CT 247 M83 2007

## An Interview with Shirley Mudra

An Oral History Conducted by Barbara Tabach

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: Claytee D. White Editors: Barbara Tabach and Gloria Homol Transcribers: Kristin Hicks and Laurie Boetcher Interviewers and Project Assistants: Barbara Tabach and Claytee D. White The recorded interview and transcript have been made possible through the generosity of Dr. Harold Boyer. 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 accompany the individual interviews.

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

## Table of Contents

Preface	v
Frontispiece	
Interview	1 – 25
Index	26
Appendix	
Newspaper clippings	

UNLVino project



## Preface

When Shirley Mudra arrived in Las Vegas in 1966, she came tearfully. But as the wife of a Nevada Test site manager and mother of three young children, she was accustomed to adapting. Indeed, she adapted and remains a Las Vegas resident.

Shirley and her husband Paul (above photo) met while both were in the Air Force. She was the daughter of a Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, homemaker and railroad worker and describes her upbringing. She also talks about her joy of enlistment in the Air Force and the transition to being a wife, mother and her employment at the Department of Energy.

Shirley's narrative includes details of early Las Vegas life, raising children here and becoming part of the changing community through friendships.



Military photo of Shirley Kemerer Mudra



Family photo of Shirley's husband, Paul Mudra with their children.

Oral History Research Center at UNLV

Boyer Early Las Vegas Oral History Project

## Shake, Rattle & Roll: Stories of Nevada Test Site Wives and Children Oral History Project

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Shirley Mudra

Name of Interviewer: BARBARA TABACH

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ludra

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Library Special Collections 4505 Maryland Parkway, Box 457010, Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-7010 (702) 895-2222 Today is November 30th, 2011. I am in Las Vegas, Nevada, sitting in the home of Shirley Mudra. And how do you spell that?

M-U-D-R-A. Hungarian.

Okay. Hungarian, wow.

Yes.

So is there a strong ethnic influence in the family?

My husband's Hungarian influence. His mother and father both came from Hungary, so he's first generation.

I bet that's a whole story all by itself.

This is.

Okay. Well, we're sipping our tea. Thank you for letting me come in to your lovely home and for serving me some nice hot tea. So if there's a little clanging on the tape, you all will know that it's from our pretty blue-flowered china. This is pretty. Thank you.

Thank you.

So Shirley, let's start with you personally. Where did you grow up? Tell me a little bit about your background.

I grew up in a small community that was a suburb of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I left when I was 21. So all of my upbringing was in this railroading town. We only had one side of the main street because the railroad was the other side. And that's where I grew up.

#### What did your parents do?

My father was a railroader. My mother was a homemaker.

What did your dad do on the railroad?

He was an air brake repairman and a foreman.

I love the railroad stories. My grandfather was a railroad man. He was an immigrant and I always love the railroad stories.

I did too.

And how many kids were in the family?

There were three girls.

And where are you in the ranking of those?

I am the youngest.

## Was there an advantage to being the youngest?

No. [Laughing]

#### Why not?

Well, at that time it was right after the Depression, so everything was a lot of hard work. This meant that many times my oldest sister was put in charge, and she was quite a controller. And even though there was nine years' difference, I think even when I was young I didn't like being controlled because when the chores came, I always had the ones she didn't like. [Laughing]

## So what was your least favorite chore?

Oh, my goodness, the whisk broom. If I see a whisk broom now, I get shivers because in those days you had these maroon sofas that every little piece of lint stuck to it, and I would have to get every piece of lint out of this maroon mohair sofa and the carpet coming down the stairs with the whisk broom was my job. And, I, to this day, do not like whisk brooms. [Laughing]

[Laughing] Deeply rooted scarring here. Okay.

So then you graduated from high school in that community?

I did.

#### What did you do after that?

I went to work for United States Steel for four years in a great position. I worked in the security office. It was exempt and we were all by ourselves in the building and the salaries were wonderful for people that worked at United States Steel. I worked there four years. I graduated from high school when I was 17. In fact, they interviewed me for a position at U.S. Steel, which was a few cities away, another suburb, and I got the job. And the salary was so good I stayed there for four years until everyone I went to school with got married and had babies. My mother could not understand why I did not want to get married yet.

## Oh, you didn't want to get married?

Oh, no.

#### Why?

Well, I was born and raised in this little railroading town and I thought, you know, this is such a big United States. And while we would go on vacations to Canada every year, I just knew there

was so much more and different kinds of lifestyles. I could hardly wait to get out on my own. With marriage, that meant I would probably live there the rest of my life. In those days girls lived in the family home until they married. There was none of this get your own apartment. And at 21, with my mother pressuring me a little bit to get married, I thought, oh, it's time for me to spread my wings.

## So you made a bold move. You were single and you moved out.

Very bold.

## Okay. Well, tell me about that.

Well, in that day and age—you have to realize this was 1956—I think I was always doing things that weren't the norm: marriage, babies, cooking, gossiping. I thought where am I going to go that I'm not going to have to worry about getting a job and about finding a place to live? And I joined the military. I joined the Air Force, all on my own, and off I went.

## They didn't recruit you; you just sort of knocked on their door?

I just went down there and talked to them a little bit and signed the paper and came back and told my family.

### Oh, my, what did they say?

Well, it was so typical. They said oh. I came from such a patriotic family. All my uncle—and I had like ten uncles and aunts—every one of them had boys in the family that went into the military and I thought our family doesn't have that. So I said to my dad, "I'm going to go in the military and serve my term just so that our family also had someone in the military."

## And you chose the Air Force...

Air Force because in those days going to the movies you always had a five-minute clip on what was going on in the world today in the military and in the war, and I fell in love with those airplanes. I thought, oh, isn't that wonderful? And I just was so fascinated by airplanes and I thought, yeah, I want to be a part of that.

## Can you kind of summarize what that part of your career was like?

Well, in August I went to San Antonio. At that time the government issue was wool socks, your flight boots, long pants, and that's how you went through basic in August—no air-conditioning. So I did that. Then they recruited me to go to Denver. At that time the [Air Force] Academy was

there, Lowry One and Lowry Two, and the President [Dwight D. Eisenhower] even flew in there one day. I was one of the first women to be accepted in the AACS Squadron location. They put me right to work on the flight line.

## What's the acronym stand for?

Oh, air traffic controllers and communicators. I'm a lifetime membership of that squadron. We got the military planes up in the air, all over the country. This was the hub of communications. I started out as a Teletype operator, taking the flight plan from the pilots, how many hours he would be up in the air, where his destination was, putting this information into a ticker tape, sending it on to wherever Air Force base he was flying to, how many hours of fuel, etcetera. Then if for any reason a plane was lost, we would start tracking. So that's what I did.

#### That's amazing.

I know. And because I was only one of three woman in the squadron to begin with, I was housed in the women barracks, but had no inspections because I was really attached to an all-male squadron.

# I assume that must have been unusual. There couldn't have been a lot of women. At that time did they call it the WAF, Women's Air Force? Like WAACs were the Army.

WAF, yes. Well, at that time they decided to bring women into this squadron location. They sent some of them to on-the-job training. Others went to training centers. They wanted us to go straight there and to actually train on the job. I think your scores determined which way they would send you. They chose a few of us to come in to Denver and to be in that squadron. So it was a lot of fun.

# Over the years, as women have become more accepted in the military, I bet you've watched with keen eyes.

I did. And if I go out to Nellis Air Force Base today, I am so jealous of the women out there and I just want so much to be a part of that again because those years were the happiest years of my whole life.

## What made those years happy?

I don't know if it was the independence—no, I know what it was. They gave women way back in '56 the opportunity to develop themselves in a technical field because when I left the military, the

only other job I could get again was a secretary. And I know the base commander sent his aide two times to try to persuade me to come up and talk to him. He was a General in charge of Lowry and he wanted me to be his assistant. I was able to refuse—I so wanted to not be a secretary because I wanted to do something technical. They had the most wonderful opportunities. They treated me so fine. No women had opportunities like that unless they came from wealthy families where their parents could send them to an Ivy League school, and that wasn't the neighborhood I grew up in....And because I worked for the AACS, I was on permanent flight status. I could fly anywhere a pilot was going to get flight time in. So they would say, hey, are you off on Thursday? Yes. We'll have to get flight time in. Where would you like to fly to? And I always said Kemmerer, Wyoming, because Kemmerer was my maiden name. We had quite a family history and part of the Kemmerer ancestors stopped in Pennsylvania and the rest went on and settled Kemmerer, Wyoming. So I always wanted to fly into Kemmerer, Wyoming.

And the one bartender—at that day they did not check your age—but he said to me, you look like a kid because I was only five feet tall, weighed a hundred pounds. So he said what are you doing here with these military people? And I said, well, I'm really 21. To prove it I pulled out my military identification. He saw my name, Shirley Kemmerer, and all the beer was free for all of us because everything in Kemmerer, Wyoming was Kemmerer Laundry, Kemmerer Insurance, Kemmerer this, Kemmerer that. That was just a fun little thing.

## Did you find relatives there, or did you look for them?

I never stopped long enough to look because we were getting flight time in and flight time out. Of course, the pilot wasn't allowed to have any beer.

## I understand. So you were in the military how long?

Two years.

#### You're still single at that time?

Well, I married when I was in there. Yes, and so I left when my husband did.

#### He was in the military, as well?

Yes. That's what they do in those days, so. Then that's when I became a homemaker.

#### When did you start having kids?

Well, let me see. Karen was born in '58-so about a year and a half after I got married. I thought,

well, I had my independence.

I want to hear how you met your husband. You two have been married for how long? Well, actually next month is going to be our 50th wedding anniversary.

### Congratulations.

Yes. I met him in Grand Junction, Colorado. At that time we both went to work at Atomic Energy because I wanted back into the government. So we went from Grand Junction, Colorado to Price, Utah to Idaho Falls. We only stayed in each place two years because as he would transfer he would get a promotion. One day he said, "I'm interviewing for a job in Las Vegas." I said, oh lordy, I do not want to move to Las Vegas with three children. He said, "Well, this is where we are going to relocate." So I packed up the bags. Cried the whole way to Las Vegas.

## And now, are you driving here?

Yes, in a car that had no air-conditioning because you didn't need it in Idaho. We arrived here in January from Idaho Falls where my husband worked then in a nuclear testing program and he transferred in as an operations officer.

So let me understand: was he still attached with the Air Force? No.

#### He was out of that. Okay.

Yes.

My youngest was six months old and my oldest was three years old. They were raised the whole time here in Las Vegas and we've made this our permanent home. We've been here for over 45 years. Las Vegas is our home.

So when you moved here, though, did you think you were going to be here for just a short period of time?

He told me two years. Two years. Two years. I go okay. Prior to moving here, here I was used to wide-open spaces. You know, there were none of these block walls around the yards. You had just rolling yards that everyone played in the backyard from one yard to the other. Then I came here and I thought what are these block walls? And no detached garages? All the garages were attached to the house and people drove in their air-conditioned cars with the windows up into their garage, put their garage door down, into their house, and there was none of that little

communication there that I missed terribly.

## Because in Idaho it was like that? It was totally different?

Idaho, Utah, Pennsylvania, and then all of a sudden the drastic, drastic changes.

## What neighborhood did you live in at first?

Well, you have to realize at that time -- [laughing] you're going to love this -- the end of the city was Decatur. And you know how you knew that? Sproul Homes that were building the homes and they had this great big, enormous arrow that pointed down to the ground. That was the end of town and that was Decatur. We lived by the Municipal Golf Course.

## And that would be where? Where was that located?

That was on Washington and Decatur, right up from Lorenzi Park. Many of the Test Site people started to congregate in those areas, so that's where we lived. And Mary [Shaw], who you met, I met her there. She lived in that neighborhood. Many of the contracting people also lived down there. And then Sproul moved that arrow the whole way up to Jones—can you imagine?—to identify that end of the town.

## Now, Sproul, that's Sproul and that's a builder at the time?

Yeah, that was a builder.

They were known for their big golden arrow that marked "Sproul is building here," which means the town is growing. Oh, it was funny now that you think about it. We were all down in that area.

# So you cried all the way here and it was a big change. As you tried to make it a home, what were you feeling? Do you remember?

Well, you know, it's interesting. Once I make a decision for any kind of change in my life I close that chapter and start from that point on. After about a week, I had a family conference with the kids and I said, you know, I have to tell you something; unfortunately, you're not going to be able to do what everyone else does in your school classes and that's going to seem odd to you. Well, they were little kids then, but I remember when my first one started to school and I even told the others. I said we're going to have to set up some rules here and that means, we do have people that I know who you've started to make friendships with. I don't want you in a home that's unsupervised, where the parent is sleeping because they are on shift work. So I said we're going to have to make some adjustments in our lifestyle here that you're going to have to listen to me and it's not going to at times seem fair. However, anyone is welcome in *our* home. Many times I worried because I was so removed from my family that I didn't want to make a mistake. So I'm afraid I was a little bit more restrictive. I became the room mother and PTA president and the Girl Scout leader and the Cub Scout leader. But felt I had total responsibility. Now, when they were with Department of Energy children in the neighborhood; that was okay because if they did anything wrong, those kids were going to tell their mother and dad. We all heard about it. So they all felt, oh, if we make friends with all the people that my mom and dad know, we've got to do everything right. But I didn't want to tell them that's exclusively who you can have friends with because there were so many wonderful children in the neighborhood that came from different environments and we were strange to them, too, because our kids were not allowed to discuss where their father was and when they were not coming home for the evening or for a while, because someone might find out there's a shot scheduled at the Test Site. So the one restriction I had to say is they come to our house.

## So when your kids as they got older did they ask you or your husband, well, what do you do, dad?

You know, it's amazing. In that day and age you learn, you don't talk about your father's employment. You don't say when he's gone or not. You set up the rules and these kids listened. They did. They said it was so stupid because you could see all the cars that were sitting around. You knew when there was a shot out there. But we never were allowed to talk about it because of security reasons and this was one of the big things is you just never said anything like that. So it was a good mix.

## Yeah. So what schools did they go to?

They went to Western High School, Gibson Junior High School and Ruth Fyfe.

## It's a 24-hour city, so that's different no matter what era you are when you move here I think, isn't it?

As I got settled here I started to think of the good things, oh, the sunshine. I thought what's that strange stuff, the sagebrush across the roads? I thought, oh, my gosh. In fact, when my father came to visit, he was amazed by that sagebrush. And the kids learned about horny toads and

lizards rather than grizzly bears and the different kinds of fish. But what I thought about was, my gosh, 24 hours, you can go anywhere, do anything any time you want, where everything closed up at five or seven p.m. in my whole living experiences except on the Air Force base.

## So was there a nightlife that you enjoyed here?

Well, because I had the children, I did very little casino nightlife. It was signing them up for etiquette classes at the teen center that they rode their bikes to, letting them play in the desert, which all kids did, and teaching them about the lizards and the horny toads and which was a scorpion and which was not. I was so wrapped up with those kids because we were not anywhere around any family and I was so afraid of making a mistake that my total life was the home. And, of course, you entertained a lot then, the federal co-workers and contractors' wives.

#### Tell me about that.

My husband was in management. So you entertained an awful lot. Of course, Mary is good with this. She taught me this. Anytime any of our husbands had a few words, you know, with one of the other men, you immediately had them over for dinner. Here was the woman, then, that in many cases smoothed these things out. So we really had a role since they were gone so much that we raised the kids, we provided the home life, we took them to music lessons, and we took them to the doctor's office. You would travel with one of each hand and one on the hip when you even had to go for a doctor's appointment. You just got used to doing that.

## Now, your husband in his position there, was he gone for periods of time?

Yes. When the activity in Colorado was occurring, he was gone for three months. When there was activity in the Aleutian Island out past Hawaii, he would be gone for six to nine weeks at a time. He also took a nine-month sabbatical and went to executive development up in the state of Washington.

And you were left with the kids that whole time. Did you know where he was going? Were you privy to that?

Yes.

Okay, but were you privy to when he took off like to Aleutian Islands and all that? Yeah.

You did know, okay.

## Yeah.

## What did that feel like?

Well, you know what? I didn't think about it then. Now I think about it, but I didn't think about it then. It was just like when you moved from one place to go to another, you just accept and you make the best of everything.

## Were the other wives as resourceful as you or agreeable?

I don't know.

## They didn't share that?

No.

When he was gone those nine months, one lady came to me and said, you're never out of this house with these children. Would you like to do something? And I said, well, I'm not the going out type. She said, well, you know I am LDS, and she says you do all these home things. I always sewed for the kids, always was the cookie maker and everything. She said would you like to come to Relief Society with me? And she says my one daughter will baby-sit for you. And I did. And every Wednesday I would go to Relief Society with her. That was a wonderful activity for nine months. It just seemed like it would get me centered; that I would start to think, ah, I'm getting a little bit edgy here, and I'd go to Relief Society and it was so nice. Her husband also worked for my husband. So because we were that business family, they would offer things like this.

## So there was sort of a support system --

Absolutely.

## -- that the wives helped each other?

Absolutely. They thought about you and would do things like that. So when you're in with people that worked for your husband or with people that worked with your husband, you didn't complain. And I don't remember complaining to my family. You accepted what was and made it really as good as possible.

Yeah. I remember from that era just fathers working and stay-at-home mothers and the fathers coming home that there was this thing, dad is home. Was that monumental when he came home?

You have no idea. I guess I'm in excess about everything. Whenever the kids were little and dad was coming home at 5:30 from a regular workday, at five o'clock I'd get out my little toy whistle and say, okay, dad's on the way home, so now we have to pick up all the toys and tidy up. And every child had two plastic laundry baskets. What toys fit in that and would go in the closet they could keep; when they became overloaded, they had to give the toys away. So, see, everything was so darn organized. You just organized -- or I did.

## Was that part of your military background do you think?

Yes. And it was a part of me. It's a wonder I didn't have a chalkboard, you know, with a pointer. You just did those things. You made it nice for the husband that came home. You cooked the meals and whenever someone in his office -- if the wife or the husband was having a little bit of surgery or one of the children had a tonsillectomy, you went with her to the hospital and sat with her. You just did those things. It was really a substitute family.

Going back to the housing, you talked about Sproul and what was available. You said something about the real estate economy was scary at that time.

Well, it was. It was --

#### Similar to right now?

I think there was a period where they overbuilt. So for \$50 you could move into a home and start to make payments on it. These homes sold for around \$29,000, \$35,000. When you looked at homes, some of them were in quite disarray because people just abandoned them. So it took a little while to decide where you wanted to live and how much you really wanted to invest into a piece of property at that particular time. And some of the people did go into larger homes. But those of us who came from smaller communities were more conservative and all had nice homes and we did a great job with them. We entertained in the homes then.

## So you just sort of took everything you had elsewhere and you just plugged it into where you landed. Now, did you buy right away or just rent?

I waited about five months. I rented for five months so that I could really look over the school systems. And then we chose this area where a lot of other co-worker families were because the kids could walk to all three schools -- the elementary school, the junior high school and the high school. The town was so much smaller. And we always wanted to live in the western part of this

#### town.

## Why the western part?

Well, because we thought down in the other areas, you know, where there was PEPCON you could see the smog.

## Down in the Henderson area or the eastern part of the valley.

Yeah. You could see that the air quality may not be as good. So we located in this area. It was a little bit higher than in that valley type of environment, or it seemed that way to me.

# Spousal support: so this was a very busy atomic testing period. We know bits and pieces about it. What was that like out there knowing that they were testing this stuff?

You know, this again was just a total acceptance. It was so wonderful when you grew up right after the Depression that you had a job and that you were getting a monthly income coming in and you accepted it and you were proud of these men that were doing what they were doing and you were all involved with the children, raising them, so you didn't think about it. However, years later, after the kids were grown, I worked for Environmental Protection Agency. Then -- and the kids were grown -- you should hear the conversation between me and Environmental Protection Agency and my husband's whole career in nuclear testing. And my daughter used to sit and laugh.

## Well, describe that. So you'd be going back and forth with him, you mean?

Oh, no. No, every once in a while. You know, in every man and woman's career, what they've devoted their whole life to, they think that's the only way. Okay. They changed from the aboveground testing to the underground testing, you know, things change. I always wondered what's the long-range plan for the Test Site? These men thought there was always going to be nuclear testing. Well, there isn't. Tell me again about these clouds and how they're tracked so that we can save people. So here I go into Environmental Protection Agency where we ought to be careful with the water we drink and the air. Then you start to think. And the wisest thing after that many years is to keep your opinions to yourself. [Laughing]

### But that had to be hard to do.

No. [Laughing] After about a couple of questions, I thought this is insulting to this person that spent his whole life in nuclear testing to ask challenging personal opinion questions. So what did you do for the EPA exactly?

Oh. Well, first of all, I went to the IRS. I went in and said, you know, I stayed home all these years and raised my children, I don't even know if I'm capable of answering a business phone. I stayed at IRS one year and they were so excellent to me. I kept getting awards and accolades because I worked so hard because I wanted to prove to myself that I could use my brain in the business world. I left IRS only because they wanted to put me in career advancement. But in order to do this you have to spend one year going into people's homes helping them with taxes. And I have a phobia; I'm afraid of cats. So I couldn't do this. In a way I was kind of dead-ended in this office and knew I couldn't advance much without having the ability to do this. I even tried a therapist to see if I could get over my fear of cats because I realized this was my barrier. So then I was offered a position with Environmental Protection Agency.

Let me ask so I can get a time line here, so about what year are you now entering the workforce? You said your kids were grown. Were they grown and out of the house? No. The one was still his last year of high school I believe. And I can't remember the exact year. Then I took a promotion and went over to Environmental Protection Agency. They were terrific. They were fantastic. And in fact, my boss said, you know, we have a policy here where our office is scientists and we have a few office managers, which is what the few of us were, he said, but if you want to take any classes at the university, we can flex your schedule. So I started taking classes at the university because we were located on the campus. I would use that as my lunch hour, run over and take a class during my lunch hour and come back. And if the class ran longer, I would extend my hours.

#### What kind of classes did you take?

Well, I just started out with basic classes, but it was in communications. In fact, you know, that UNLVino?

### Yes.

I did the original artwork. I submitted it as a class project. That's my logo.

## No kidding. Oh, you're so talented. That's great.

I was promoted into the manager's office. Loved it. But at that time my father had four strokes and my mother was dead and my sister was trying to take care of him. The EPA was good and let me go home every few months and spend six weeks to help my sister take care of him in the

home. But I went back and said, you know, this really isn't working because I'm keeping someone from getting a promotion. These girls are filling in for me. They said, well, can we offer you a lesser position part-time? And I said, no, because after I've been so spoiled in the manager's office and being so valued, it would be too hard for me to stay in the organization. DOE took me, then, on a very low-ranking basis until my father died. Then I, in the few years, I worked myself up to a management analyst in DOE until I finally retired.

## What does a management analyst do?

Well, it started out that my boss would come to me and say, oh, my word, guess what? They just gave me another assignment. And I said, what is it? He said I have to take this other division, too. He says they have security things. I said, oh, well, good luck. He says, good luck nothing, you're going to be my security officer, go find out what security items we have and how we secure them. So what you did is you analyzed a situation or a problem, such as they then turned the Nevada Test Site standard operating procedures over to me and says look them over and tell me what you think. Then what you do is you come and say, well, here are the situations I had with these; here's three recommended solutions. Then they would pick one and many times have me implement it, you know, write up how it would run. So you analyzed what management came to you for and tried to come up with recommendations.

## Can you describe one of those situations that you had to deal with?

Well, let's take the simplest one, security. I went to all the people that he inherited and I said, Do you have safes? Yes. How many safes do you have? What type of material is in them? How do you ensure that these are locked? Have you had a security infraction in the last three years? If so, what was it? Because if you had a security infraction on the big billboard out in the back of the building by the parking lot, it would flash your division, you have a security violation. Then you had to write a corrective action to Washington, D.C. what steps you would take so that would never happen again. So it was very serious. Sometimes it would be just a guard would come through after everyone went and find a little tip of a paper that he could pull and pull and pull and get out of a locked safe. So security was very, very big there.

Then I would have to find out where the safes were, what the procedures were that that particular group of people had, how they made sure that they were secure, and if they had any infractions, and then maybe at that time come up with a backup plan that even though they secured it there would be one person to go around and check all of the things that needed to be secure that night. You could not prop an outside door open for anything even on the second floor. You had to make sure that everyone was again told, and new employees, never prop an outside door open. You know, just things like that. You set up a whole procedure that said that this is how in this division we will run security.

## So you had to be very logical and have a lot of attention to detail.

That was easy for me.

## And you liked doing that?

Oh, I loved doing it. So they just reclassified me into a management analyst.

## Wow. And you did that for how long?

Well, I think only about four years because I also had other responsibilities as well.

## So you worked after that, you continued...

Well, you had multiple jobs. I was a management analyst, but I was also the contractor's office representative for administrative contracts and that was part of my job, too. I did administration of directives and policy programs. Of course, a contractor did the work, but I would do the oversight on that. Things like that.

## Did that change your life, your social life by being out in the workforce and all of that?

Well, no, except my kids were practically gone and on their own, and so I had more time to devote to taking classes. But I worked hard, not at the Department of Energy, but at EPA when I was in the manager's office; I would always be there maybe 6:30 in the morning and any times stay to 7:30 at night just because I wanted to have everything all organized for the next day.

## They valued you as an employee, I'm sure.

Yeah.

## And your kids: did they move away or did they stay here?

They stayed right here. My daughter worked for REECo, which was a major contractor, while at night she took classes at UNLV. She got a degree in some kind of radiation science. Physics was her bachelor degree. But she paid for her whole education working full-time for Reynolds Electric. Then she worked in their litigation department. She stayed in Nevada. This is her state.

She now lives in Carson City and works for the State of Nevada. She's a radiation control officer for the State of Nevada.

## What's her name?

Karen Beckley.

## Karen, is she your oldest?

She's the oldest. She supervises people in Carson City and in Las Vegas that do all the inspection of the medical radiation machines. Then she's involved in some national programs as Nevada's representative. So she made Nevada her state.

And then my son lived here, but he just moved to California about five years ago because the company he worked for closed. He's now out in California.

Then my daughter Kelly worked for EG&G and she was a graphic artist and did some photography. She died of juvenile diabetes in her 20s.

## Oh, I'm sorry.

Yeah, she's buried here. So that means we're probably going to stay here...

## How time flies.

Yes.

## Tell me about some of the civic interactions that you had during that time.

Well, you know, in the early 70s the concert series began at UNLV and we were all so delighted with that. Also, it was very popular for us to go into Utah to the Shakespearean plays as a group. So many people bought property up there including us and we would go up to Utah for all the Shakespeare Festivals and have great big parties up in Utah at our properties and then all go together to the Shakespearean Festivals.

## When you say parties, would that include the people your husband worked with at the Test Site?

Yes. And the contractors, all those people that we would do things like that with. We had card clubs. We had book clubs. We had an investment club for just women. We had all kinds of luncheons. Here's a number of photographs of that.

## Oh, great.

All kinds of activities. We just did everything together. Then the art group became very

prominent because all these watercolorists, then, became great artists and had classes and taught art.

## Were you part of that painting group, the Watercolor Society?

At that time that's when I went to work.

Oh, I see. So while they're out painting, you're out working. Did you ever, like, think you made the right decision or wrong decision?

I know I made the right decision. [Laughing]

## How do you know?

Because it exercised my brain rather than my hand. I did everything in the home, crafting and everything like that. And while art is beautiful and to be able to create that, this just wasn't easy for me and I don't think I could do that well. But you take a stack of paper on the left-hand side of me and it has to get to the right-hand side and I can guarantee you at that time I could do it as well as anyone else could, if not better.

## I'm sure you could.

And so that was rewarding to me where someone comes with a beautiful, beautiful painting, but it just wasn't my talent. But you give me a work job and that was so fulfilling to me.

So did you play the card games? Did you do some of the other activities with the ladies? Oh, yeah.

## Were you able to do that?

Yes.

## What were some of your favorite things that you liked doing?

You know what I didn't like was bridge.

## Okay. I would think you would be good at bridge.

I know. It was so serious. When I play cards I always wanted to enjoy myself and have fun because I love to laugh. In fact, I think one of the things my kids will remember is my sense of humor because I made light of so many things because I like to laugh. I like to be entertained. That's why Mary and I became such friends. We can take a situation and make it funny to us. If it was something a little bit dis-pleasurable, we would think, oh, but just think how we can have fun talking about this. So because of that, when I play cards I like to play for fun.

## Your friendship with Mary Shaw, how did that begin?

Well, it began because when we first moved there she asked us to the first event that the women were having, which was the big Snow Ball and everyone dressed to the nines. Mary introduced me to a lot of people.

## So she was already living here at that time when you moved.

Yes.

## Were you neighbors or how did you become --

We lived in the same neighborhood.

## Okay. And you crossed paths and that's how you got --

Well, her husband was my husband's immediate boss at that time.

## You talked about your kids a bit.

Now, our kids, they added a new dimension because they were very responsible. My kids when they were younger. Karen got a job at 12 and I didn't even know it. She walked down to the beauty shop, walked in and said I want a job. So they let her clean hairbrushes and clean up around the shop. She came home and said I have a job. I said, oh, my word, where? Oh, right down at the beauty shop right here in the neighborhood. But I made each one of them give back early to the community. Both girls did cherry striping for two years before --

## What is cherry striping?

Cherry striping, they wear these little red-and-white pinafores and they go into the hospitals and volunteer. They pass out magazines, just whatever the hospital wants them to do. So for two years I had each of my girls do cherry striping to teach them you give back to the community

My oldest daughter, when she was 12 years old, rode her bike to the teen center. The teen center was up on Jones. In the teen center I would sign her up for etiquette classes that she hated, but I said, no, you have to learn etiquette. Then the music lessons, I'd take them out to the university and she became a very accomplished. She played the flute and piccolo. Let's see. What else? Oh, another thing is they had the student teaching program in grade and junior high schools for people in the accelerated class. When she was in seventh grade she would sign up and for one semester for one class she would go in to sixth grade or other schools and teach science. They call them student teachers.

#### Oh, that's neat.

Yes. So she would sign up every semester for student teaching. They would pick certain candidates and they would go into the schools and actually teach the children whatever the teacher wanted them to. It was all lesson planed, in a program, and that was nice. Kids were very industrious. They worked. They helped others. If one of the ladies was having a party, I would send one of them over to polish her silver. You just did this. So she polished silver down on (Bandy's Lane). She would say, "I never saw anyone have so much silver, mom, in my whole life." I said, "Well, Honey, she was a general's wife; that's why she has all this silver and she's from Boston." And she said, "Oh, but that's a lot of silver." [Laughing]

But, you know, they were wonderful schools then. Of course, the kids could ride bikes everywhere. It was safe. They could play in the desert. It was safe. Helldorado, every May, was a whole week in the schools. The girls wore pioneer dresses. The boys would wear plaid shirts. They had rodeos. They had whisker contests. They had parades. All of that.

Also, when the children were growing up, the top of the Landmark was a favorite place to go. A lot of families would take their children up to the top of the Landmark after church on Sundays. We made sure every Easter we did. It was just wonderful.

## Where was the Landmark?

The Landmark was right on Paradise. Up on top of the Landmark you could see all over the city. It did not rotate as I remember. They did wonderful things for kids for Easter brunches. They had colored Easter eggs. So that was a great place to take kids.

Another place, every Christmas Eve, we took them to Alpine Village. Alpine Village down on Paradise was all German theme and they had this train up on a ledge that would run around the room. They had the best Alpine Village chicken soup, which was a specialty. It was such a quaint place.

In fact, I have included here the recipe for the chicken soup.

#### Oh, yum. All right.

It was a great place to take the children. And there was one movie theater in town. It was the Huntridge down on Charleston. And the kids went to the Huntridge to go to the movies. Please talk about the shopping.

Now, do you know what our shopping was at Christmas? Fremont Street. Just Fremont Street. We had no malls. Fremont Street had a Sears' catalog-only store, it had a Penney's store, it had a men's store, it had a women's store and a Woolworth's. And if you went shopping, and at that time you didn't want to go into the casino, to eat, you ate lunch at the Woolworth's counter. That was the shopping. Up on the corner down on Fremont Street was Von Tobel's Hardware Store. You could get any kind of hardware you wanted. It wasn't like you're going to four different hardware stores now. It was a magnificent one.

So did you rank the shopping adequate, great, or how did it compare with other places you had lived? You didn't care?

You accepted what was here.

#### I got you.

[Laughing] You know, when I moved to Price, Utah, I thought, oh, my word. It was so limited. Let me tell you I cried hardest when I left there, that wonderful little place. So you just accepted. And then in 1968 I believe it was, my goodness, we are going to have a Boulevard Mall. But meanwhile, we shopped down on Fremont Street. There was also this big ice company down there.

## So there's a lot of good memories of that experience of raising your kids here. It was simple, or simpler than it is now.

Very simple. And you didn't think that if you wanted something from Sears you had to catalog order it. There was no Sears' store. And then all downtown was a western theme, you know, the "howdy, partner." And everyone seemed to wear the plaid shirts and the jeans down there, which seems popular in today's age. But then it was distinctive because our men wore -- well, my husband and the ones that worked in the city office and went to the Test Site just for events, they wore very different type of clothes. They wore business clothes.

### Like a suit and tie?

Yes, and even if the shirts, they were the ones we had ironed with the starch in the shirts, even if some of the ties were bolo ties. And they didn't wear jeans to work. But then when you went downtown, that's why it seemed so western to me because people wore jeans down there and plaid shirts and isn't that wonderful?

## Where was his office at, then? Was it close to Fremont Street?

No. It was down on Highland Avenue off of Sahara; and Sahara used to be called San Francisco Street. And they had that San Francisco medical building. Sahara beyond the Strip—then what were some of the other streets? Las Vegas Boulevard was called Fifth Street and Maryland Parkway was 12th Street. And people, when we were here, still referred to it as, oh, it's down on Fifth Street. And you'd think where's Fifth Street? Well, you know, they're talking those old names for the streets. So that was kind of fun.

So living here in the 60s, we knew the name of every church and every school. There weren't that many and we knew every one of them.

Oh, gasoline. Let me tell you, you could only buy gasoline one day or the other. It was the odd and the even day procedure. I think there must have been a situation where there was a gasoline shortage and somehow they found out they wouldn't deplete the gasoline this way and so you only bought on the odd or the even days.

## Some sort of rationing was going on.

Yes. I'm not sure what that was.

Now, Highway 95, which is Fremont Street, going up to Decatur from downtown was a two-lane dog-eared road. And every night it seemed there was an accident there. In fact, my girlfriend's backyard faced there. I would say, "Did you have an accident last night?" She would say, "Yes, we have one every night." And we called it "Fremont Street Extension," when it came up to [laughing] where -- what is that? -- Valley View. Right in that area was called "Fremont Extension."

The other thing, telephone service. I had a friend whose husband worked at the Test Site. She lived on Bartlett Street, right off Jones and Smoke Ranch. Jones was a dirt road and they only had telephone party lines available. So when they would call her husband out to go to the Test Site, here were all these people on the party line. She couldn't get them off. She told the telephone company this was impacting her husband's work, this party line. So they put her on a list that the next private line that became available they could have that.

### Oh, wow. So were you on a party line, as well?

No, our area had private lines.

Milk delivery. We had milk delivery in galvanized insulated milk boxes that sat out the front door and Anderson Dairy delivered it.

## What was that like in the heat of the summer?

The box was insulated and you knew what time he delivered it. You went out and got it first thing. But the box was galvanized. You had milk delivered right to your door by Anderson. My one girlfriend's son was allergic and he had to have only goat milk. Well, Anderson quit delivering it. So she had to go to a farm on Highland Avenue and get fresh goat milk.

## There was a farm there?

Yes and White Cross Drug was the only 24-hour drug store.

## It's still there, isn't it?

It is. I you wanted a prescription after hours, that's where you had to go.

The Boulder Dam road was only two lanes.

Remember the Silver Slipper with the boardwalk in front of it? And the Thunderbird was also a very prominent seafood-eating place. Remember the 49-cent breakfasts in all the casinos? Oh, they were wonderful.

## Forty-nine cents. What did you get for 49 cents?

Forty-nine cents got eggs, hash browns, toast and sausage links or bacon. Forty-nine-cent breakfast, you could get them everywhere, in the town's casinos. Then at the Golden Gate downtown, these ice cream glasses, you know, the old-fashion ice cream glasses, they'd be filled with shrimp, and they sold shrimp cocktails for 99 cents.

## Did you have a favorite place to go out to dinner? If your husband asked you out for an anniversary or something special, where would you go?

One of the seafood places on the Strip. There's one we went to all the time. It wasn't the Silver Slipper. I can't remember. But it had wonderful seafood. It was right beside the Silver Slipper. I just can't remember what that was now.

## So all in all it ended up being a good place to raise your kids.

Well, compared to what? I don't know. [Laughing] How do you ever know? You know, you take forks in the road and that's what it is. I guess you don't think about it. You make the best of it and hope that it was good. I'm sure it's better in some ways and perhaps not as good in other

things.

## What was your husband's job title?

He started as an operations officer. He then became a test manager.

## Can you describe what he did?

Well, whenever the shots would go off, a test manager sits in the control room. And the weather people report and say the weather conditions are fine. The laboratories report and say the device is set and ready. And the various contractors report to you with their responsibility. And he's the one that gives the order to proceed.

And did you know about what his job description was when he was doing it or was that something you learned later, because we hear about the secrecy and all of that? Well, I did because I worked at Environmental Protection Agency and they were one of the reporting agencies.

So you were also probably dealing in secrecy, as well, as a member of EPA? That's correct.

So did that make your relationship easier? Because other women talk about how they really didn't know for sure what was going on.

Well, I guess it's another thing I didn't think about. But I'm a very curious person, so anything that's going on around me I'm really interested. In fact, my girlfriends, will make one statement and I'll start to ask questions because if I truly want to understand what it is they're talking to me about, I ask an awful lot of questions. I'm just that kind of person. But I never asked questions about my husband's work, because I knew from the beginning you're not to ask questions. When I went to work on my own, then from the work documents, you know, you learn a lot more.

So what I think I'm hearing is that you learned to appreciate his job and what he was doing really from your work, is that how you learned more about what he did?

Yes. That's right. And of course, when you get one side of the picture from someone who has this job, there's always another side that I always needed to look at. So even though you get what his interpretation with the job is, maybe that's how he sees it and maybe that's not the total picture. That kind of goes back to what you were talking about earlier, then, is that you would have a

different perspective on what was going on there.

And think yes, but what about? What if? It's a more broad, I think, way of coming to life's decisions about what you are, what you stand for, how you look at a situation.

## That's great. And so you transferred all of that to your kids off that, didn't you?

I always wanted them to think for themselves. And I think two of them did. My middle one who died of diabetes, she more or less was a total acceptance type. The other two I guess are questioning types. But that could be birth order, too. [Laughing]

Yes. It could be.

What were the politics of the community over time? Most of us are transplants, but not nearly as long as you have been here.

## Yes.

The political scene I think is kind of entertaining, for lack of better words. It's just a very colorful leadership I think in Las Vegas. What was it like to watch that from like the 60s through present day?

You know what? I never took them seriously at all. I kept thinking this is not a community that a statesman is applicable. You have to realize in my formative years, growing up in Pennsylvania and back east and with being in the Daughters of the American Revolution and in the military, everything's by rules, procedures, you know, and you behaved in a certain manner. But in this town I never took the political scene seriously because this was different. I just never took politics seriously here until I became the state veterans' chairman for Daughters of the American Revolution, and then I saw some of the politicians and the actions they did for veteran activities, and I was impressed with their efforts in this one little field that I looked at. I thought, yes, I think that her actions are matching her words. But I never really took the politicians seriously in the earlier years.

Did you take the other parts -- you know, the economy has always been based upon the Strip and tourism, or at least that's what the public image of Vegas is.

Yes.

Did you take any of the activities that were going on there seriously in any way? Like people talk about the mob influence and the switch to corporate.

Well, you have to realize in this little town I grew up in I was a little German kid and it was

90 percent Italian and they were very good to my family. So I never thought about mob influence because I was around it all my formative years. It was my way of life. It really was. I understood everything very well.

## That had to be interesting. I never thought about that.

Yes. You know, you're from your hometown. And so, you know, it just seems like they're part of the family that I grew up with. Even though we were German, all my girlfriends, so many of them were Italian and from very Italian families. And the one thing I learned -- one of the executives at the Suncoast I took homemade treats up. He said, oh, my god, my wife has to have your recipe. I said I'll give it to her, but I want to tell you something; this is an old Italian recipe and the one thing she has to learn is Italian mothers never give a daughter-in-law all the ingredients in the recipe because she doesn't want them to make it as well as she does. But I said I think I had this one figured out. [Laughing] So the part of that that you grew up with still sticks with you, you know.

## [Laughing] Yes.

And it is so much fun. That mob influence was all around where I grew up, so it just didn't seem odd here.

Yeah. I can relate to that, actually. Well, I know you've got an appointment that you want to get to, your husband. I really appreciate your time. This has been great. I've learned a lot. Now, may I take these with me, these articles, and copy them and bring them back to you?

That's great. Or else put them in the mail; that's fine.

Okay. I will get those back to you.

## A

Air Force, 3, 4, 6, 9 Alpine Village, 19

## D

Daughters of the American Revolution, 24 Department of Energy, 8, 15 Dept. of Energy (DOE), 14

## E

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 12, 13, 23

## F

Fremont Street, 20, 21

## G

Gibson Junior High School, 8 Golden Gate casino, 22

### H

Helldorado, 19 Huntridge, 19

## I

Internal Revenue Service (IRS), 13

## K

Kemmerer, WY, 5

Landmark, 19 Las Vegas, NV, 1, 6, 16, 21, 24

## Ρ

L

PEPCON, 12 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 1 Price, Utah, 20

### R

real estate, 11 Relief Society, 10

## S

San Antonio, TX, 3 Shaw, Mary, 7, 9, 17, 18 Snow Ball, 18 Sproul Homes, 7

## Т

Test Site, 7, 8, 12, 14, 16, 20, 21

## U

United States Steel, 2 UNLVino, 13

#### W

Western High School, 8 White Cross Drug, 22

# AEC Women Greet New Members At Tea



AEC TEA—Shown at the traditional AEC Women's Club Membership Tea are from left Mrs. J. E. Reeves, Mrs. Lawrence Crooks, Mrs. P. J. Mudra and Mrs. Rob-

ert Miller. It is held each fall to welcome new members and honor past presidents.

The AEC Women's Club held its traditional membership tea at the Thunderbird Hotel. The tea is held each fall to welcome new members and to honor past presidents, who were introduced by Mrs. Charles Williams.

Mrs. Lawrence Crooks, president, presided at a brief business meeting.

Mrs. M. H. May gave a report on the many activity groups and their value in creating interest and new ideas. Assisting at the tea table were Mmes. Charles E. Williams, Thomas Young, P. J. Mudra, G. P. Stobie, P. N. Halstead, Ben Bowyer and Carl Wilson. The scheduled October program has been cancelled. Instead there will be a coffee on October 14 with Mrs. Glenn Stafford as co-ordinator. The program will include a Christmas decoration demonstration by the Nevada Power Company home economists.

Those eligible to join the AEC Women's Club are wives of employes and women employes of NVOO, federal agencies and contractors, if interested phone Mrs. Rollin Shaw 870-2990, membership chairman.

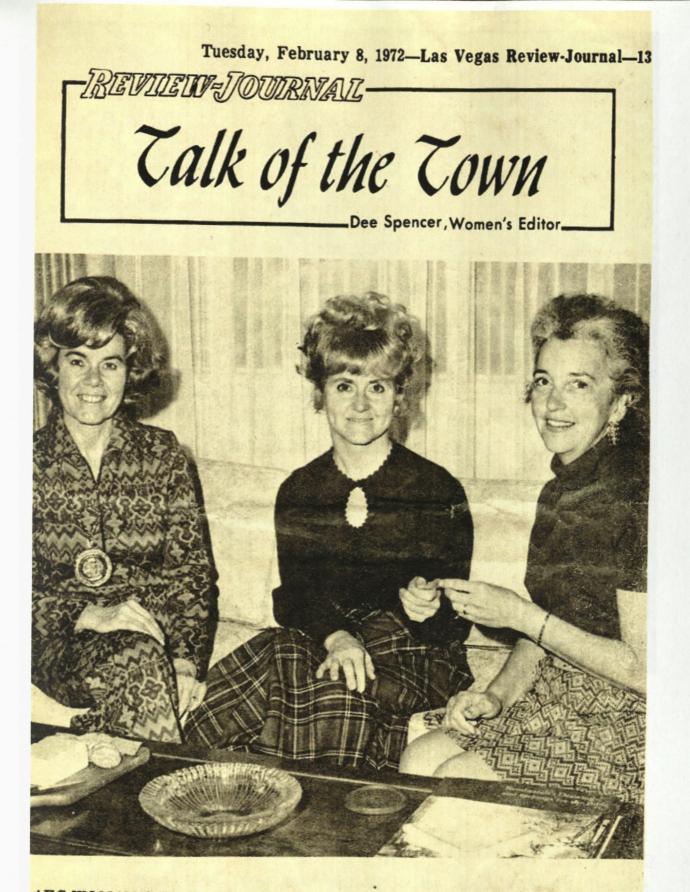




## THIS IS HOW IT

The skit 'This is How it Happened' which will be presented at the Membership Tea of the AEC Women's Club in the Convention Hall of the Mint Hotel on October 12 from 1 to 3 p.m. was written and will be directed by Mrs. Charles Presley. Singers appearing in the skit will be Mrs. Lester Johnson, left, Mrs. Paul Mudra, Mrs. William Truex and Mrs. Robert L. Meade, on the floor with 'her interests.' Reservations for the tea will be received by luncheon chairman. Mrs. Eugene Le Mieux, 870-1146 or Mrs. C. H. Shufflebarger. 384-4936. Membership in the club is open to wives of employees and women employees of the Nevada Operations Office of the AEC, federal agencies, and contractors participating in the NVOO program. Further information may be obtained from membership chairman, Mrs. Marion May, 870-3215.

R-J PHOTO



AEC WOMANS' CLUB DESSERT PARTY — The annual AEC Woman's Club benefit dessert party will be held on Thursday, February 10 at noon until 4 p.m. at the Nevada Garden Club Building in Lorenzi Park, 3333 West Washington Boulevard. Shown planning for the event are Mrs. M. Vincent Mowbray, left, reservations chairman; Mrs. Paul J. Mudra, ways and means chairman; and Mrs. Ernest D. Campbell, coordinator.



DESSERT PARTY — Shown making final plans for the AEC Woman's Club dessert party are standing from left, Mrs. Ernest Campbell and Mrs. Paul Mudra, and seated from left, Mrs. M. Vincent Mowbray and Mrs. D. W. Sherwood. The event will be held Thursday in the Nevada Garden Club Center, Lorenzi Park.

# AEC Woman's Club Plans Party

The Atomic Energy Comnission Woman's Club will told a dessert party Thursday rom 12 noon to 4 p.m. in the Nevada Garden Club Center, Lorenzi Park, 3333 W. Washngton Blvd.

The event is the club's main

fund raising activity for the year and members and friends are invited to attend.

Mrs. E. Campbell is the coordinator and Mrs. P. J. Mudra is ways and means chairman.

Admission is \$2.50 which in-

cludes a ticket for the aftendance award. Reservations may be made by calling Mrs. Wayne Reeves, 382-44/2 or Mrs. M. Mowbray, 878-4430.

Total proceeds from the event will be placed in the club's philanthropic fund.



Couples Party For AEC

AEC Women are planning couples party, Oct. 25, 6:3 p.m., in Christ Church Epis copal Parish Hall beginnin with cocktails and dinne at 8.

>)

10 This is the Club's fund raise party. Tickets will be avai able at the door by phonin Mrs. Paul Mudra, 870-435 for reservations.

SA

COMMITTEE MEMBER Making final plans for a evening when all AEC pe sonnel and wives have chance to get together a from left, Mmes. Willia Truex, Bill Johnson an Charles Cole.

AT RIGHT – Allocatir tickets for the affair a Mmes. Robert Ashloc Thomas Young, Charl Bromley and Paul Mudo





Nodeling the latest in at-home wear at the AEC Women's Slub Fashion Show Luncheon, at right, is Shirley Mudra, rife of Paul Mudra, of the AEC's Off-Site Operations



Branch. Evening wear is modeled by Maurine Bowyer, left, wife of Ben Bowyer, AEC Plowshare Planning Branch.

## About The Cover

Beauty, ruggedness and hardship all tre depicted in this scenic view near ihoshone Mountain. The land is wonlerful for color photographs, but pretents a real challenge to the constructon engineer and work crews who are called to labor here. The REECo Line Construction Department recently erected two-and-a-half-mile power line over his terrain, overcoming many difficulies enroute. Story and pictures are on Cages 4 and 5.

## **NTS News**

Published every other Friday by Reynolds Electrical & Engineering Co., Inc., for the personnel of the Atomic Energy Commission's Nevada Test Site. Editor, Bill Guthrie. Illustrator, George M. Sanchez. Photographers, Richard (Doc) Colyer and Ernest Stockill. 300 Wall St., M/S 550, Telephone 734-3897

## AEC Women's Club Sees Fall Fashion Preview

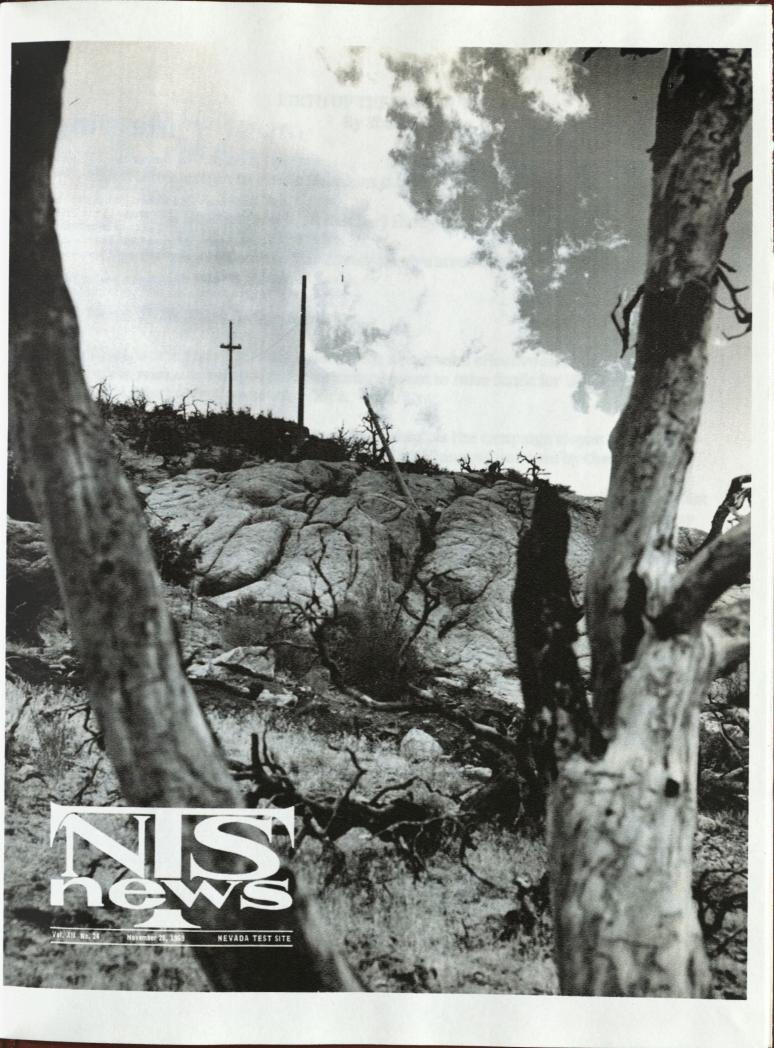
The November luncheon meeting of the AEC Women's Club brought a special treat for members and guests in the form of a Fall Fashion Preview.

Fashions, hairstyles, guidance and coordination were provided by Montgomery Wards, and Miss Judy Moreo, of the Wendy Ward Fashion Board and Charm School, was the narrator for the occasion. Following a theme of "Dawn Until Dusk," all facets of fashionable attire were shown including at-home wear, pantsuits, afternoon wear and evening fashions, complete with the newest line of furs.

Modeling Ward's latest fashions were members of the AEC Women's Club, representing the AEC and various AEC contractors.

Highlighting the fashion show was the drawing of door prizes with Mrs. Jo Stroker winning a complete Wendy Ward Charm Course and Mrs. Jane Onderko, a gift of perfume, compliments of Wards.

Membership in the AEC Women's Club is open to all wives of employes and women employes of the NVOO, Federal Agencies, and contractors.



## BIRTH OF THE SLOGAN 'UNLVino" By Shirley Mudra

UNLV Introduction to Public Relations class COS109X, Section I Mark Hughes (and Walt Belcher) Humanities Feb. 12-May 20, 1976 Purpose of Course: To actively involve students in public relations work.

March 1976. Class Assignment:

Three teams were formed) to establish a proposed effective and comprehensive public relations campaign for an annual event to raise funds for UNLV's College of Hotel Administration scholarships.

The team I was on chose "Sip for Scholarship" as the campaign slogan to be used. (Not my submission.) My submission of UNLVino was not used by the team.

However, Mark Hughes told the class that each of us could also submit independent inputs (slogans, billboard designs, etc.) for extra credit. With the assistance of my husband, and my children, sitting around the dining table, and each spouting possible suggestions, this slogan held a personal interest that I wished to present as an extra credit. I therefore used it for my extra credit submission.

I did receive an "A" for this extra credit submission (along with my billboard narrative that included the illustration for the "Sip for scholarship" billboard design). Obviously this was forwarded to the College of Hotel Administration because it was adopted as the main event title for not only that year but for 36 years to date. I watch with interest this successful ever-growing annual event evolve from a 1975 700 attendance at Best Brand facilities, 4500 Wynn Road, to the spectacular 3-day fundraiser of today.

Shiley Mudra leastring day lear MO0:6 117 ( til 9:00 College of Hotel Administration

Ahirly Mudra Wine Sating and Cellar Jour -10cholarst Aministra AIND College Hotel 7th (Li q:000m Jack

Wine Tasting and Cellar Tour Friday, May 7, 1976

NARRATIVE - BILLBOARDS

The design of both billboards was done in a manner taking the following guidelines into consideration:

## 1. Brevity.

The outdoor advertisement must be brief because the average passerby sees it only for about five seconds. It should tell only the most important idea of the message, so that the passerby can quickly read and understand it. (Location of event was omitted on the billboard design because Best Foods Inc. did not add anything to the message and could have lead to confusion by competing with University of Nevada, Las Vegas for recognition.)

## 2. Number of Persons to Interest.

A general theme (hand with wine glass and single wine glass) was chosen. This wine tasting should be presented in a manner to encourage all age categories to become interested in attending. The design was kept simple to sell the idea to the largest number of people.

3. Location.

It is requested (since the Donrey Advertising Co. is donating the billboards), that the locations be where the traffic is heavy (on East Sahara Avenue and West Charleston Boulevard).

Shirley Mudra

Shirley Mudra Outdoor Advertising Design