit on the edge. I won't name them. But it was an experience. It's amazing what you can learn when you really get into another whole dimension of people in life.

**Let's say that I want to get married, what would you suggest to me?**

Well, eHarmony has a pretty good program. I might suggest that. I could probably make several suggestions of what groups you might think about getting acquainted in just to look over the landscape for guys and so forth.

Of course, after that we got this tremendous offer at the University of Alaska, which we couldn't turn down because my wife liked doing secretarial work and they hired her and they hired me. I was director of planning with the vice president. We had several campuses. We could go into great experiences, like when you're on a dog sled moving into an area and they're thinking about starting a new campus. That becomes quite an experience. It may be 60-below and you're moving in.

**So where was the campus located?**

Fairbanks.

**But from Fairbanks --**

Then we had one in Anchorage. We developed one in Anchorage and one down at Juneau. Then we had centers up in the north part of Alaska. We didn't have any big campuses up there, but we did have instructional centers and then they would feed into the main campus at Fairbanks.

**But you helped to develop the whole educational system, then, of Alaska?**

Well, I won't say that. Bill Wood, who is a friend of mine, the president, had been there a few years. But we did have a major role in developing new centers. I had architects who worked with me. We were designing the buildings for the climate and the situation. I spent seven years doing that. It was a marvelous experience. I know what 60-below feels like, and it goes on for months.

**It just makes me cold to think about it. So did you actually have to use dog sleds get around to some of the places?**

Well, there were times. Yeah. We would fly into a point -- I remember being on a dog sled riding up to a little community we were going to, to see if we could begin to get some classes started up there and get a center going. That's an experience.

**It is an unusual experience. And because most of the people listening to this, even though it's about UNLV -- I need to know a little more about Alaska. When we think about the Earth itself, it's probably our last frontier. How did your wife feel about Alaska?**

I think we both enjoyed it because the university had special housing for faculty and administrators. So we didn't have that problem up there. We finally did buy a house. But those seven years we were rather progressive. We started out in university housing and then in two or three years we moved on. University housing was interesting because every now and then you would get a terrible smell, and come to find out the guy below you was butchering a bear and it got kind of strong. Things like that. I mean that's Alaska. It's a frontier country that will just amaze you. Of course, if you go down to Anchorage, it's like a big city.

**What does bear taste like?**

I didn't like it too well. It's kind of strong. So I didn't eat much bear. I let my neighbor do that and deer meat.

**Tell me a little about the housing. What was the housing like? What did it look like?**

They're usually boxy types. In fact, in my development work we developed faculty housing up on a hill from the university, and we made it modular. It was built down in Seattle in box-like units and they would stack on top. They were all planned so that they would work together. So you would have all this box-like faculty housing. We called it the "Yakka States," which is where the yak used to be. It's still there. So housing could be conventional or it could be very exotic.

**What kind of materials?**

Mostly wood and, of course, a lot of insulation. Yeah, mostly wood. That was a different world, believe me.

**I do believe you.**

And then coming back to a hot climate, that's quite an extreme. But my wife worked for the school district here and retired.

**So then you came back.**

Yes. We came back. She was secretary up there. We still draw retirement from Alaska. We couldn't have gone to a better place for retirement funds because they paid so well. The money wasn't all we worked for, but it's part of what we worked for. And to be kind of in a different

world was fun.

**That's great. And it's wonderful that the two of you could do it together.**

Yeah. We often recall Alaska. We've been back a few times on cruises. Oh, Christmastime there was hardly any light. Now, as you're approaching summer it's all light. I mean at three o'clock in the morning the kids are out playing. They would get all mixed up. It's as light as day at three or midnight. So you had the extremes in climate from all light for 24 hours to all darkness for 24 hours.

**Tell me about summers. How hot did it get?**

Oh, they get nice so that you can go out kind of in sleeves. But you have to watch it. As the sun goes down, it begins to get pretty chilly even in summer.

**So after seven years you decided to move back to Las Vegas. Now, what brought you back to Las Vegas?**

That's strange. I don't know. There's something very attractive about this town. We thought of nice weather. Now it's going to be warm. Coming out of the cold it was nice. I don't know. We had an affection.

We have two daughters and they've joined us. They both live here now. They like the idea. I've done marriage and family and health promotion work for almost 30 years now. And I love marriage and family. Gosh, I've got cases coming up this weekend that -- you know, they think they're going to divorce, but I'm sure going to work on them.

**Oh, that's fantastic.**

Yeah. It's exciting. You have all kinds of cases and people. Some people are marvelous and you can tell they really deserve a good mate. And then others, you want to say just go ahead with your single life; it's better that way. It's just that there's a full spectrum of people.

**Let me look at my questions and see what I've missed because this is so interesting I haven't even been looking at them.**

**What was your first impression of Las Vegas itself? After coming from back East -- you're coming from Chicago, which is already a city, has been a city for years -- you come to the Southwest. You live in a small community and then you come to Las Vegas. What were your first impressions?**

All the lights and the glamour, of course. When you go down the Strip, it does something to you. You've got blood in your veins. And we found the people to be just very nice. We have a nice place and many friends. It's just a good place to live I think. And if you don't want to get into any bad stuff, why just stay away from it.

**That's right.**

We had a pretty good sports program when we came. I realize that sports are an integral part I think of any full university. Drakulich is a name that comes to mind when I think of sports. He was the coach. We had some great games over in the convention center. As part of a university, the crowds get there and they get to cheering for their alma mater. It really does create some loyalty. It's just part of the scene and it's kind of diversified. Boy, I'm not a great athlete myself, but I'm all for the athletic programs in a university and varied programs, all the way from track to water polo, whatever.

**You were gone already when we went to -- I guess we went all the way to the Final Four.**

I think so. What year was that? I remember hearing that.

**You weren't around at the time. So did you think of the university at that time? What were your thoughts?**

Oh, yeah. UNLV and the sports area, sure. We were all for them.

**That was in the late 80s.**

Just so that athletics doesn't become the only thing we have. We can't do that.

**How do you feel about the rate of growth of UNLV right now?**

Boy, well, it's somewhat related to the city, of course. But I think UNLV has a real name that's attractive. The diversity of programs on this campus is especially unbelievable. You're into dental. You're into medical. You're into just about anything that seems to have any importance. Law has certainly been a great boon. So I think the diversity and the -- I think anybody who visits this campus gets caught in some contagion. Don't you think so? There's a great spirit here.

**Oh, yes. I believe that. I feel it.**

And even though the campus is crowded, the buildings are astounding. What architect ever thought of that?

**Yes. The building that we're in right now...**

Yeah. Oh, this library, my goodness. I really don't know of another college that has such a uniqueness of buildings and variety of buildings and programs. I think I'll have to give Carol Harter and all those people great accolades. They have really done something tremendous.

**One of the things that Dr. Harter used to say all the time is that she could see this being a Research One institution. Do you agree?**

Oh, yeah. I think there are many things to research here. Research always gives the other programs a great push. You know, it seeps out to the whole campus. And usually research people are very good scholars and their presence on a campus spreads. So there's lots to be won. The variety is tremendous.

**What do you see as happening next?**

For UNLV? Well, I guess they've got to begin to acquire more land. Now they're using the old school facility and other facilities. But I suppose there's going to be a continuous building program as disciplines spread and increase in their numbers. I suppose student housing will always be a big problem. They've got to do something more for students and cars. There seems to be no end. It sort of energizes itself. As it grows and it gets quality, it just goes right on up. I don't know where this school will be in the year 2050.

**Now, I notice that you had taken some notes of some of the things. What are some of the things that you looked at as being very exciting that you took some notes to talk about?**

Well, I have a lot of names down of people I've already mentioned. I think some of the association with the Barrick and the Boyds and the Houssels, these all became real friends of the university during our time and probably it's continued. And great names in the faculty, Leonard Goodall and Jerry Crawford and Holbert Hendrix. Some of these are names are no longer known around here because the people have passed on. John Wright, of course. Herman Westfall, I don't know if Herman's still around or not. Herbert Wells. Carlson is gone, of course.

The fundraising has always got to be a big thing for a university like this. I'm not sure I know who all the staff is that are working --

**It's massive. There's a whole building over there --**

Those people seem to live for names and money that they can pull in. Of course, that's their business. We used to think about the community college idea. I don't know that it's spread too

much but some in this town. I think that's necessary for feeders to the university and different campuses and different parts of the city. Thinking about it, it all seems exciting. It has to do with people, of course. And people are always exciting to me. I love to work with people. I won't add this, but you can talk to me if you're looking for a guy. We'll see what we can do.

**That's great. We'll talk about it when I turn off the tape.**

Yeah. You better block that out.

**Well, I really appreciate this. This is wonderful, and thank you for bringing the photographs. I'm going to let you look through your scrapbook just a bit to see if there's anything you want to talk about.**

All right. And you've copied them so I get them back, don't I?

**That is correct.**

Then I can calm my wife down that I got them all back.

**And I'm going to go out right now and see if those pictures have been scanned already.**

All right.

**(End Tape 1, Side B.)**