

CT
247
M67
2007

An Interview with Catherine Morales-Jackson

An Oral History Conducted by Claytee D. White

The Boyer Early Las Vegas Oral History Project

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

©The Boyer Early Las Vegas Oral History Project
University of Nevada Las Vegas, 2007

Produced by:

The Oral History Research Center at UNLV – University Libraries

Director and Editor: Claytee D. White

Assistant Editors: Barbara Tabach and Gloria Homol

Transcribers: Kristin Hicks and Laurie Boetcher

Interviewers and Project Assistants: Suzanne Becker, Nancy Hardy, Joyce Moore,
Andres Moses, Laura Plowman, Emily Powers, Dr. Dave Schwartz

The recorded interview and transcript have been made possible through the generosity of Dr. Harold Boyer and the Library Advisory Committee. The Oral History Research Center enables students and staff to work together with community members to generate this selection of first-person narratives. The participants in this project thank the university for the support given that allowed an idea the opportunity to flourish.

The transcript received minimal editing that includes the elimination of fragments, false starts, and repetitions in order to enhance the reader's understanding of the material. All measures have been taken to preserve the style and language of the narrator. In several cases, photographic sources (housed separately) accompany the collection as slides or black and white photographs.

The following interview is part of a series of interviews conducted under the auspices of the Boyer Early Las Vegas Oral History Project. Additional transcripts may be found under that series title.

Claytee D. White, Project Director
Director, Oral History Research Center
University Libraries
University Nevada, Las Vegas



Preface

Catherine (Cathy) Morales-Jackson grew up in the suburban tranquility of Hazlet, New Jersey, with five siblings, a stay-at-home mom and her father, who served the community as mayor and as a school board member.

In 1981, “on the day Princess Diana got married,” Cathy moved to Las Vegas with her boyfriend/future husband and her mother-in-law. Life in Las Vegas was distinctively different than living in New Jersey she explains. For the next 15 years, they lived at Delta Gardens apartments on Paradise.

She started working at UNLV’s library as it was moving into a new building. Her first position was in the periodicals and microfilm area and in binding. She contrasts both details of the campus and the city then with how it is today. At the time of this interview, Cathy was taking an early retirement at the age of 51. She provides a retrospective of a range of library topics: from the thousands of volumes she bound to the move to Lied Library, from a Celebrity Pancake fundraiser to staff parties, and from the implementation of a campus parking fee to the various library organizations that she has belonged to over the years.

Cathy loved her years in the university libraries and feels that the current budget crises is the biggest change she has witnessed. Retirement came at an opportune time for her, but she worries about the future for others.

ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER AT UNLV

Boyer Early Las Vegas Oral History Project



Use Agreement

Name of Narrator: Catherine Morales-Jackson
Name of Interviewer: CLAYTEE D. WHITE

We, the above named, give to the Oral History Research Center of UNLV, the recorded interview(s) initiated on 5/5/2010 as an unrestricted gift, to be used for such scholarly and educational purposes as shall be determined, and transfer to the University of Nevada Las Vegas, legal title and all literary property rights including copyright. This gift does not preclude the right of the interviewer, as a representative of UNLV, to use the recordings and related materials for scholarly pursuits. There will be no compensation for any interviews.

C. Morales-Jackson 5/5/10
Signature of Narrator Date

Claytee D. White 5/5/2010
Signature of Interviewer Date

This is Claytee White. I'm with Catherine Morales-Jackson.

And we call you Cathy?

Yes.

Okay. It is May 5th, 2010. And we're in the library, in my office in Special Collections.

How are you doing today?

Okay. How are you?

Wonderful. The first thing I want you to do is spell your name. Morales probably. I think we can spell the rest of it. But it's Catherine with a C.

Catherine with a C. C-A-T-H-E-R-I-N-E. Morales, M-O-R-A-L-E-S, dash, Jackson.

Good. Thank you so much.

You're welcome.

Now, you look just a bit nervous. I don't want you to be nervous. I just want you to tell me about your childhood, where you grew up, your mother's and father's names and if you have brothers and sisters and the kinds of things you did as a kid.

I was born in the Bronx, Bronx, New York, 1959. I lived in the Bronx till I was three years old. Then we moved to Hazlet, New Jersey. Actually, I really had a wonderful childhood. We lived in a cul-de-sac. There were 13 houses. We had woods on the block. We had a farmer, Farmer Higgins that lived on the block. It was a very close-knit block. All the parents knew everybody else's parents. We played out in the street and in the cul-de-sac. We played kick ball. We would go hiking in the woods. And we had swings in the woods. There was a little pond where we'd go ice-skating in the wintertime and sleigh riding in the wintertime. School was walking distance.

I went to the same grammar school from kindergarten until fourth grade, which was Cove Road School. Then in fifth grade I was transferred to another school, Union Avenue, which was still pretty much walking distance. Then sixth grade I went back to Cove Road School. And that went up to eighth grade. We didn't have middle schools at that time.

Why did you switch?

I don't know if it was because of overcrowding, so they did some transferring of students. But I ended up going back to Cove Road seventh and eighth grade. Graduated eighth grade from Cove Road. And then high school I went to Rariton High School. So basically I've only been to two

schools. I graduated high school. My father was on the board of education and he handed me my high school diploma. That was one of the happiest days of his life because I was quite the handful in school.

There are six kids in my family. I have four brothers and a sister. Joseph, Robert, Steve, Paul and Melissa. My sister is the youngest, who is now going on 42. The oldest, Joe, is 58. Right now as of today, though, both my parents are not with us anymore. My mother died in 1989 and my father died in 2005. So my mother's been gone a very, very long time.

Growing up my mother didn't work. She was a stay-at-home mom. Matter of fact, my mother didn't even drive. I remember going to the grocery store many times with my mother and wheeling home the grocery cart, coming home across the foot bridge because my father was at work. My father worked in New York City. He commuted every day into the city.

What kind of work?

My father was a systems analyst. He worked for Alexander department store. Things that I remember. Actually he worked for Shell Oil for I think 15 years. He worked for Alexander department stores for 11 years. And then he retired from Saks Fifth Avenue as a senior systems analyst. My father was the mayor of our town at one time. Growing up politics was very much the thing in my household.

I can imagine.

My father was on the township committee and ended up being mayor of the town. He was actually the longest mayor Hazlet Township ever had. He served five consecutive years. So I was growing up the mayor's daughter, see.

Was that good or bad?

It was actually good.

Was it like a preacher's daughter?

Oh, no, no. It was good. I was always so proud of my father. I was very proud of him.

That's wonderful.

The whole political scene, even though I was young, was still exciting. I still remember election days when the polls closed and the phones start ringing in the house and stuff like that. I still remember one time they had a ceremony for my father being the mayor and we all had to dress up.

I just remember that being a real special day. The town I come from, Hazlet, at the time was probably only like 25, 30,000 people. Today I believe it probably has about 50, 60,000 people. So it has grown.

What kind of industry is there? Okay. You don't remember.

No.

I just wonder why it would grow.

Well, more homes, of course.

So a lot of people commute into the city?

Yes. Yes, it's a lot of commuting.

I see. So did you get a discount at Saks Fifth Avenue?

I lived out here in Vegas when my father worked there. But there was one time when my father came to visit me. We made sure we went over to the Fashion Show Mall and he took me to Saks Fifth Avenue. But unfortunately at the time I became a pretty casual person. When I was growing up we never wore sneakers, maybe once in a while in the fall. If you went to the park, you put on sneakers. Otherwise, you pretty much always looked dressed up. Or Easter time, your little Easter outfit and your Easter bonnets and stuff. Winter coats. That kind of stuff I do miss, which is very nice. But when I moved out to Las Vegas, I became very casual dresser.

The time when my father took me over to Saks, I'm looking around and I'm seeing all these beautiful clothes, these dresses. And I'm like what am I going to find? I'll wear it once. I remember I bought a really nice sweatshirt, button-up that said Saks Fifth Avenue and some nice shorts. God knows what he paid for it. Actually I still have the jacket because I'll always keep that.

That's great.

It doesn't fit me anymore, but I'll always keep it.

I grew up it was a nice neighborhood, very, very nice people. Of course, we're Catholic. Well, my father was a big church-goer. Every Sunday. And we did go. We made our communion and our confirmations. I remember many times walking to church.

Oh, that sounds like so much fun.

Yeah. It was a time when we could still hang around the schoolyard. There weren't fences around

the schoolyard. After school you could play on the school grounds. We would ride our bikes to Holmdel Park. In a car it was a good 30 minutes away. We would ride our bikes all the way to Holmdel Park. Half the time, we never even told our parents. This is probably seventh, eighth grade, freshman year in high school and we'd really get around on our bikes. Did a lot of activities outside the home. Real early in life we didn't have pools, so you played out in the sprinklers. And then ran around barefoot a lot. I did step on a nail, stepped on bees in the grass and stuff.

But the fun thing was playing in the woods, too. It wasn't a big, huge wood, but the farmer owned the woods. So you did have to be careful how far you went because you knew if you went a little too far, if he was watching, we'd get yelled at and get in trouble.

So what kind of crops did he raise?

Actually none that I'm really aware of at that time. I don't know how long he had been there. I really don't know how long the farm had been there because all I'm aware of is woods and the farmer's daughters. I remember they weren't the friendliest people at all. Yeah, it was kind of like that scary house over there. Yeah, one of those. And then he had a dog named Coco, who was this brown dog, just a mutt. We had a dog named Star and she was an English setter. And Coco three times got my Star pregnant. And Star always had lots of puppies. My mother would always blame it on Coco. And I won't tell you what my mother called my dog after Coco got Star.

So how did you get to Las Vegas?

It wasn't anything we really thought too hard about. At the time I was with my husband. We weren't married. I met my husband in 1980 and we were dating. My father-in-law had died before I even met him, like the year before, 1979. So my mother-in-law was alone. I guess that she and my father-in-law used to come to Vegas on vacations all the time. One of their dreams was to eventually move to Las Vegas and retire. So my mother-in-law kept that in her mind and she decided one day that she was going to move to Las Vegas.

Actually at the time -- before I came to Vegas, I was in Miamisburg, Ohio for three months. We were with my brother-in-law [John], because New Jersey at the time -- you know, we needed a change. So we went and visited John. And then during that time is when my mother-in-law decided she was going to move to Las Vegas. So we just decided on a whim. So I went back home to New Jersey for a week so I could pack. And that's when I told my parents I was going to

Las Vegas. Yeah, that wasn't a real good thing.

Yes. Especially for your father who was a leader in the town.

He was actually mayor from 1958 to '62. I'm kind of regressing a minute here -- our town used to be Rariton Township. During the time that my father was mayor, they changed the name of the town. I'm not really positive why. Then they changed it to Hazlet Township. Okay. I lost track now.

We were talking about moving to Las Vegas. So you went back home.

Right. Then I told my father and mother. And, of course, now they weren't real happy with me. Then I came to Las Vegas. We lived on Paradise Road at Delta Garden Apartments for 15 years.

Where on Paradise is that?

On Paradise between Twain and -- what is it? -- Twain and Desert Inn. It is now the Embassy Suites. When we moved into Delta Gardens 29 years ago, it was old then. And the original man who built it still was there, Lynn. I'll never forget Lynn and his family.

My mother-in-law came out here on vacation with a friend of hers and found a place to live. And that's when she went back and said, okay, we're moving. So then my husband and I -- I didn't have a whole lot to pack up. We threw it on her truck. And Bobby and I flew out here to Vegas. We got out here before her. Then it was like, well, I'm not living near your mother, with your mother; we've got to find a place to live.

Our first four days we roamed around Las Vegas walking on foot for a place to live. We kept coming back to Delta Gardens because until she got here we were sleeping on the floor in the apartment. And then finally I went into Lynn because he was also into the real estate stuff. So I figured, well, let me ask him if he knows where. And then he said, well, I just happen to have a lady moving out. And Delta Gardens was four complexes, 96 apartments, but four sections. They had four pools, four laundry rooms. So it wasn't real big. It was for mostly senior citizens. They didn't call it a senior citizen place, but more older people. There were no kids. We were like the youngest ones. Then he said, well, I happen to have one. So he showed us. This lady was still moving out. For \$295 it was a two bedroom, furnished apartment and it was right up the stairs. The pool was downstairs. We had a balcony in front, balcony in back. It was an eat-in kitchen, lots of cabinets. It was the greatest thing for \$295.

So that was all right, I guess and I [decided to] live in the same complex as his mother. So when she came to Vegas, she asked, Where are you living? Well, right here in Delta Gardens. And we lived there 15 years. I had both my children there, Nicholas and Courtney. Let's see. Nicholas was born June 11th, 1987. Courtney was born February 5th, 1992.

Okay. So in 1980 when you first came, there was seven years without children.

1981 we came. We got married in '83, a very quick, not planned wedding. It was like one day, oh, yeah, we're going to get married. In the meantime I begged him for years to marry me. And it was like, oh, what was I thinking? Finally one day he came in, okay, let's go get married. It was like what am I going to wear? Oh, my goodness. So, yeah, I happened to have a hat and a nice skirt. We went and got my mother-in-law and her friend and went down and got a quick chapel wedding. And where did we go afterwards? We ended up going -- I don't even know if it's still called Hughes Airport, that private airport.

There was a little bar up there. And that was the place where a lot of the stars -- their private planes came in. So that's where we spent it. And then we ended up going over to -- or at least that weekend -- over to the Ambassador. They had a band there. It was like my husband said, oh, this is our wedding song. And I'm like, well, what is that? "Unchained Melody." And then the couple sang it for us and we danced. Actually it was funny because the couple that sang and we became good friends. They came to my Nicholas' christening.

Oh, that's great. That is wonderful.

So that was just quick Las Vegas wedding.

What did your parents think about you getting married and not letting them know?

Before I went to get married, I called my mother up and I did tell her. So rather than living in sin, she was happy that I was getting married. And I know it made my father happy.

Of course.

Yeah. Yeah, most definitely.

So what does a young couple in Las Vegas six years, no children, do for entertainment?

We had very good neighbors. We became very friendly with this couple that lived next door to us, Jim and Maria Barker. Maria was from Spain and Jim was retired military and originally from Missouri. He met Maria in Spain and they married. So anyway, they were our next-door

neighbors for 15 years. They were older than us, but we partied with them a lot. Because my mother-in-law lived there, too, we did a lot of family things.

Good. Did you do things on the Strip?

Definitely in our early days we did. My mother-in-law worked at Silver City. She was a change woman at Silver City. We used to go to the Stardust. The Westward Ho. I'll never forget the Westward Ho. The first few years they had their free flowing champagne. And they had free lounge acts. When my father used to come to visit, well, okay, I have to take you over to the Westward Ho because they've got free flowing champagne. And then they had a little bar where you got 50-cent shots of something or 25-cent glasses of beer. And then, of course, my father's very personable being the politician that he is, and he always liked entertainment too. And, of course, all this is after my mother had passed. There was a band, a woman, entertainment at their lounge. I think they were called the Mayflowers or something, three sisters that used to sing. And they were so talented with their instruments. Of course, my father got to know them. So anytime he came to Vegas for a couple of years, they were there and we went and saw them.

So I was very sad to see the Westward Ho go. And even the Stardust. That was a nice place to go, too. We remember the Silver Slipper. The Holiday Inn we'd go there for breakfasts. The Westward Ho with their little deli, the biscuits and gravy for 49 cents. And then, of course, going downtown. Whenever company came in town, you had to show them downtown. And go to the back of the Horseshoe to that bar. You want a 50-cent shot. Dad, we know where to drink really cheap. But then all the free entertainment. It was like such wonderful entertainment back then in the 80s.

Good. Good.

And then we'd go to Mount Charleston, of course, and have picnics and things like that.

What kind of work did your husband find when he first came?

My husband was a bartender back in New Jersey. I met him as a bartender. Before I came to Las Vegas, I worked at Brookdale Community College in Lincroft, New Jersey, as a secretary for the educational opportunity fund director. That was a very, very nice job. My husband worked in a local bar and that's where I met him. [He also] worked for the Better Business Bureau for about three years.

Here in Las Vegas?

Here in Las Vegas. He also worked out of the airport with -- I don't know the name of the company. I just remember the man's name, Fred Wilson. They used to bring Canadian tours in. They used to have to go to the airport and meet the people. I'm not really sure what you call it. But eventually he ended up getting a bartender job over at the Rainbow Club in Henderson. That's a very old local casino. And he worked there for 12 years as the bartender there. And now he's been a banquet bartender over at Caesars Palace for about six years now.

So he stayed in the industry.

Yes.

Now, what about you? How did you get to UNLV?

Well, because I did work at a community college back there, I went because where we lived on Paradise Road and the university was so close, I said, I might as well at least try for a job there. I went to human resources and put in an application.

Actually the day we moved to Las Vegas Princess Di was getting married (July 29, 1981). We left New York that day, that morning. I'll never forget because that was the last thing you remember seeing on the TV, Princess Di on the television going to get married. Then we had to go to the airport. Then I think, oh gosh, it was sometime at night, ten, 11 at night or something. And you had only been to the West Coast one other time in my life, to California. So that was only like the second time I really flew. And then when we got off the plane in Las Vegas, it wasn't in the airport. We walked down the stairs and we were right on the outside platform, you know. And the heat just -- the heat hit us. I was like, oh, no, this is ten o'clock at night. If it's like this then, you know on July 29th—. Anyway, it was Princess Di's wedding day

I waited about a week because I didn't want to look for a job right away. I ended up like I say coming to the university. After I submitted my application, did the typing test, then I had an interview with Dolores Santa Cruz at the time in the library. She pretty much hired me on the spot and September 14th I started my job. I was very, very lucky.

Yes. Now, tell me about Dolores Santa Cruz. I don't think I have ever heard that name.

Well, Dolores, she retired from the library, oh, my goodness, at least ten years ago. Well, even more. Okay. We're in this building ten years, right?

Yes. I think it's nine years, almost ten.

Nine years, almost ten. So it could be almost 15 years ago Dolores retired. But unfortunately she's also passed on. She died about three years ago, Dolores. But she worked 30 years in the library.

Wow. So what position did she hold?

She was in charge of the periodicals, microfilm area. So when I started in the library, I was in the periodicals, microfilm area and public service. And I did work nights. I worked weekends. So now, was that the old second floor of the rectangular building? That was the third floor, third floor of the rectangular -- right. Actually the year I started, 1981, that's when the rectangular building was open. And I got here just in time for the big ceremony.

What was that like?

What a party it was let me tell you. I couldn't believe it. I went home to tell my husband. Well, first of all, I'm going to work in a library. I wasn't real good at that time about reading books either. I was young. I was 21, maybe 22. So never mind going to work in a library, but then, oh, my goodness, a brand-new library. It was connected to the old library, but I'm still going to work in the new library. And then I remember it was just like a week or two later -- I think it was Hal Erickson, who was the director at the time. They had a party on every floor, every floor. I remember a big, huge cake. They had to have a thousand people that came to this ceremony for the new building. And food like you wouldn't believe and hors d'oeuvres. I mean it was spectacular. It was actually spectacular. It was so nice.

Thank you for telling me that because no one had ever told me about the opening of that building.

The opening of the James R. Dickinson, yes. But that was quite the place and quite the party.

So tell me what your first job was like.

Periodicals department.

And you were considered what?

At the time the title was -- of course, classified worker. But what was my title? It wasn't library assistant. I came in as -- I should know this and I'm forgetting.

No problem.

I'll maybe come back to that. My title changed.

I'm sure it changed many times over the years.

Yes. Now, of course, they got tech ones and stuff like that where I'm still in the library assistant mode.

I understand.

It's kind of like, let's see, bibliographers or liaison? I still like saying bibliographer. Just like cataloging department or BMS?

What was your assignment for work?

Mostly I'm bindery. I wasn't the supervisor of the bindery area, but I was in charge of all the binding of the periodicals for 20 years.

So once you got the four quarters of a journal --

Yeah, or completed volumes or whatever, then we used to deal with Roswell bookbinding. Just bind and bind and bind because at the time the library had lots of money and we had lots of things to bind. So that kept us really busy besides waiting on the patrons. And then at the time we had the newspapers. We had microfilm. We had, again at that time, lots of newspapers. I remember the whole floor being just packed. Then, eventually learning how to check in and then supervising student workers. But for 20 years my main job was being in charge of the bindery unit.

Who worked with you over though years, the people who are memorable?

I've worked with Chris Wiatrowski. I don't know what year she came in, but she came in. Her baby was the microfilm carrier, but Chris also helped me. She helped me a lot in the bindery unit. And Dolores -- actually she was Dolores Blackledge and Dolores Santa Cruz. I can't remember what her name was when she left because she had been married once before and changed names. And then there was a woman named Doris. I can't remember Doris' name either. Unfortunately she passed. And a woman named May Workman. She retired from the library. She also passed. Unfortunately a lot of people passed. And Pam Sitton. Pamela Sitton was my supervisor for many years. And the supervisor above her was Dorothy Winter. And Dorothy is also retired from the library. I had another supervisor named Elizabeth Parang, who's no longer here. Matter of fact, everybody left and I'm still here.

You started at 22.

Yes.

And you still are young.

And I've seen a lot. I actually was counting one day, too, how many directors of the library. I came in with Hal Erickson. But soon after that then it was Mary Dale. Then we had Matt Simon. Myoung-ja Lee Kwon, I believe she was an interim if I'm not mistaken. And then Dr. Marks and now Patty.

Yes. So which of those people is the most memorable for you?

Most memorable? Probably Mary Dale Deacon.

Okay. And why?

Mary Dale, she was a very down to earth person. I also had a lot of respect for her. I thought she was very good at what she did. She was a good people person. She cared about her staff. She was very easy to talk to. There were a lot of memories with her.

We had this one big book sale. If I went back in my records, I know I have a record what year it was. But it was a huge, gigantic book sale that the library had that we planned for months and months and months, for this huge back sale. We had another big party after that. We are just the partying crew let me tell you. But now, the book sale brought in a lot of money. Everybody worked really hard. And I don't know where we got all these books from.

Were you working with the library -- were they called Friends of the Library at the time?

Yes, Friends of the Library. Yes. Yes.

Tell me how the book sale was set up. Was it outside or in a building?

It was on the first floor of the round building and partly outside too. It was just this huge, huge book sale. It was very, very successful because everybody worked so hard. So Mary Dale rewarded everybody. It was like a barbeque-type thing, but a lot of people. And then we used to have New Year's Eve parties, Christmas parties, Thanksgiving parties.

How could you have a New Year's Eve party?

We just had a fun crew back then. Back then we were actually allowed to have alcohol at our parties and stuff. So we'd have spiked punches.

Now we have wine.

Yes. Actually our parties are very nice, too. The staff threw the parties, though. They were all

potlucks. Everybody brought something. Then we did have our Classified Association I think at that time -- I'm going way back -- collected some dues or something. So there were ways of being able to purchase food and stuff like that, too.

Tell me about the Classified Association.

The Library Classified Staff Association has been around as long as I can remember. But unfortunately right now today it's inactive. But we've had a Classified Library Association always. We used to have -- I mean there's bylaws and there's a president and a secretary. Well, there used to be a treasurer, no longer a treasurer -- where the classified staff could go and have meetings and air out their views, opinions and concerns. Also the classified staff going way back -- I'm going back over 20 years ago now when we were in the old building -- used to throw a lot of the social gatherings. Also at the time if people were ill, we would have like a get-well committee where people would have cards and you'd make sure that cards were distributed if someone had an operation or was sick. And we'd do educational things too.

Like I say, through the years, though, the staff has grown so much compared to when I first started even though it seemed big then because, again, the library, James R. Dickinson, was the round building, rectangular building with that tunnel going across. And everybody used to complain about that striped rug or something that made them dizzy going across the tunnel. Everybody knew one another, all the staff. It was very friendly. Not that it's not friendly now, it's just that there's so many staff and people are very busy. Because of technology everybody's sitting in a cubicle now in front of a computer. People aren't up and about like they used to be.

Do you think that in addition that the move from that location to this location changed the dynamics as well?

Yes, I do believe that.

In what ways did you see that? Other people told me that the morale changed. What kinds of changes did you see with the move?

I think maybe part of the reason morale changes is because of how the work is done, how the work is performed. Again, that's when everybody went to cubicles. There's always been jokes about cubicles, little comic strips about cubicles. And it's true people become in their own little world in their cubicle and they have their headphones on. So people aren't communicating as much.

They're not even getting to know their coworkers. I work in an area where people hardly talk at all and not even talk about work.

That's the other sad thing. There was a time going back to the old library with my supervisors and coworkers when we had meetings, we'd sit in a conference room and we'd have a meeting and everybody talked in our meetings. Everybody gave input and most everybody cared. Now what I see in some of these bigger staff meetings, most people are there just because they just have to be in the meeting, but nobody's talking. If it's not directly going to affect them, it's not of any interest. So I would say as far as morale it's because people just aren't seeing anybody. Now we're behind closed doors. Of course, for the past nine years, I've been in technical services.

So from the bindery area you go to technical services? Nothing in between that?

Right. I've always been pretty much periodicals. Bindery was periodicals. Now the past eight years I've been doing serials, but it's still in the periodicals area and it's all kind of like the same thing. I know a lot of people find that very interesting that I've never moved. And it wasn't like I never tried for other jobs in the library. There were times I've actually tried in the past. A long time ago, I think twice, at least once in Special Collections I tried for a job and in Government Publications I tried for a job twice in that department.

When the name changed to technical services from the other kinds of titles that we used to have, what changed along with that, just more technology?

Actually even when I started in the library in 1981, there was a technical services unit. And that consisted of acquisitions and cataloging and the serials librarian. Then they called it BMS and I'm in MOR, which is materials, ordering and receiving. The name technical services is still there. It's the other names that you would say that they've changed. But I don't see it really any different. Yes, there is more technology, of course, the computer work that people are doing and the different databases and, of course, all the electronic stuff that's going on. It's really phenomenal.

So tell me what your job is now.

I'm in charge of checking in the standing orders.

And tell me what that is.

The serial standing orders.

So these are the ones that are ongoing?

Ongoing, but also -- again, serials and periodicals, which are sometimes hard to explain because periodicals are weekly, monthly, bimonthly, semimonthly. Now, serials could be an annual, just something published once a year like directories. Standing orders are a lot of things that go into the reference department.

Thank you because I had no idea.

Things that go into the reference department. Business services type things that go into binders that are updated all the time, like Value Line and Morning Star. Then some standing orders are also some books that have serial titles, but then the individual volume has a separate title in itself. So then that would be cataloged. But then the whole series would have the same call number. But if someone was looking for it through just a separate title, then they're going to find it that way.

Also, I do claiming of periodicals and standing orders.

Claiming?

Claiming meaning that if something is not received, then there's a way that the computer prompts us to let us know that something has not been received by either electronic claiming or e-mail claiming. Or I pick up the telephone and I call companies and publishers and vendors and talk to them. Occasionally I get some interesting people on the phone.

I can imagine. So if there is a new serial that we want to acquire for our collection, would you be in charge of that?

No. That's the collection development department, which is above us. Like my supervisor who is Michaelyn Haslam, she's the electronic serials librarian. Then there's Xiaoyin Zhang, who is the head of materials ordering and receiving. But Xiaoyin's supervises the people in the acquisitions department.

So over there where Greg sits?

Yes.

So that is a complete department that's separate from you on the other side of the job?

It is separate, but we're under the same supervisor. But if there's a new title or anything especially now with all the budget problems, everything has to be approved. A bibliographer can't just say, oh, I want this without making sure the money's there. But everything goes through collection development, which is Cory. You know down where Cory and Chris Wiatrowski are.

Of course, there are so many cancellation projects. They're canceling so many things that even my job today compared to -- I don't know the numbers. But like the amount of subscriptions that we had, it's been amazing how many they have had to cancel because of budget cuts. I'm actually retiring at a good time for myself.

Sounds like it.

I'm in charge of the print material. Other people in my unit deal with electronic stuff, but I still deal with print. But the print material [is being affected by] canceling standing orders and subscriptions. So a lot of my work has been cut down, cut a lot.

When we cancel a serial, do we then get it online?

A lot of stuff yes. That's what they do look at as much as they can. They're going to cancel a print if it's online

Of course, then we have our Special Collections type things that also I have to claim those. But sometimes they are very difficult to claim because we get a lot of what we call gift items or we're on a mailing list. A lot of Special Collections' material isn't necessarily paid for. So when you start looking and we're not receiving something, and we're not paying for it, but we still have to get on the phone and I ask Are we still on a mailing list? Our Special Collections department used to get this. Sometimes it's kind of hard asking people for something for nothing. You feel kind of funny. So the job's been interesting.

It sounds like it.

Tell me what you think your major contribution to the library has been.

Gosh. Well, going back a long time ago, many years ago I would say my personality number one because -- I used to be a really outgoing person. And I was on the University Classified Council. I was on that -- well, I was on that at least twice. And each time I was probably on it for one or two terms. And I know definitely back in 1992 I was on Classified Council. So I had been aware and around when they planned -- because every year we have the classified awards what they used to call luncheons every year, one is coming up on June 7th. I've actually helped organize that. But I did enjoy going to my council meetings once a month.

I was also on the many years back the parking committee. I was very active along with Chris Wiatrowski I remember when they first were trying to implement the parking fee. We got

signatures and we got those who wanted to protest. That's when Carol Harter first came on. And I remember we had a group of people going into her office after we got all these signatures and no one wants to pay a parking fee. Then there were about three or four of them that went into her office to talk with her and walked out. It was like she says we're paying for it. She was tough then and continued to be tough. But we tried fighting that. I was on the parking committee.

And then in the library, besides the Classified Staff Association in the library, I had been one year president of that, another year a treasurer and stuff like that. So I was going way back active and on committees and stuff. We even had a library association, not the Classified Association. It was the Library Staff Association. That was during Mary Dale's time. I remember during that time we were starting the recycling stuff. Make sure we recycle. We started putting bins around.

That was way back then.

That was way back, yeah.

So what else did the Library Staff Association do?

It was something that Mary Dale really wanted us to do. Just anything that would benefit the staff. It was good for morale because people were more involved, a lot more was going on.

Well, now they have things geared to it seems faculty more than anyone else. It sounds as if at one time everybody was engaged.

Yeah. We used to have -- I remember even the Preservation Committee. We had a Preservation Committee that I was on, but it was classified and faculty. Again, the Library Staff Association, yes, it involved everybody.

What is the Preservation Committee?

The Preservation Committee, we used to talk about disaster preparedness regarding taking care of the books if something happened whether rainwater, flood, whatever, or fire and knowing what we'd have to do if God forbid a real big disaster, not just one little area, but something big. So we had so many people on this committee that if there were a real disaster, we'd be called and have to come into the library and do certain things. That's when we started putting around the barrels with all kinds of disaster preparedness things in these barrels. But they don't have a Preservation Committee anymore. No more preservation. And I don't even know what's going on with the

disaster preparedness committee.

What was the University Classified Council?

It still exists today. Oh, yeah. No. The Classified Council, they're the ones who put on the annual awards ceremony for the classified.

That's right. And they're probably the ones that do the monthly classified staff of the month type thing?

Yes, the employee of the month. They have monthly meetings. Each building on campus is supposed to have a representative. The library, because of the size of our staff, we have two representatives on that council. I remember going way back we only had one. Actually the one year I was on it I remember telling them, well, our staff is so big, boom, boom, boom. Then we started having two. But that's always existed, the Classified Council, which I think that's good too.

I think that's wonderful.

But I see they just put on e-mail they have 17 vacancies.

Okay. Did you ever have to work directly with students?

Oh, yes.

In what capacity?

In the bindery unit I had students work for me all the time. Matter of fact, I had some fantastic students. But in the past five, maybe six years, I haven't directly supervised students. But the bindery unit, we had many student workers, again, at a time when we used to send 800, 900 or a thousand volumes a month to the bindery. Then I had two, three, four student workers that worked for me. I had students from all over the world.

So that was the other thing. When I did move to Las Vegas and started working in the university that was something that was so amazing to me. They talk so much about diversity now. Well, in '81 it was diversity from me because from where I came from back in New Jersey, I wasn't meeting people from all over the world. Mostly we were Catholics and a few Protestants. We had our Italians and my father was Spanish. We were Morales. At the time growing up there wasn't any other Moraleses really around growing up in Hazlet, New Jersey.

But anyway, moving here. And then when I got the job at the university, never mind having the students that worked in the periodicals unit, we had like 13 students working in our

department. But again, that was covering nights and weekends. Students from all over the world. Because I was young -- you know, so you end up once in a while doing things with them outside of work, gatherings. Dolores Santa Cruz, Dolores, she was the student supervisor at the time. Because the students were so far away from home, she'd invite them over for Thanksgiving. Or Dolores would bring food into the library. She was always feeding the students. You just loved her. But the students were really wonderful.

But then when I was doing the bindery myself and then having the students work for me -- probably on my evaluations that was usually the thing that I scored best on was my student supervisory skills. I communicated with them and plus we had our fun. But they worked well for me. They really worked well. We had our fun time. Without the students I couldn't have accomplished the things that we accomplished in the bindery unit at the time with the quantity that we were dealing with.

The students were just phenomenal. I distinctly remember the Hawaiian students, though. Every time they'd go back to Hawaii to visit their family, they'd come back with pineapples and macadamia nuts and chocolate candies. To this day I have a very good friend, Natalie Odom, who was a student worker of mine in 1990. In 1992 when I was pregnant with my daughter and when I was on maternity leave, Natalie did my job for me. We have remained friends ever since.

And she lives here?

And she lives in Las Vegas. She's from France.

Have you ever visited her in France?

In France, no. Of course, she lives here. She has dual citizenship.

Oh, that's wonderful.

She teaches over at the community college. She went onto her master's degree. But like I say we're very good friends. So that's how great some of these student workers really can be.

That's a great story.

How do you see this library as significant on campus? What do you see as our role?

The library is very significant. I think we all know that. We're where all the students come to. I realize that the students are being taught in classrooms or, of course, on the online too. But the knowledge is here in the library. I am very amazed at what this library has accomplished and what

it is doing today with the technology that I can't even keep up with. So again, I guess I'm looking at myself one of those old-timers. Yeah, it's time to go because I can't keep up with them even though I think it's fantastic what they're doing. We have so many very, very smart workers in the library.

Oh, without a doubt.

There's a lot of knowledge. Yeah, I think if the library keeps going the way it's going -- I mean no matter budget or not, the library seems to always survive.

It's got to.

Yeah. The dedicated staff that is here is just wonderful.

Talk about the growth of the city and the growth of the library, the campus, however you want to phrase it over the years.

Oh, goodness.

What has it meant to you and what you've seen.

The growth. I remember I used to be able to park in the old building back parking lot to go to work. When I started having to wear the hiking boots to come into work, it was like oh no. And then it was this building and that building being built. I don't even know the names of all the buildings anymore. It has grown so much. And then, of course, I used to park over by called the Flashlight. Then I used to have to walk up the stairs and down the stairs. And I did that for my second pregnancy. It was like, oh, this is killing me. Why can't someone just pick me up here and bring me right to the library door? No. It's amazing how this campus has grown.

I remember, again, the parking committee with the parking fee and the fee was to build a new parking garage. And it was when is that parking garage going to be built? It was years and years later before the parking garage finally got built. That was like a big thing. But then at that point then we were in this library. So I could never even park in that parking garage. And then when the second one went up, it was like, okay, we're actually seeing -- because the parking situation, let's face it, it's a disaster. No matter what they try to do, you're going to be hiking into work. That's one thing I will not miss.

We're blessed to have that little parking lot right there.

Yes.

I don't know how long we're going to have it, but that's a blessing.

This campus has just grown so much. And the city -- ah. Again, when we first moved here -- well, I remember floods. I do remember floods. We had this old car one time. We were out there, out on Rainbow somewhere. I don't know what we were doing. Something that we shouldn't have been doing probably. I think we were looking for a bar. I don't know. And we got caught in a flood. The headlines, you know, "Cabbie Drowns in the Desert." Of course, all my family's back in New Jersey. So I used to get the biggest kick out of calling them on the phone and telling them, well, we're out in the desert, but, boy, did we have a flash flood today. And I remember times when it would be raining and they were saying flash floods, my husband would call me up -- and I was only ten minutes away from work -- don't dare take Flamingo because that Flamingo wash. You'll be swimming home. So find another way. I'm like, oh, no. I remember panicking. And I come from New Jersey where we had lots of rain.

When I was a kid growing up -- we were crazy then; I don't know why our parents didn't yell at us -- but we would walk in the rain. It would be lightning and thundering. We used to love walking out in the rain playing in the puddles. And now it's like what, were we crazy? What were we doing? And now out here in the desert the weatherman loves scaring you.

That's right.

Like the winds and the rain. Oh, my god. You don't want to go out today because the weather's going to be so bad. And then it's like you went out and, oh, it wasn't as bad as they made it out to be.

But it was weather like what I grew up with. I remember this hurricane one year. That had to be 1974 or '75, yeah, because I was in high school. I remember it was raining and raining. I had a couple of friends over downstairs in my house. One of my friends had a van. We wanted to go out. I remember asking my father if I could go out. There's a hurricane going on out there. We couldn't understand why we couldn't go out. I remember when we used to drive in New Jersey and the snow, the blizzards we used to drive in. And out here you don't even want to drive with a little bit of rain because there are accidents everywhere.

That's right. Yes.

But the growth, yeah. There was nothing out there on Rainbow, nothing anywhere. We had these

friends we used to have to drive so far to go visit them. They had horse property. And now where is it today? It's actually Decatur -- was it Decatur and like Lone Mountain or something? Now it's all built up. Now it's like can't we find their house. It's this little thing. They used to have a whole bunch of property. But I do remember reaching a point where it was -- in the beginning when they were building all these homes. And that's when you could buy a house really cheap. For \$73,000 you had this phenomenal house. It was just fantastic. But then as the years went on and then we saw so much building and storefronts and this and that, then I remember feeling concerned because never mind about the water, where are we getting this water? We're in the desert. And at that point we're starting to talk about Lake Mead and the water level going down, and watching your water. But they kept building, kept building, kept building. I remember my husband and I have many conversations -- it has to stop. But by the time it stopped it was too late.

I mean the growth was great. Life was good for a very long time. I feel in all the years I've been here this year, last year, the year before it's like the worst we've ever, ever seen it.

Yes. Yes.

To a point where it's scary. Of course, with the university just yesterday the president announcing the different programs that are going to be cut -- thankfully I'm able to take a buyout. But there's people that can't. Now what's going to happen to them? Hopefully they'll be able to place them. I don't know. The growth -- it's like anything. Nothing good lasts forever. At some point something's got to give. It's all greed in this town, though.

And I think it's everywhere.

What do you think is the biggest change you've seen?

In Nevada, Las Vegas, or the university?

University.

Biggest change to the university? Gosh. Biggest change, I don't know. There's just been so much change.

Yes. It's almost been constant.

To really pin down the biggest change. Well, I guess unfortunately would be the budget problems.

Okay, yes.

That I would think is the biggest change that I'm seeing in all the years I've been here, and the

most devastating.

So with that in mind what do you think the future is for the campus, for the university, for the library?

Now, let me look in that crystal ball of mine.

Yes. That's what I want you to look in right now.

Then I'd know what my future would bring. Well, you know, just like anything I mean this too shall pass. Some of us are going to come out of it a little better than others. There's going to be a lot of damage. But I'm sure it's going to be a few more years before we see more positives. But maybe one of the things that is a good thing that comes out of the bad thing and right there in my own department, there's been a lot of process reviews going on. Of course, with people leaving, so now someone has got to do the job. So now is the time to -- although they should have done it before then -- to look at this and see how we can change it. There have been process reviews in the library, but elsewhere on campus where hopefully we're going to learn more efficient ways of doing things. What is it we're doing that we really probably shouldn't have been doing? And ways of trying to save money. I mean just like the state itself, we know there is a lot of waste out there with money.

Oh, definitely.

So I would think too that the university with the different things that they've looked at and had to redo that there should be good coming out of that because hopefully, again, things will be done more efficiently and there won't be so much waste of money because there is a lot of waste of money. I have concerns about the library, too, about things that the library puts out here for money.

What would you change?

Well, not necessarily change. It's because of the state of the economy with just the way the university is, the way people have to leave, offering buyouts. What can I say? It's like where money's being spent on maybe more entertaining type things or even maybe some kind of workshops or bringing consultants in. Going back a year ago at least when merit increases were given, it's like, well, we know there's a problem, so why are we still doing this? Where is this money coming from? Well, it was in this pot or it was over here. Just like state money, well, if

we don't use that money, we'll lose it. But I have a problem with that kind of behavior on how you're going to deal with money. Well, maybe we should have given some money back to the state.

But, of course, there's problems way up too in the chain of command here in Nevada just like many other states too, who's governing and where money is being wasted. Even though the library is losing employees, I see a lot of stuff still going on that I'm like, jeez, okay. They find the money for things they really want to do and then adding positions like what is that title? Huh? It's like, oh, we needed one of those? Um. Okay.

So what are you planning for your retirement? What are you going to do? You're so young. I know that you're not just going to go and sit home.

Well, for a while I am. I'm going to hopefully sit back and relax and get my thoughts together. I'm sure I'm going to be in shock for a while because it's hitting me, but it's still like I can feel the nerves. I don't plan on going to work right away. Eventually at some point I'm sure I'll get some kind of part-time job. I want to make sure it's something I'm really going to enjoy, nothing that's going to stress me out, just something fun.

My daughter still lives at home even though she's 18. She and I talk a lot and we have fun together and we laugh a lot. And then I have dogs at home and my husband. I'm a homebody actually. But I like to have company, like to have friends over for dinner, entertaining. I'd like to get my house organized and work in my yard and sit in my yard and enjoy the beautiful weather when I can. Get up early in the morning and go sit outside and not have to rush, rush anywhere. Just for a while just take it easy and hopefully as stress free as possible. Just enjoy life.

Good. Is your daughter going to come to school at UNLV?

No. She's working. Right now she's just working.

Okay. Are you trying to push her to go to school one day?

Yes. We do talk about school.

Okay, good.

But she's not ready to go to college.

In retirement would you have the same benefits to -- do you have benefits now that your child could go to school here at a reduced rate?

No. Not being a classified worker.

Okay. Wow.

No.

I have one last question. But before I ask now that we have thought about all these things, people you haven't thought about in years, anything else you'd like to add?

Well, just one funny little thing, just silly. With me doing the bindery for all those years, every once in a while I'd think to myself, okay, so when I leave this library, what have I done? And then every once in a while I'd go look at all those bound volumes. How many volumes did I handle? How many thousands and thousands and thousands of volumes did I touch and had them bound and prepared them and all this and that? It's like, oh, my goodness. I would really love to -- but how many volumes I actually bound in the 20 years. And then everything goes to laser and now they're talking about moving -- well, I think they're going to get rid of the desk on the second floor.

Yes, I've heard that. I can't even image that.

I know. I know.

I can't even image.

And this is the other part about public service that I find so interesting. Because now, we have how many floors? But basically we're only going to have people on one floor to help people. So now I'm up here. If I want help, I've got to go all the way down here and ask. I don't know. That's a whole other story.

I'm hoping when I leave here, even though I've had definitely my share of problems, unfortunately personnel issues throughout my years, I hope that when I leave here that when people think of me, I'm hoping they're going to think of me as someone who usually always had a smile no matter what. I like to laugh. I love to laugh. I do a lot of laughing. I do enjoy people. But throughout the years -- and getting back to the change or coming into a new building or cubicles and that, I have found change in myself too, where at one time I was such an extrovert how I became introverted. And that I felt really hurt me because it was like that wasn't me. But that's what the job and the environment did.

Someone needs to research that and write about that more.

I'm so glad that I'm only 51 years old. And my life is far from over.

You are 51?

Yes.

I am so jealous.

So I'm going to leave here. Like I say I'm going to take it easy for a while. Then I don't know what life has in store for me. I have said for years and years and years that I really want to write a book. And then I went on saying, I really need to write more than one book. The other thing I want to do, I've always said I wanted to do -- those 15 years that I lived in Delta Gardens, I could write a book on that.

Oh, my.

Oh, yeah. Yeah. And I'm going to name the book *Delta Gardens*.

That would be wonderful.

I already have the name of my book.

I think that would be great.

I'm hoping that one day I will really sit down and write. I think I said my father has passed. But my uncle Ray is still alive, my father's brother. He lives in Virginia. And Uncle Ray is probably about 78 now.

Three years ago I planned a high school alumni reunion. It wasn't just for my class. I actually got it going and I was very successful. I had 115 people show up in New Jersey. I collected the money out here. It was \$100 a person. It was like, well, I want to come. Oh, fine, you can come. What year did you graduate? Okay. So it was for all years, anyone who wanted to come. And I did more socializing on that computer, the Internet, looking and searching for people. It was so amazing. And then I had the alumni directory from my high school. I called up people. Do you remember me? No. Anyway, I'm planning this reunion, blah, blah, blah.

But anyway, my Uncle Ray, thought I was planning a family reunion. So he was planning on coming. So I'm like Uncle Ray, I'm having a high school reunion. Anyway, I said that's all right, Uncle Ray, you can come because Bonnie Mitchell's coming. I said she was on the Board of Education with my father. So she's going to come because she had four boys in the high school. They're all coming. Bonne's coming. I said you and Bonnie can talk. My father was good friends

with her. So Uncle Ray came to my class reunion. And at the same time we planned a family reunion. So then two days later we had this big family reunion.

But Uncle Ray, he's written, not finished, and he sent to me just a few weeks ago about 74 pages of his memoir.

Oh, wonderful.

My Grandpa Morales came from the Canary Islands. My grandmother came from Panama. My father was born in New York City, but his parents, when they went to New York, they came through Ellis Island. When my father went to kindergarten, he didn't speak English. So then he learned English. My father was a Marine.

My mother was Irish. At the time Grandpa Cougan, wasn't into my mother with Joseph Morales. And my mother was an only child. That was another reason why she had six kids. I remember her telling me, I told your father that I was an only child, and I want a lot of kids. Well, I guess that was fine with him because there were five children in my father's family. Sure enough, my parents had lots of kids. My father was quite the man. I'm proud of my dad. And my mother put up with a lot.

I think your personality is like your father's.

Yes, I think so. And Uncle Ray, he's like that too.

But getting back to his memoirs, he's writing them. And now that Uncle Ray retired -- Uncle Ray worked in the Pentagon. He was a civil engineer or something. That was the last place he worked and retired from. Since his retirement he's been doing all kinds of picture stuff, going back in family history. He went to the Canary Islands and got a lot of our family history there, met some old cousins of his and all kinds of stuff. So Uncle Ray is at least doing that for our family history.

Where in Virginia does he live?

Near Richmond.

What a wonderful story.

My kids never had the childhood that I had growing up, which is sad. I feel bad. But it was just the environment, the way life is, the change. But when I was growing up, we could play out in the street up until dinnertime and we could even go out after. The parents weren't worried. Even

today half of them back there don't even lock their doors. I don't know if that's a good idea.

As a matter of fact, the home that I was brought up in, in Hazlet, New Jersey, my brother Paul owns that house now. So the house is still in our family. That house is about 48 years old now.

Wow.

Yeah, because I was three when we moved there.

And it was a new house.

It was a brand-new house. And it was a two-story, huge. We had to have at least an acre and a half.

Does it have a basement?

Actually that house doesn't. But we called it the playroom. By Cove Road School, the families there have basements, actual basements. It was like a three-story counting the basement. But my house was only two. My parents paid \$13,000 for that house. I think my brother Paul bought it from my father for \$150,000. And that was a deal. Since then he's fixed it up, added a fireplace, new windows, remodeled all kinds of stuff. You'd never know it's the same house. But it's so nice that when I do go back to New Jersey -- even though it's not my house, it's my brother's -- but it's still the house we grew up in.

I like that. I like that you kept it in the family.

Yes. It was wonderful. That was nice.

My last question. What is your favorite book?

Oh, my goodness. *Little Women*.

I love that book, too. Oh, that's so great. How many times have you read it?

Once. Only once. But I remember when I got the book. It was such a beautiful cover and everything. I got it for my birthday. This is going back 25 years ago. And I just remember loving to have books so much because I do like the look of books.

So do I. And those old classics.

And those old covers and the hardbacks and how they designed them. Yeah, the classics. I have to say, though, I'm not a real book reader. I'm more into magazines or more self-help books or even.

Periodicals and serials.

-- some religious, spiritual-type books or like newsletters. Quick reading that I'm going to learn something from, but it's quick reading. I like to read things about health. My husband and I are into all this reading about what we should be doing and eating blueberries. We're eating a lot of blueberries for the memory.

That's right. I'm eating blueberries right now. In the morning I have this shake with a banana, some wild blueberries, strawberries.

Yes. My husband has some health issues, unfortunately. And he's young, just 55. So that's the other thing, when I do retire, that we need to work on. My husband has cognitive decline, but they're not calling it Alzheimer's. They're saying it's not dementia, early signs. But something the past two or three years hasn't been right with him and it's got us worried. So I'm looking at playing more Scrabble.

Good.

We're going to play some Scrabble. Back in the apartment we'd play chess. We do play some chess. So I want to get him back doing some of that kind of stuff.

Oh, wonderful

And taking walks.

Oh, yeah, there's nothing like walking. There's nothing like going for long walks.

I appreciate this so much.

Well, I do too.

Thank you so much.

I hope it doesn't sound silly.

It's going to sound wonderful because we have a lot of information on here about the library and that's what we wanted to talk about. I mean you told me things about the library that no one else remembered like that staff association that you had at one time.

Library Staff Association.

And that classified association that you have within the library. Nobody else has thought about that.

And when Matt Simon was here we had a pancake breakfast.

Tell me about that.

Did you ever hear about that?

But they didn't remember the details. What was that all about?

What was it all about? I'm trying to remember if we also had some kind of book sale during that time. I'm sure I have information downstairs on it. I hope I didn't -- I've been shredding a lot of stuff because I'm like no one cares. I mention things to my coworkers and no one's caring about anything.

Remember if you find something that you think -- this folder will remain here. So if you have something about the pancake breakfast and other things, I'll put it in your folder.

It was called the Celebrity Pancake Breakfast. We tried getting some celebrities, more like news broadcaster-type people. We were outside. It was over by the Maryland Parkway side in a parking lot. They set it up with tables and grills. It was like seven, eight o'clock in the morning and they're out there cooking pancakes. I even have a big a apron that said something about the pancake breakfast on it. Yeah, I'll look to see if I still have a flier on that. But that was very successful. And I'm trying to think if that was kind of a fundraiser thing.

I think I know what you should do when you decide to get your part-time job. Party planner.

I've heard that.

You would be great.

Well, especially after I did the reunion. It was like, okay, yeah, this is good.

Yes. That's when I first had the thought when you were telling me about the reunion that you had planned from here.

Yes. That was a big accomplishment. That was probably one of my better, bigger accomplishments.

Well, one of my jobs before I came to Vegas, too, before Brookdale Community College, my very first job right out of high school I was secretary for Aberdeen Township, the recreation department, the board of health. And I was registrar of vital statistics. I issued marriage licenses and certified birth and death certificates. I did that job for about a year and a half. Let's see. I was 18 and a half because I was 18 in high school. So I started that summer. It was like crazy.

We worked in trailers. And it was Aberdeen Township. I actually became close with the township manager's secretary-- she was like a mother to me. And then you had your building inspector. The health officer was actually a health officer for three counties. Once in a while he'd come into our office asking me to type something up. That's when I used to type. When I was in high school I even learned steno. So my recreation director used to dictate to me.

Shorthand?

Shorthand, uh-huh. Steno. Of course, that was always the big joke because I'd be like, I don't know, Mike, I don't know what I did. So we'd have to sit down and go over what I did. But that job was something. With the recreation department one of the things that I did was I took care of a thousand dollar petty cash fund. We set up dinner theater trips for people to take buses into New York City to see Broadway plays. And we had this senior citizen group that I used to deal with. They used to go on their little trips. But I'd collect the money and set them up to talk with Joe Blowhorn -- I think that was his name -- from New York City. He worked in an office there that we set up these dinners. He'd tell us what it was.

And then one year, it was Christmastime, I went with 305 senior citizens to New York City to Radio City Music Hall to see one of the Christmas shows. I remember they get on the bus. And I'm on the microphone and I'm telling them, now, you do this and that when you go there, blah, blah, blah, and then the bus driver. You know, I remember being so afraid of that. But then after a while it was like this was kind of fun. I get off the bus and they're all taking off and raving and have fun. And then occasionally I'd go with them. But those theater tours were something else. I remember I used to really enjoy doing that, setting up things, you know, social-type group things.

I think I see this in your future. And if you decide to plan a trip to Italy or someplace like that, I want to go.

I know. My girlfriend Natalie, she plans trips to Spain and Italy with students. She used to do that with middle school students when she taught middle school.

Wow. Would she need chaperons?

Well, yeah. Sometimes parents go.

Oh, yes. I'm sure they do.

But Natalie goes to France every summer for six weeks. Her parents come here twice a year and then she goes every summer to France for six weeks. Year before last I watched her dog for six weeks. And this year I'm going to be watching her dog for six weeks, too, while she goes to France. But that is one of my things. Even my daughter says someday I'm going to France with Natalie.

That's right.

I figure she would be the perfect one to go with.

That's right. She knows it.

And then when she goes there, they actually go on a vacation. They have a little home on the water somewhere and they go. They're very much into walking, French people are.

Yes, they are. So they can eat all this cheese and drink all this wine and it doesn't even look like it.

Yeah. And they eat big lunches.

That's right.

Eat late dinners. I'd fit right in with them.

And then they look like they walked out of a fashion magazine.

Thank you so much.

Oh, you're welcome. Thank you.

This was wonderful.

Good. Good. I hope so.

Aberdeen Township, 29

Brookdale Community College, 7, 29

Caesars Palace, 8

Canary Islands, 26

Celebrity Pancake Breakfast, 29

Classified Association, 12, 16

Classified Council, 15, 17

Dale, Mary, 11, 16

Delta Gardens, 5, 6, 25

Dr. Marks, 11

Ellis Island, 26

Erickson, Hal, 9, 11

France, 18, 31

Friends of the Library, 11

Grandpa Cougan, 26

Grandpa Morales, 26

Harter, Carol, 16

Haslam, Michaelyn, 14

Horseshoe, 7

James R. Dickinson, 9, 12

Kwon, Myoung-ja Lee, 11

Library Staff Association, 16, 28

Mount Charleston, 7

New Jersey, 1, 4, 7, 17, 20, 25, 27

New York, 1, 2, 8, 26, 30

Odom, Natalie, 18

Ohio, 4

Parang, Elizabeth, 10

Preservation Committee, 16

Rainbow Club, 8

Saks Fifth Avenue, 2, 3

Santa Cruz, Dolores, 8, 10, 18

Silver City., 7

Silver Slipper, 7

Simon, Matt, 11, 28

Sitton, Pam, 10

Stardust, 7

Uncle Ray, 25, 26

Wiatrowski, Chris, 10, 14, 15

Westward Ho, 7

Winter, Dorothy, 10

Workman, May, 10

Zhang, Xiaoyin, 14