

# **AN INTERVIEW WITH DANIEL CONNELL**

An Oral History Conducted by Shirley Emerson

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West Charleston Neighborhoods:  
An Oral History Project of Ward 1

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

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An Oral History Project of Ward 1  
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The following interview is part of a series of interviews conducted under the auspices of the Boyer Early Las Vegas Oral History Project.

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## PREFACE

In 1954, Dan Connell enrolled as a sophomore at Las Vegas High School, newly arrived from Ocean Gate, New Jersey, where his father was a New Jersey state trooper. The family's first living space was a converted two-car garage close to McCarran airport. Living there seemed far out of town at the time; so far out that the school district could not justify providing him bus service. Instead, the family was reimbursed for his transportation costs.

Dan also worked fulltime in a restaurant near McCarran Airport while going to high school. This was followed by two years in the military. Afterwards, he returned to Las Vegas, went to school, married his wife Linda, and eventually settled in the Westleigh neighborhood of Ward 1 in 1973. Westleigh remains their home, the place where they raised four sons, lived near their parents, enjoyed Sunday dinners surrounded by family and friends, and the neighborhood where their sons delivered newspapers. All four sons, David, Donald, Mark and Brian, still reside in Las Vegas.

Dan has seen the neighborhood weather ups and downs and is enjoying the current renaissance spurred on by Downtown development. He describes the quality of the houses that has made them endure the decades no matter what.

He also shares the story of meeting Sheriff Ralph Lamb while working at a restaurant. Looking to follow in his father's law enforcement footsteps, Dan soon was hired by the Metro. He is retired from a 40-year-career in local law enforcement in both Las Vegas and Henderson.

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in Las Vegas, Nevada  
Conducted by Shirley Emerson

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**This is November 18th, 2013. I'm Shirley Emerson, interviewing Dan Connell.**

**So when did you come to town or were you born here?**

Born in 1937. Came to Las Vegas in January 1954.

**And where did you come from?**

Ocean Gate, New Jersey.

**What brought you here?**

Supposedly, they said to get me to a dry climate.

**Well, you found a dry climate.**

Oh, yeah. [Laughing]

**And did you move into the Westleigh neighborhood at that time?**

No, no. We lived out on a place where the fuel tank farm is at McCarran, which is now all airport area. When we moved out here, my uncle lived here at the time and he found a place for us temporarily; it was a converted two-car garage. So we lived there for a couple of months.

Oh, my gosh, let's see. I'm just trying to figure it out: yes, it was about two or three months that we lived there. My father was still in New Jersey. He was a New Jersey state trooper. He couldn't get transferred out here because he was still active. So it was really a very, very poor time in our lives.

Then we moved to a place that was at Flamingo and Paradise. The lady who owned the property, she owned (several) acres there and it was behind the motel that was on the corner. Paradise at the time was a two-lane road. She had a dry cleaning shop, which was downtown. And the house that she lived in, they moved the house out to this area. At the time, too, she was offered land. This was 1955, late '54 and '55. She was offered—no, she had ten acres and she was offered then \$4,000 an acre. The Dunes was being constructed and it not had opened yet

because it opened up in late 1955.

I was in my sophomore year in high school and I was in the middle of my sophomore year and I went to Vegas High. There were only two other high schools in town: Bishop Gorman and Basic in Henderson. Rancho High School was being built, but they didn't have their first graduating class until 1957. The school district at the time paid us (for transportation)—because they didn't run buses out by the airport because it was too far. So there were a lot of times I walked back and forth to school. But we had a friend who had a car and so we paid him our gas money. And there was many times when there was something going on after school or whatever that I walked from Las Vegas High out to the airport area.

**That's a long walk, very long.**

It was. It was. But it was good. Then I went to work for a restaurant. It was called Kozel Brothers Restaurant. It was at the end of the Strip. Right now there's a gas station. Just as you pass the railroad tracks there's a gas station complex there. Okay, that is the original spot of a gas station that was there. Right across the street, which is now part of the airport, was a 76 Truck Stop and a place called Kozel Brothers Restaurant. I worked for them full-time. That summer I started, in '54.

**You were still in high school.**

I was still in high school and I worked full-time at night. So it didn't bode well for high school. No, it did not.

**I would imagine.**

Friday afternoon, man, I was [making snoring sound], but I made it through. Then I went to UNLV and it was still the same thing. I had classes in the Baptist church, which was at Ninth and Bridger, because UNLV at the time was Nevada Southern and they did not have a campus.

And the first campus they had at Maryland Parkway; it was Maude Frazier Hall.

So I had some classes there. Eventually, I went through community college and got an associate degree.

**In what field?**

Law enforcement.

So anyway, after we left the area down there at Flamingo and Paradise, my uncle had a house up in—oh, across from the golf course, Berantia [sp?] Estates—Brentwood Park. And we lived there in a house that he had in Brentwood Park for quite a long time. My uncle was an alcoholic. It was kind of hard. So we moved into a home. It was three streets down, Harvard Avenue; so we were there.

Then I was drafted. I spent two years active duty. I came home. I had met my wife. She had worked for the same lady that I did. Before I got drafted I worked at the Coffee Pot II Restaurant, which was at Highland and Charleston. It was right where the overpass is now. Right next door, across the street on Highland, was the Yankee Drive-In. So it was a place where Bill and Hilda Covey owned all that. I mean it was a meeting place, just like Papa Gars. And so I cooked for the sheriff, which was Ralph Lamb at the time, and a lot of people that came in. Bill and Hilda ran the Construction Notebook, just a little office that was inside the restaurant. That worked out real well.

When I was in the service, I wrote my wife ( Linda ) a lot. We'll be married 50 years February first.

**Wonderful.**

First time I ever saw her I knew I was going to marry her. There was no doubt in my mind. She didn't know it. [Laughing]



**But you told her eventually.**

Well, she got to know me, I think, when I went into the service and when I wrote her letters. Eventually, when I got out of the service, my mother and two brothers lived in an apartment over here that was behind Wonder World at the time at Vegas Drive and Rancho. So I lived there for a while and it wasn't far from where my wife ( Linda ) lived, which was over off Apricot Lane. It's in the Decatur and Lake Mead area. They had a ranch out there. And then I got out in August and we were married the following February.

Our first house was at the corner of Paradise and Flamingo. There was the motel that was on the corner and right a little bit south of that was a little one-bedroom cottage. It was about the size of this area right here. So that was our first home. We lived there for a while, then we moved over to the apartments that were at Pennwood and Valley View, across from Clark High. Clark High wasn't there then. Everything west of town, outside of Hyde Park, I mean very sporadic, mostly desert, along in those areas. In fact, beyond Rainbow you were, oh, I'm in the wilderness now; I'm way, way out in the desert. [Laughing]

**Now it's just the beginning of things it seems like.**

Yeah. They used to drag race up there by the power station, which was at Durango and Charleston. You packed a lunch to go out there because that's how far it was. Now you look at it and you can see it just about. Perception changes as you grow older, tremendously.

After that then we lived in two apartments over on Silver Dollar and Pennwood and Valley View. First, we were on a second-floor apartment. Then after my wife had the twins and she fell down the stairs, then we moved down to the bottom apartment, right underneath it and eventually moved into the house over here across the street catty-corner. We rented that house for seven years before we bought this one in 1975.

**So you've actually lived in this neighborhood two years more than—well, since 1973 it sounds like if my math is right.**

Yes. It's actually been really a tremendous neighborhood. It's grown old and then it's grown young and then it's grown old. I mean just with the grandkids and the kids and the parents and people who have moved out of the neighborhood. Some of the people have actually moved back in.

**I've found that.**

This one is about thirteen hundred square feet with that. So they're extremely well-built homes, very, very well-built. These are all plaster walls, plaster ceilings. The walls are an inch thick. I had the tile up on the roof. I had a big elm tree here and a branch fell down and broke a lot of tile. That was in August. By the time December rolled around, the insurance company had been blah, blah, blah. And I said it hasn't rained yet; I said every time you have somebody come out, they break the tile, I said you're going to have more damage. When I told them that, within two weeks I had a new roof. They just wanted to do the front and I said, no, you do the whole roof.

Like I said, the roof itself, to hold that tile—it's not trusses like they use now. But it's just as strong as a truss. Hyde Park was built, I think, about the same time, maybe a little bit later.

**When was this house built, do you know?**

It was actually finished in July of 1952. This was the last house built in the first phase. Every door in the house, closet doors—oh, except the two closet doors—but it's the only house that was originally built with two bathrooms because the gentleman who owned it, Mr. Carrey, was a railroad engineer and when he had this house built he paid an extra \$2,000 to have the floor plan changed because he expected his son-in-law and daughter to come live with him. His son-in-law was a paraplegic. So the house has been built to accept a wheelchair, including the two

bathroom doors. So every door in the house is a three-foot door.

**That is wide, yes. How convenient. I hope you never need a wheelchair, but it's convenient.**

Yes, really, I agree with you. So anyway, this was a galley kitchen and that used to be a doorway. Oh, my gosh, 25 years ago or a long, long time ago I closed off the door and just made a U-type kitchen.

**Very nice.**

But we used to go varmint hunting up here on the other side of Decatur.

**What kinds of varmints did you get?**

I don't know. [Laughing]

**So you raised your children here.**

We raised four boys out of this house.

**You had four boys. And are they still in town?**

Yes, they are.

**Great. You are fortunate to have them nearby.**

Oh, yeah. They're great kids. And we have Sunday dinners. Whoever comes, comes. And we can have eight people and we could have, oh, my gosh, we've had as many as 20 on Sunday.

**Oh, wonderful. And grandchildren?**

I only have two. And we have a great-grandchild. (But we've only seen him twice.) We pretty much raised two other kids. My goddaughter, who is in her early twenties, and her brother, who is—how old will Chris be, Linda?

*I don't know. I guess about 26.*

We watched them until they went to school. My goddaughter—or our goddaughter; I shouldn't

say my—our goddaughter, every Friday night after she went to school, wherever she was, every Friday night she spent over here at our house, until she was 17. Then we didn't see her for a year and a half. [Laughing]

**I understand that. So where did the boys go to school?**

Vegas Verdes and Clark, all four boys.

**And did they go on to UNLV or any of the local schools?**

No, they didn't. That was surprising. And I always offered the boys—when Linda had the twins and since they were premature—I had a restaurant at the time. I was a co-owner. It was over on Western Avenue. So it was an industrial crowd that I did. But I was still doing 16 to 18 hours a day six days a week. So the whole thing is it got to the point where—the twins were preemies when we got them. It was just too much.

**Sure. It would be.**

So I gave my partner notice—I said I can't do this anymore. And he said okay. So I sold my half. I went to work for Papa Gar. Papa Gar knew Ralph Lamb—a lot of decisions were made in that restaurant. So I went into Papa Gar; he needed a cook. I said I've got my application in for the sheriff's office. He says, okay, give me a couple weeks' notice. Well, I went to work for him in November and I was appointed to the sheriff's department the following February.

**And that would have been—**

1966. I stayed 28 years full-time with Metro. Retired there. A year later I went back three years part-time. Took a couple years off. Then I went to work for Henderson, supposedly for six months, the police department there to help them to process or examine evidence in the crime lab. I ended up staying in Henderson part-time 11 years. So I actually have over 40 years in law enforcement.

**What was the best part of that? What did you enjoy the most?**

I enjoyed crime scenes. I was a supervisor. I was in uniform for three years, I was in the detective bureau for three years, and then the other 22 years I was in the crime lab. Out of those 22, 20 of them I was a supervisor. So when I went back I kind of set up a small processing evidence area and then when I went to Henderson with my boss there who had been in Metro and I had worked with him. So with two others we helped design one. Then when I went in and started setting it up, we set up that evidence processing area for looking for trace evidence, fingerprints, anything that we could find, biological fluids, hairs, fibers, anything that you would find as evidence in a crime scene. I did that for eleven years part-time. I really enjoyed it. They paid me to do something I loved.

**Isn't that wonderful when you can find a job that you love? I just have to ask, do you watch CSI now, or can you stand it?**

Well, yes, I do. But in CSI you have these guys doing everything and that's TV. You can't do everything. When we first started we did. And I was on the stand—I did a homicide. I investigated a homicide and I was the only one that was available at the time to do the scene because there were other things going on with the other CSAs. And when I went to trial I was on the stand for three days. I said never again. I said it is just too much. You've got to start specializing. And eventually, that's what it's come down to.

When I started, as I say, I got my associate's degree during the course of when I was— actually, did I get that before or after? No. That was before I went into the lab. Yeah, because I worked with a detective, Jack Anderson, and he kept pushing me to go back to school. Well, I had VA and, boy, did that help. I got \$432 a month for going to school full-time. I had to carry 12 hours. And it was tax-free. I started at the second level and I was making \$522 a month and

we had premature twins. It took us three years to pay them off. Finally, we paid them off and they said they're finally ours. [Laughing]

**Oh, that's great. Well, then jumping ahead—or not, but in my list of things I want to talk about or ask you about, what was the influence of the mob here? I'm sure you had lots of interactions ...**

Well, I'll tell you what. In one way the mob was really good because they treated you very, very well because they wanted your money. You didn't cheat. In fact, when I was working general detail a lot of times when we caught cheaters, we wouldn't take them to jail; we just handed them over. We said okay, took their names and everything else and said, here, let the casino manager take care of them. Sometimes we never saw them again.

**I can imagine. That, of course, was the bad part of the mob.**

Uh-huh. So in that instance. I got involved in crime scenes and that part—of course, I was on a couple of other details—between the transition from the mob to corporations. In some ways you think, God, I wish the mob was back. But, no.

People then, when you would go to a show, dressed up in tuxes, gowns and fur coats and everything else. Well, things change. It's inevitable. And now people go into these shows wearing flip-flops and shorts. I think they should have a dress code. I really do.

I think the corporations started counting numbers. As a result, some of the things that you took for granted when the mob was here changed; they had to be concerned with how much money are we getting. I think that is still the problem.

The other thing is, I think, like Harrah's and Caesars Entertainment, Boyd and Stations Casinos: too few people own too many casinos. You don't have the competition like you used to. I think eventually they're going to get—well, they already have started giving up a lot of

properties, or some properties.

**It's definitely changing. What or who do you think made the biggest change in Las Vegas since you've been here? Can you name an individual or a—well, corporations, of course, changed the casinos, as you're commenting. Who had a lot of influence in your opinion?**

Well, Ralph Lamb did as far as being, in law enforcement, a sheriff. Ralph Lamb when he was sheriff literally was the most important man, most powerful man in the state because the gaming commission at the time could okay somebody for a gaming license, and especially like in Clark County if Ralph didn't like them, he said, no, they didn't get it. I mean that was a given. He was an excellent sheriff for the times. When McCarthy beat him when he ran again, I think we were starting to get a lot of new people in town. I think they did not know Lamb. They said, ah, he's just a cowboy sheriff; blah, blah, blah, blah; let's get somebody else.

But there's a lot more people. Through my wife and through the Coveys, I knew all the Lambs. So when I put my application in for the sheriff's department, I listed Ralph Lamb, I listed Wayne Anderson, I listed Walter Butts, who was a lieutenant at the time, and I listed about five people who were actually in the administration of the sheriff's department.

**Good references.**

Yeah, good references. And the funny part about it is then it was very, very much who you knew to get a job. In some ways even now it's who you know in the gaming area.

**That seems to be true. What influence did you see Howard Hughes having?**

He had a big interest because, well, he started with the Desert Inn and he ended up owning quite a few places. (Robert) Maheu, who worked for him, never saw him. Never saw him.

**He was very much a recluse.**

Yes, very, very strange. Yeah, I think Howard Hughes had a big influence on the Strip. I think

Steve Wynn, believe it or not, was the one who got the Strip into revitalization.

**That's interesting, those names that many people have spoken of as being the ones that were change agents, shall we say, and made things change.**

(Sheldon)Adelson, he did as far as when he took over the Sands and that property and everything else.

Oh, gosh. I even worked at the original Thunderbird as a—not a busboy—but room service waiter, for a while. I had a friend who had an appendix operation. Will you work for me while I'm out? Yeah, sure. So I went there. I had a friend whose dad had Maggie's Pantry, which is at Spring Mountain and the Strip where the Palazzo is now, and he was a gambler. He could earn a hundred-thousand dollars in one night and be broke the next.

**People do that, I guess.**

Yeah. At the time it was one of the few places that had both package and sales liquor on the Strip as a single license. It was a combined license. Now you have either one or the other; they're two different licenses. So you had a bar or a package liquor. And they had both under one license.

I used to go home up Spring Mountain Road, which ended at the railroad tracks. Wells Fargo had their company office right there just across the tracks on the south side. And to get home we used to go down there, go way around through the dirt road, back up. And there used to be a ranch there at Valley View and Spring Mountain. It was called I think the D Four C Ranch. It was like a dude ranch for people coming in for divorces so that they could put their six weeks residency. Then I would get on Valley View to go home. But then that was basically dirt road, too. The paving, if there was paving, I recall paving, it stopped right there. And nothing was west of it.



**It's amazing how this town has grown. And you've seen all of it.**

Oh, my god. I think when we moved here in 1954 in the entire county there was about 54,000 people, 55,000 people. Now there's over two million in the valley. I mean just in this valley.

**And still growing.**

I know it. There used to be an artesian well that was at the Paradise and Warm Springs that ran for 22 gallons a minute constantly because that was an artesian belt that went from the southwest to northeast, all down through that area. Eventually, they used it for construction and then they capped it off and then to extend the runways they cut off Paradise Road. But there was the ranch called the Hidden Valley Ranch at the end of Paradise Road. You had the Walking Horse Ranch. Then you had the Day Dream Ranch that we used to pal around in. Weiman Allen, who owned Maggie's Pantry, and his son and I were good friends. And then I worked out at Kozel Brothers, there was a gal there, Norma, who was a friend until—she just recently died. She had Alzheimer's. The three of us ran together and did more before we turned 21. Then after 21, what's the use? [Laughing]

But anyway, this area is real good. That was all desert across there. Valley View was a two-lane road. Right here where it curves in there were more accidents. Over the years that we've lived in there, there was probably about four fatals. It's because people wouldn't do the turn and they would go through the desert. And between Charleston and Oakey I think over the years there's probably been at least a half a dozen fatals.

**Bad spot.**

Yes, it really was. Of course, McNeil and down here and then the other one on the other side of Rancho and then, of course, Scotch 80s and Rancho Circle, all those were in here at the time.

**That is the old Las Vegas, really, pretty much.**

Oh, yeah, really.

**What do you remember about the neighborhood when your boys were growing up here?**

Well, they both ran paper routes in the neighborhood. One boy had East Melville and Darmak and the other one had Douglas and Bernard. And they had those for years. They grew up with a couple of friends that are here that grew up here. It's been a very, very calm neighborhood.

We're kind of centralized. You've got a buffer on the west, you've got a buffer on the other side of Charleston with the church and the Water District, and, of course, you've got Oakey, and then you have Cashman and Strong and Cahlan. So it's really I think—I don't want to say isolated. In some ways, yeah. So it's really stayed a tremendous neighborhood. For a while, I would say (during) the last couple of years, people started moving in here: all the time, during the day or night, people are out walking their kids and their dogs and everything else—and you don't find that in many neighborhoods in this valley anymore.

**No, you don't.**

One of the reasons we like this house is because of the alley back behind us. And my neighbor isn't on top of me, next door. That's why I kind of like the corner house. I almost bought that one, but Mr. Olive would not sell it. His wife was one of the original teachers at the Fifth Grade School. He was very, very active in Boy Scouts. I think he was one of the counselors, something like that. At Sixth and Carson, that corner, that southeast corner, half a block from Sixth to Seventh Street, that was his. And the old house is still there and so are the apartments.

**Do your boys live in this neighborhood?**

Oh, one does. Linda's mom and dad lived over on Darmak. So that's why when we moved here we were close. And that was one of the reasons we moved in here was because we were close to them. So Linda had some support from her mom, which was really, really good.

**Oh, especially when the children were little, with twins.**

Yes. And my mom at the time lived down off Tropicana and Mountain Vista. So she would have to come up here to visit and everything else. So Linda's mom was really, really convenient. And they were awesome people. They really were. So Linda inherited the house when Helen died because Carl had died a few years earlier. It was designed to go to our two youngest sons. What they did after Carl died, they would spend the week down at Grandma's house. They would alternate weeks down there. They really grew up to—it's hard to say, but Linda's parents were more grandparents to our sons than my mother was. My dad died a week after I graduated from high school. So they never knew my dad well.

**Well, grandparents can be such an influence on children.**

Oh, yeah.

**It's wonderful that they had them so close.**

Yeah, really. Then after she had some strokes there, I would spend nights down there every once in a while.

**To have somebody with her, that's good, of course.**

Oh, yes. And eventually she passed away. How long has Helen been gone, Linda?

*I don't know.*

**I wonder if she'd like to join us and give us some history?**

Honey, you want to come in and join us?

**I'd love to have her.**

**[Colloquy not transcribed]**

Her dad worked out at the Test Site for many, many years.

**Are you familiar with our project, what we're doing?**

*Yeah.*

I kind of explained it to her, what I knew about it.

**We're just gathering information, anything that you would want to share. As I say it's going to be published eventually and in the library so that scholars and the public can read just the memories, really, of the folks who have lived in this neighborhood. So what was it like for you raising boys in this neighborhood?**

*Oh, it was fine. They were real good. I don't know. [Laughing]*

Until she comes out with a wooden spoon. [Laughing] They still bring that up to her.

**I shouldn't say, but I had a paint stirrer, which works just as well as a wooden spoon.**

No, really, my wife had the choice if she wanted to work, she could. I am so glad that she became a homemaker and decided to be a homemaker. It was such a tremendous influence on our sons. Like I said, we have Sunday dinners with the four boys and wives. If they come, they come; if they don't, they don't. We don't care. The four boys really get along quite well.

**That's great, really great. It says a lot for the two of you.**

David is a paramedic engineer. Donald is a journeyman electrician. Mark works in IT and currently he is working and up in Indian springs at the prisons. He's the computer genius in the family. Our youngest son, Brian, believe it or not, he's worked for UPS for about 15 years.

**Great. A good company. You're so fortunate, I think, to have them all here.**

Yeah. And like I said—well, David, because of the marathon, he was working yesterday, but the other three boys were here.

**My impression of the neighborhood from others that I've spoken with is it has the feel of a small town about 50 years ago in the sense of community and everybody knows everybody else.**

But then during the economic boon—and it's starting all over again, which I don't particularly like. My next-door neighborhood is a slumlord. The only time that he does anything to that home is if he's threatened by the city. It's been condemned twice for plumbing. But investors come in, they do something to rent out the homes, and a lot of times they don't take care of them. So I think a lot of people are starting to move in, in the last couple of years, and starting really to take care of their homes and stuff. They've added on to them. It's good. My neighbor across the street, her daughter I've known since she was ten years old. So we've been like a good friend with Linda and I was kind of a father figure to her. Adelaina's granddaughter is our goddaughter. That's the one who was here.

**With the pictures, yes.**

Right now, personally I'd like a little bit bigger home. I'd like a workshop and that kind of stuff because I like to fool around with stuff. If I go into my storage—we've got a block wall building in the back that I keep all my equipment in. I don't have a garage; I got a carport. But I've got to move everything out to get what I want to work on it and then move everything back in. But so what? Linda likes the house. And to me that's more important than—

**You've done so many nice things. I'm just looking around. I'm fascinated with all the things you have.**

I want to get the floor redone again. I did it, oh, about 15 years ago, but we've always had dogs. Linda had a shepherd when we were married. And so our boys have grown up with at least one and as many as four dogs.

**I think that's important especially—well, boys and girls, for children.**

And now we've got the two out there. And most of them have been rescue dogs.

**I had German shepherds at one time. Just loved them.**

No, as far as the neighborhood—Hyde Park I don't think has been as resilient as Westleigh because Hyde Park really—it's starting to come up again. But Hyde Park there for a long time really, really went downhill. And I think it may have been a lot for the construction because it was block wall, just like Huntridge. Most of the Huntridge homes were block wall. That's another neighborhood, I think, that really went downhill and lately is starting to come up again. I'd really like to see the Huntridge Theater get completely refurbished.

**Seems like they're working on it. What do you think of the revitalization of downtown, all that's going on there? Is that good, bad or just is?**

I had my druthers about Tony Hsieh. I know what he's doing and I know what he's done and it's really helpful. What's in the back of his mind? This is what gets to me. What is he trying to do? What does he want to become?

**Very good question. I wonder if he could answer that.**

I don't know.

**I don't either. I've never met him, so I couldn't say.**

But I remember downtown, the White Cross Drugs and a couple of the other places down there. I used to go eat at Market Town and the White Cross Drugs there at Oakey and the Boulevard, which was then Fifth Street. When we were out here, you had Grace Hayes' place on the Strip and you had the original Hacienda, which was way out there. And now you look down the Strip and you see it. But I can't contemplate moving, really. Well, I'm 76. Yesterday was my birthday.

*No. Friday. We celebrated it yesterday.*

Oh, that's right. I'm sorry about that. Senior moment, honey.

**Well, we have those.**

I mean we have a lot of friends that are in the neighborhood. A guy come walking up the street the other day. He was just walking up and I'm out there. I did something to the cubicle for our trash. Hey, Dan, how you doing? I don't remember the guy, but he knew me.

**Ah, you better pay attention, obviously. Sounds like a good one.**

Elaine and Bill, who are four houses down, her dad and mom lived here for many, many years. After they passed away she moved back into that same home.

**Really liked it. That's great.**

And one of the gentlemen and his wife, Jerry Young, lived over in the apartments off Silver Dollar where we lived and my mother lived with the boys and now he's lived over here for many, many years. The Reeses have lived here—oh, my gosh, they've lived here longer than we have. And there's several people here that have lived here many, many years. When people talk about the different houses, you don't talk about the houses there; you talk about Sullivan's house, you talk about the Crosley house up the street or the Richmond's house—no, Rick's house. You don't talk about the people, you talk about the homes and who lived there many, many years ago.

**It still has that identity of the people that you knew.**

Yeah, like the Johnson's house right down here on the corner and then the Titus house was over here. [Laughing]

**I know what you mean. What have you seen in the way of changes that have made a particular impression on you?**

*Oh, gee. I don't know. It's changed a lot as far as Oakey, how they changed that and all that. When the boys were little they used to play in the desert in the back of us. But I don't know. I guess it's changed for the best. I don't know.*

**Change is inevitable, I guess.**

*I don't like changes.*

No, my wife definitely does not like changes, no way.

**Most of us don't like changes much.**

To me, I can deal with it.

**Well, we have to.**

Really. It's just like I got kicked out of my insurance as far as April first. Well, I had Metro's Health and Welfare Trust. So now they're coming out with, effective April first, anybody who is either working in Metro or retired from Metro, if they're eligible for Medicare, bye. So I've had to find something that has her doctors because she has renal disease. So I found one plan that has her doctors, believe it or not.

*But he'll probably retire, so.*

**They do that, don't they? Very inconsiderate.**

So we signed up and then I read something from one of the retired officers who got some information. Aetna has released at least four doctors. Down here on the corner, Adelaina Aranas, the doctor down here; I've gone to her for about ten years. One of her people were telling me because she deals with Aetna people. And then he was saying also Health Center of Nevada or Healthcare, the one we just signed up for. So I don't know. I've got to call up and find out if she's still going to have her doctors.

But anyway, I knew a lot of people, retired judges and other people that have lived down just between Rancho and Cashman.

**That's where people lived years back. Now they're way, way, way out.**

And then they moved the Stewart house off Charleston and moved it over on Ashby. That was that red and white home that was—you know where you turn into Smith's? Going down



Charleston? Just before Rancho?

**Yes.**

It was in that area. They moved the whole home over down here on Ashby. And that home has a tremendous amount of historical value and history to it.

**That would be interesting for us to pursue and look into that.**

Yeah. It's another thing, the Stewart house.

**Yes. I'll bring that to our director's attention. She may have already done it. She's very on top of things. Stewart house, okay.**

It's still the same color. It's red.

**I'll have to drive by on my way home and have a look at it. Can you think of anything else you'd like to add that you think—**

Well, I know we've skirted around a lot other than just—

**That's fine. Just anything you want to talk about. But anything you think public, historians in the future and so on might like to know about that would come only from the people who lived here.**

The only thing I can say is outside of the construction of the homes, after the first phase they almost lost their shirts because they had the tile roofs. They had this type of molding around. They did a lot. This type of a door. And all the doors in this home are that kind of a door, which I've really been contemplating on finishing, but I've never gotten to it. So they made a lot of changes. The additional phases did not have tile roofs. Each room in these houses had radiant heaters. Well, in the other homes after the first phase they put in two heaters or one that had a fan. So it was a forced-air heater, electric heater, which actually did a better job than the radiant heaters. So I took them all out. Like behind here is a bookcase where my wife has the curio

cabinet there. Behind that one is a large—because it was this wide. The back bathroom didn't have one, but the hall bathroom did. So each room had its own heater.

**We don't have a lot of cold weather, but it's surely nice when we do.**

A lot of homes added fireplaces, but now you can't burn them. If you do, you've got to burn a special wood in them. And some people have added, made two-story homes. There's a couple of homes here that actually have been over 2500-square-feet. But you have the property to do it on. That's what I think has kept the neighborhood is you're not on top of each other. At least you're like this.

**Right. It makes a lot of difference.**

It does. You can holler and scream and argue and fight and everything else. Of course, we don't do that.

**Oh, of course not. [Laughing] Abnormal people.**

One thing I would never do—if we got into a heated discussion or anything else, I would not do it in front of the kids; I'd leave. And that would make her madder. Oh, she would get so mad at me when I would do that.

**Well, but better not to fight in front of the children. You obviously were excellent parents and you have such successful boys. That's wonderful.**

We really wouldn't do it. I don't have a better friend. I couldn't have a better wife. I have a person who is a fantastic mother.

**Well, that sounds like a good note to stop on it. We can't go any higher than that. That is wonderful. And 50 years coming up this February.**

Yep, February.

**That's wonderful, just wonderful.**

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