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An Interview with Ina Porter

An Oral History Conducted by Claytee White

Voices of the Historic John S. Park Neighborhood

Oral History Research Center at UNLV
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This project was the brainchild of Deborah Boehm, Ph.D. and Patrick Jackson who taught at UNLV and resided in the John S. Park Neighborhood. As they walked their community, they realized it was a special place that intersected themes of gender, class, race/ethnicity, religion, sexuality and gentrification. Patrick and Deborah learned that John S. Park had been listed on the National Registry of Historic Places and that original homeowners, local politicians, members of the gay community, Latino immigrants, artists and gallery owners and an enclave of UNLV staff all lived in the neighborhood. Therefore, they decided that the history of this special place had to be preserved, joined with the Oral History Research Center at UNLV Libraries and wrote a grant that was funded by the Centennial Committee.

The transcripts received minimal editing that included the elimination of fragments, false starts and repetitions in order to enhance the reader's understanding of the narrative. These interviews have been catalogued and can be found as non-circulating documents in Special Collections at UNLV's Lied Library.

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Interview with Ina Porter

January 5, 2010 in Las Vegas, Nevada
Conducted by Claytee White

Table of Contents

Introduction: born in 1917 and grew up in Kanab, UT. Memories of her mother who attended school in Kanab and in Cedar City, UT. Mother's musical talent and piano lessons. Illness in her early thirties.	1
Growing up in Kanab, UT: piano lessons and singing with her sisters. High school and participation as a dancer in school programs. Work as a waitress at Grand Canyon, AZ after graduation (1935).	4
Great Depression: her father and his work as a trucking and road-building contractor, and later as a service-station owner. Losses in the Great Depression and World War II.	6
Attended dancing school in Salt Lake City, UT (1935-36). Worked at Zion National Park, UT (summer 1936). Married Burdell Porter and moved to Sun Valley, ID (1936).	8
Moved to Las Vegas. Burdell drove buses, first for UP and then for Greyhound.	12
Las Vegas in the late 1930s: "just a little town," safe to go out at night, did not lock doors, people walked. Social activities: movies, Mormon church, square dancing.	14
Moving to the John S. Park Neighborhood in the 1940s.	16
What Ina liked about the John S. Park Neighborhood: a home of her own, house was inexpensive, they helped build the Mormon church in the neighborhood.	18
Description of their house: originally two bedrooms and a bath, later added a bedroom, dining room, and basement.	19
The John S. Park Neighborhood in the 1940s: not too many houses. Recalls some of the residents who lived in the community. Description of the Huffey house (later the Sandino home).	21
Successful professionals from the John S. Park Neighborhood and what influenced them to achieve: higher education, upward mobility in homes and neighborhoods.	26
Building the Huntridge Neighborhood for military families during World War II.	27
People who lived in the John S. Park Neighborhood. The Gubler family and their home.	28
Importance of the LDS Church to the John S. Park Neighborhood: a good influence on the community, a large community of Mormon families, involvement of both LDS and non-LDS children in church activities.	30
Community organizations: involvement in Beta Sigma Phi sorority and Mothers' Club.	31
Feelings re: the razing of the neighborhood LDS chapel and implications for the First Ward Mormon community in the John S. Park Neighborhood.	33
Relationship between Ina Porter and her daughter Sue Ann Porter.	35
Changes in the John S. Park Neighborhood over fifty years: not as neighborly, Las Vegas was a small town.	36

Babysitting for celebrities' children at Las Vegas hotels.	36
Changes in the John S. Park Neighborhood over fifty years: not as safe as it used to be, many original residents died or moved away, new people moved in, and transiency of neighbors.	37
Becoming a historic neighborhood: opposition by some residents but not as restrictive as anticipated. Positive aspects: homes are better maintained, community more cohesive.	38
Memories of neighbors and friends in the community, and how neighborly people were in the early John S. Park community. Final comments.	40

Preface

Jan Parker recalls the story of choosing to move to the John S. Park Neighborhood in the 1940s. She and her husband Bertell were cautious to getting back for everything and wanted to establish a good credit with them to purchase their 3300 home, which was not considered inexpensive. They were among the earlier homeowners and soon the neighborhood grew to include a Mormon City and her would become integral to the John S. Park history and to the John S. Park community.

Jan was born 1917 in the small southern Ohio town of Kador. She describes her childhood and aspects of the Great Depression. She graduated from high school in 1935, worked in 1936 and moved to Las Vegas, where there were jobs for her husband. Finding work at a time when getting a job was difficult, but because she had been a bus driver she was able to make a good living driving a bus for the Union Pacific Railroad and later the Nevada State Police. Years later Jan, Bertell and their family were part of the flow of the John S. Park Neighborhood's history. She was named in this interview by her daughter, Janice Parker, who acts as her research interview partner.



Preface

Ina Porter recalls the story of choosing to move to the John S. Park Neighborhood in the 1940s. She and her husband Burdell were accustomed to paying cash for everything and needed to establish credit with Sears to purchase their \$5000 home, which was not considered inexpensive. They were among the earlier homeowners and soon the neighborhood grew to include a Mormon Church that would become so integral to the Porter family's life and to the John S. Park community.

Ina was born 1917 in the small southern Utah town of Kanab. She describes her youth and speaks of the Great Depression. Ina graduated from high school in 1935, married in 1936 and moved to Las Vegas, where there were jobs for her husband. Finding work after his graduation from college was not easy, but because he had been a bus driver he was able to secure a position driving a bus for the Union Pacific Railroad and later Greyhound Bus Line. Years later Ina, Burdell and their family were part of the fiber of the John S. Park Neighborhood's history. Ina was joined in this interview by her daughter Sue Ann Porter, who also sat for a separate interview earlier.

ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER AT UNLV

Voices of the Historic John S. Park Neighborhood



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Interview with Ina Porter

January 5, 2010 in Las Vegas, Nevada
Conducted by Claytee White

This is Claytee White. It is January 5th, 2010, and I'm in the home with the Porters today, and I'm interviewing Ina, and here with us is Sue Ann. Ina, how are you doing?

Well, right now, like my dad would say, I'm still kicking but not making much dust. I've used that quite a bit lately.

[Laughing] OK. So, Ina, why don't you tell me about your early life? Tell me where you grew up, how many kids in the family, that kind of thing.

I grew up in Kanab, Utah, a little town about three miles from the Arizona line. I was the only child [for a while]. I was six years old before I had a sister. I used to tell my mom, Dad isn't a good dad. He gives Linna lots of little brothers and sisters, and he doesn't give us any. So they'd laugh. That was a joke that we kind of kept in the family for years, because it was six years before I got another [sibling]. And then there was three girls.

My mom was musical. She played the piano. She gave lessons when she was young. Now I'm telling all these crazy stories.

That's great. That's what I want to hear.

Her special girlfriend that she grew up with died when she was only fourteen or fifteen, and it was quite a heartbreak for Mom. She went to school over at Cedar City [Utah]. They had a bigger school, and [she] was able to take extra classes over there that she couldn't get in Kanab because Kanab was just a little country town. The high school I

think was only about—oh, there was those that, if they wanted to, could graduate but most of them, if they got to the sixth grade, that was it.

Anyway, Mom went to Cedar City. She had been taking music lessons on the piano in Kanab because her folks had a beautiful piano that Mom's dad had bought for her when she was a little girl, and there was a lady that gave Mom music lessons, so she was really good at it and could give [lessons] to somebody else.

In Cedar City, she was able to take more music and the teacher there thought that she was one is special [students], and he was getting after her all the time to play the classical and not to get off on the popular, jazzy stuff. Well, one day the music teacher was going back to the classes and he could hear music rustling through the trees and it was Mom playing ragtime.

She was playing her favorite song?

Yes. And, oh, he scolded her. But the kids were dancing on the lawn and had the most fun and Mom was playing.

Sue Ann: What about you? You were talking about Grandma's friend, remember, that died. Was that what it was all connecting with? Because she named you after her, right? Didn't she name you after [her friend]?

Ina: Oh yes, I was named after her special friend. They thought that her friend had died of tuberculosis.

Later, my mother hurt her leg up above the knee when she was only about thirty-one, thirty-two years old. [There were] no doctors in the country towns. They took her into Salt Lake [City, Utah] to the doctor up there. She was sick at home with a so-called broken leg and everything else before the doctors [saw her]. In the first place, Mom

didn't want to leave. She didn't want to go into the city, until she got so bad that there was nothing they could do. Dr. Baldwin in Salt Lake took over and [did] x-rays and everything. Then Dad wanted to take her back East to the Mayo Brothers [Clinic] but Dr. Baldwin said they'd waited too late, she'd just better stay there, and he thought that he could take care of it. Well, he did.

Sue Ann: What did they find out, Mom?

Ina: They found out that it was cancer, of course. They started giving her radium or whatever they gave.

Sue Ann: And then they scraped the bone marrow out of the bone.

Ina: Oh, they scraped the bone for six inches above the knee, as thin as an eggshell, she said, just left it thin. Oh, I don't need to tell you all this, but I'll just tell you that they cured her, and he [the doctor] said he thought she would be able to come home for Christmas. So he put a cast on her leg. They waited till the last minute to tell her because they still didn't know whether they could dare send her [home]. If he [Dad] would get a nurse to stay there with her, [she could come home].

So they headed for Kanab [on] Christmas Eve. It was snowing and they didn't think they were going to be able to make it but Mom said, We've got this far and you're familiar with the roads. Let's go. So they took off in the snow and got to Kanab. They got there at three o'clock in the morning. Me and my sister had been living part-time with our grandmothers. When they woke up, there was our momma, on a stretcher, in the living room by the Christmas tree. They had gone to the store and bought presents because Mom and Dad thought they wouldn't get there and there would be no presents under the

tree, so they went up and got more. Anyway, it was the happiest Christmas ever, except the [first] Christmas a long time ago.

That's a wonderful story. So, do you remember what life was like there in Kanab when you were a little girl?

Yes. It was wonderful.

Did you take piano lessons?

Yes, but I had to watch my hands [while I was playing]. I watched my fingers so I could memorize. I didn't really get to be that good. Oh, I had fun with it, but I didn't get to play like my mother. We would sing together.

Your sisters?

Uh huh, and it was kind of a novelty because Corris was six years younger and Leile was the youngest. I was six years older than Corris and eight years older than [Lee Isle].

Sue Ann: You sang together, and Leile was so little, wasn't that it?

Ina: Yes. She was the young one. She would sing the alto part, and [Corris] would sing the lead and I would fill in with the second or middle part. And we were good. The novelty [was that] Leile was so young, at four years old, singing an alto. We sang quite a bit for like the church programs and different things. They would know who they could come and get to sing. Afterwards I realized, well, the reason Leile sang the alto [was that] she was always sitting on Mom's lap when we were singing it, and so she was just singing along with Mom. Mom would sing alto. But I never realized that until, well, just a few years ago, because it was so unusual.

So, what did you do after high school? Did you finish high school there in Kanab or did you go to Cedar City as well?

So, what did you do after high school? Did you finish high school there in Kanab or did you go to Cedar City as well?

No, I finished at Kanab.

Sue Ann: Tell her about your dancing.

Ina: Oh yes. I was always moving, skipping, doing cartwheels. We had a cousin that would come up from California to visit in the summer, and he said, You're quite a contortionist. I didn't know what that meant, but I guess it meant I could limber my back. I could do back bends and flips and all of that. So that was quite a different name. It wasn't just [that] I could do tricks; I was a contortionist. And then of course that got to be something that I could [that] nobody else could, so I was always doing programs. All through school, oh, I was on all the programs, it seemed like. It was just a small school and they had to have somebody to entertain. It always scared me to death but I enjoyed it.

Mr. [Visick] was my sixth-grade teacher. He taught there for several years. He married a Kanab girl. Although he didn't live in Kanab, he was coming back all the time, so he was aware of me, and he told me one time, he says, When you graduate from high school and when your dad will let you go, that's the way he put it, you can work out at the North Rim of Grand Canyon at the lodge. You can dance on the programs.

In the meantime, my folks had a cabin out at VT Park, which is on the Kaibab up from the canyon there in the forest, and I was going down to the lodge all the time and kept involved with what was going on, so they knew me. When I did graduate from high school, Mr. [Visick] told me [that] he wanted me to work out there. So I got to be a

waitress. I didn't have to be a maid. I got to be a waitress, so I could make more money. I made seventy-five dollars a month.

That was a lot of money.

Yes. My Uncle Bill was a cowboy and lived right next door. In fact, he spent all of his life out on the range with the cattle. He was so bashful. He branded a couple of calves for me so that when I got ready to go to school, I sent those [for sale] and I was able to pay my own way. I saved seventy-five dollars from working at the Canyon. Seventy-five dollars was all I was able to save out of what I made. That was during the [Great] Depression.

In the 1930s? When were you born?

Nineteen seventeen.

OK. Before we start talking about what you did when you left Kanab, tell me a little about your dad and the kind of work that he did.

Well, let's see. Oh, the Depression came along and that's when he lost his [contracts].

Sue Ann: What did Grandpa do when you were little, before the Depression, before he lost the trucks?

Ina: Well, Marysville was the [head of the] railroad there and Kanab was, oh, a little over a hundred miles on south of the railheads, so Dad had had his truck. Soon after they was married, first he was herding sheep for his dad, and then when he saved his money from that, he bought him a truck, and could go to the end of the railroad and haul the things for the grocery stores and anything else that they needed down in that end of the world. So he knew equipment. Oh, and I know he would get us a new touring car; every year he'd buy a car. So he was one of the better-off people there. Well, he wasn't

one of the rich ones but he made [good money and] he could take care of his family, and then he had to take care of his own folks. His dad was getting old and couldn't do [much].

A new car every year? That's wonderful. He must've been doing really well. So he was also a contractor?

Yes, [he] contracted for building the roads. Well, you go into Flagstaff, Arizona, and you go over to a canyon there that is real popular now. Oh, that's where he lost his shirt, because he had to build a state road down in Oak Creek Canyon down to Sedona [Arizona]. It snowed more that year. Down at that barn at Sedona, it was a mild climate. It was not very many miles down there, maybe twenty or thirty, I don't know.

Sue Ann: It cost him more money to build it, is that what happened? He had contracted for so much money and because of the weather [he couldn't complete the contract on time]?

Ina: Oh, that's it. And he also bought another truck. He had four of them. And then when they got this job down into Sedona, he [had to put up collateral] so he could get this other truck.

Sue Ann: He borrowed money on it, is that it?

So he used it for collateral?

Ina: Uh huh.

Sue Ann: So what did he do after that, when he lost the contracting?

Ina: Oh, and then everybody was going on [welfare].

Sue Ann: Then didn't he come to Las Vegas? They came and lived in Las Vegas because of the war [World War II], so there were jobs here.

Ina: Before he came to Las Vegas, he built his service station. He took a loan on our nice home. It was one of the nicer homes in Kanab.

Sue Ann: So he built a gas station, then.

Ina: Yes, but in order to do it, he had put a loan on the house, and so he had that payment each month he had to make. He was just a good guy. Of course he was. Because I'm thinking of the time a young couple were just married and they were going from Arizona on up into Salt Lake, and he found out that they had just got married, so he wouldn't let them pay for the gas and sent them on their way. That's it. He was so aware of people. He was just like his own dad, I guess, and like I tried to be through the years.

Good. So the service station was a successful business venture?

Yes, until the war. After the Depression, then the war came. Then people quit [driving and] couldn't go places, and so his service station went on the blink. I lived here in Las Vegas [at that time].

So when did you move to Las Vegas?

I graduated from high school in '35. I got married in '36 or was it '37? How old is Dan?

Sue Ann: He's seventy-one-or-two. He's seven years older than I am.

Had the war already started before your father moved to Las Vegas?

Ina: Yes, because I was here.

So he probably didn't move here until 1941-42. So did you get married here in Las Vegas?

No. I got married at Kanab, at the house.

Well, tell me something. When you used the money to go to school, that was after high school?

Yes, I went right up there.

Where did you go?

In Salt Lake City.

Sue Ann: It was a dance academy, your dance school, wasn't it?

Ina: It was a big building on Main Street. It was a big mansion that they had turned into [a school]. I wanted to teach dancing, because that's what I'd been doing through high school. I gave dancing [lessons] too, but I didn't have a [formal] teacher. One of the teachers there [in high school] that helped me a lot, but I couldn't say, Oh, I went to the dancing school, or did this or that. I'd only charge about twenty-five cents [for a lesson].

So then you went away to the dancing school.

Sue Ann: What kind of dancing did you learn? Was it drama, too? Was it dance and drama?

Ina: They had public speaking, or drama; dancing; and music. There's where I paid [a] high price for my piano [lessons], and I wasn't that good. Oh, but I was in their play that they had, and met a special boyfriend. Of course he was going to school in Logan [Utah] and I didn't get to see him very often, so it wasn't very special, but it was fun.

So how long did you go to school there?

Well, I went up in September [of 1935] and stayed until March [of 1936]. I was anxious to get home and I figured I'd had enough training up there. Our groups had put on a program up there several times. Oh, and they had one of the best teachers up there. Of course, I wasn't one of their best students. And in fact my dancing teacher discouraged me about my athletic [ability], and they tried to get me to stop it entirely because I should

have started training for it when I was younger, to develop my muscles more to hold me up on a lot of the stands. And I thought, Well, I can get my tap and my other [dancing]. I've got enough of it; I can do it myself. Seems like Mom got sick again, too—of course, she was on crutches all her life, and in pain with that raw sore on her knee—and I just felt like I needed to be home. Oh, and then summer was coming up and I wanted to go to the Grand Canyon again. [Laughing]

Oh, to work there again?

Yes.

Sue Ann: And where else did you work, besides the Grand Canyon? Didn't you work over at Zion [National Park]?

Ina: Oh yes, when I went back home that summer, I went to Zion Canyon. Oh yeah, because my teacher from Salt Lake came down and she says, Oh, you didn't pay any attention to what I said, because I did the same routine there that I was doing at Grand [Canyon].

So how did you leave there and come to Las Vegas? What happened?

Well, I met that guy [Burdell Porter]. Oh, he was a bus driver up there in the canyons. He would pick them up at the railroad at Cedar City, take them to Bryce Canyon [Utah], and then on out to Grand Canyon, and then up to Zion Canyon. It would take them about five days to make the route, and then [he would] get another [tour]. [He did that] until school started, and then he'd have to go back to college. He was a star athlete in his college.

Sue Ann: Did he get scholarships?

Ina: Yeah, uh huh, because he was a star player in basketball and football, too, but basketball was it.

Also, he was going with my roommate, but we got to be special friends, and I had a crush on him, but I didn't want him to know it, so I was going out with other fellows all the time. My roommate, she had to work up at the cafeteria, and I was down at the lodge, so anyway, I was with him a lot while he was waiting for her to get off. I guess he liked to tease because I thought, Why in the world did he [act this way]? He liked me, and I liked him, and all along he would tease me.

So did you take her boyfriend?

Well, the next year he didn't come back. I wrote to him while he was up to school at Logan, and in a playful way we'd talk about getting married, but it was just fun. I mean I had no idea. I was five years younger than him and I just figured, well, I had other guys, too. High school boyfriends would show up every now and then.

Sue Ann: So how did Dad ask you to marry him?

Ina: Oh, in a teasing way. In our letters he'd talk about it just in a teasing way.

[Looking at pictures] He was a good guy and I look at those pictures. But that's it. He lost his hair early. I can see him now. He'd brush it so hard. I'd tell him he was pulling it all out.

But that's what I thought, because he was older than me, five years older, and I didn't have a brain in my head.

So you got married.

We got married.

And how did you decide to come to Las Vegas?

Oh, after he graduated from college, oh, he could teach, but he could make more money if he could get on the main line of Union Pacific [Railroad], and make more money

driving a bus than he could teaching school. He drove up at Sun Valley [Idaho], from the lodge to the little town, Ketchum, I think.

Is that where you lived when you got married? [Did you live] in Sun Valley first?

Uh huh. We got married at Kanab, and then we went over to Escalante.

Sue Ann: That's where Dad is from.

Ina: We were married in October. They had to let him off because the summer travel [had slowed down], so he went up to Cedar City.

Sue Ann: Then he got the job at Sun Valley and you lived up there for a while.

Ina: Yes, we were up there till March.

So from October to March.

Uh huh. And we were still having to depend on the bus. We didn't have a car or anything. We had to do our traveling on that. Sid, his brother, lived in Cedar City, and that's where we went from Sun Valley down to Cedar. Sid took us over to Kanab. His dad had a pickup [truck] and my folks had a car. We figured when we got over to Kanab, we could use [one of those].

When we got married in Kanab, we went out to VT Park, out folks' place out there, for our honeymoon. They still had their cabin out there. Then we [moved to Sun Valley].

Sue Ann: What did you do after Sun Valley, Mom? How did you get to Vegas?

Ina: He got the job on the main line for Union Pacific.

So the main line ran through Las Vegas.

Uh huh. And if he could get the [bus] route from Cedar City to Las Vegas, he would get on it. He'd been working for them, so he [had a chance]. Anyway, it was easy.

Oh, he and his brother, like brothers and sisters, like kids do, they wouldn't agree on things. We went over one of the rivers up there and Burdell called it one thing and Sid called it another, and they argued over what the river was called. Even now I can't think [of what it is]. I know I started crying because I thought, For crying out loud, we just got home. And then later I found out the reason I cried so easy: I was expecting. I guess Mom told me that after we got to Kanab. [Laughing] I was telling her that Burdell and Sid got to arguing over [the name of the river]. I said, What is the name of that river anyway that goes down through Long Valley? Anyway.

OK. So then, did you have the first baby before you came to Las Vegas?

No.

Tell me what Las Vegas was like when you first got here. Where did you live?

It was a block from Fremont [Street]. It was 131 South Fourth [Street]. It was right on the corner, the very first triplex. Very nice.

So he was working for the railroad.

Sue Ann: No, no, no, no, no. [It was the Union Pacific, but as] a bus driver, though. He never worked with the trains. It was always the buses. So it was a Union Pacific bus.

Ina: Greyhound took over. That's how the name got changed.

Oh, I see. OK, so he was working for Greyhound. Did you work when you first got here?

No, I didn't feel like it. I didn't know a lot of things.

Was he out of town for a long period of time?

No. He worked for two years on the extra board so he could be home every night. Some of them had reputations of stepping out on their wives and everything like that, having

extra girlfriends, and I knew he wouldn't. That's it. He cared for me. That's why every time I look at his picture, I just....

So this was in the late Thirties.

Yes.

So tell me what Las Vegas looked like.

Oh, it was just a little town. We weren't afraid to go out at night. I'd walk up to meet him at the garage. I hadn't even locked the front door. He got after me because we were so close to Fourth Street. The garage was just up the street about three blocks. So the bums would come down there. It was close for them to come and ask for a handout. So it's a wonder I didn't get taken care of or something. Anyway, I grew up a lot.

What did the two of you do for fun?

Oh, the show house was down in the 300 block, on Fremont.

Is that the movie theater?

The movie theater. And then we were Mormons, so there was a Mormon church that was way down at the end of the gravel road. Well, it was over here by the high school.

Near the Fifth Street High School?

Sue Ann: Was it the white one that they had here or was it the old church that's over here across the street from the high school?

Ina: The high school is just right there, across the street.

Sue Ann: Yeah, the one that's over there because that's the one I remember going to.

OK, so the School of the Arts now.

Sue Ann: Yeah, and it was Las Vegas High School.

Ina: Oh, I know we got to square dancing.

OK. Where did you go to square dance?

We'd sometimes square dance three times a week. We'd go to Boulder City [Nevada] on a Wednesday night, and then Las Vegas had a group on the weekend. The first group was a group of townspeople, and then later the church got a group. The townspeople taught us at the church. And then we'd go up to St. George. [Utah] Anyway, we did square dancing for several years. And shows.

Oh, that's wonderful. When you say "shows," what do you mean? The movies.

This one down here.

Sue Ann: The Huntridge Theater too was another place [that] they [went to].

Oh, you went to the Huntridge. OK.

But I wouldn't leave my kids with a babysitter. When he [Burdell] went up to Cedar, he would go to a show, the few hours he was up there. So I didn't feel like I was depriving him from his show. He could go to the show up there, and then I wouldn't have [to leave the children with a babysitter]. Mom would always say, Don't leave your kids with a babysitter. You never [know]. If anything happens, they're not going to tell you. I mean if they'd fall and bump their head or anything. And I got to thinking, That's right. And I was too cautious.

How many children did you have?

Four: two boys and two girls.

OK, great. How long were you here before you moved to the area of the city where we're sitting right now?

Now that's how I tell how old Dan and David are. Dan was four years old. David was born here. We had just moved into it in May, and we were behind moving in because of the war. They couldn't get the [materials to finish the house].

So tell me about that. Had you already put the money down on the house?

Yes, but we didn't have any credit. We would never charge anything. So we had to go down to Sears and start buying something so that the bank could give us a loan. It was so simple, as I think back.

Well, tell me how you went about finding this house.

Well, we had special friends that I had [made], the Dexters. She and I were in the hospital [together]. She had a girl, and I had another boy. It was in December. I wasn't too well acquainted with anyone in [Las Vegas] because, well, I just wasn't that [outgoing].

Sue Ann: So one of your bedmates, in a sense, roommates, [was Mrs. Dexter].

Ina: She was in the hospital with me. So we kept in contact. And her husband was a builder. They was building in this area, up here on Ninth Street especially. So, through him, we were going to build up here on Ninth, on the other side of Charleston [Boulevard].

OK, so we're on the south side of Charleston. So at that time you had thought you were going to buy on the north side.

Uh huh. But then they started building here. The place was built next door, and there was one down on the corner just like ours that was being built at the same time as this was.

(Because they were so much alike, the builders got some of the painting mixed up.)

The people that were next door worked at the drugstore.

Next door on this street, where we are right now?

No, downtown.

Sue Ann: You mean the Palmers.

Oh, where you were living before, on Fourth Street.

Uh huh. So they were in here, next door, and there was nothing next [to that house]. And then they were building the Gibsons' home. The two brothers, the one Gibson [Note: Fred D. Gibson was involved with Basic Magnesium Incorporated, or BMI, in Henderson during World War II] they were involved in building up Henderson [Nevada] when it was being [developed]. The big boss Gibson built up a block, up at the end of the [neighborhood].

Sue Ann: Huntridge?

Ina: Uh huh. It didn't go in to where the school is. Oh, he built on that corner, but not on the corner against the school.

So right across from John S. Park [Elementary] School?

Not right across from John S. Park, but down at this end of that [block], there's about four house, and he was right here, and then there's a street that winds around back down here. See, that's why I wished I had found those maps.

We'll have to get one of those for you so that you can see the [layout of the neighborhood].

Sue Ann: So why did you buy the land here, and build a house?

Ina: Oh, because they couldn't get stuff up there either to build, and they were slow, and these people here were building a little faster.

Sue Ann: How much did you pay for it?

Ina: Five thousand. It took us a long time to pay for it because it was fifty dollars a month, or thirty-five or something.

Who financed it for you? Do you remember which bank? Because you were trying to get a loan from the bank and didn't have any credit, so you had to go through Sears first. Do you remember which bank you were working with?

Well, he was a good friend of ours. He knew us. He was the bishop of the church ward that we went to at this church [Las Vegas First Ward]. My husband didn't get to go [to church] very often because of his schedule, but when we did go, there was Mr. [Reid] Whipple, and he greeted us like long-lost friends, and set us up at the main table with him. [Note: Reid Whipple worked for First State Bank, later First National Bank.] Oh, and we were having a program that night, too. It was one of those old-fashioned dances. I've got a picture of that, that was in the newspaper. There was two other noted people in our church dancing too, and me and Burdell. [Laughing]

That's great. So your next-door neighbor is someone that you knew before you moved into this house, is that correct?

It was the Dexters. [They] had moved here from Missouri with a contract company. Our kids were born at the same time and so we kept track of each other and took pictures and [had] picnics.

So that's how you found out about this house, through that lady from the hospital.

Yes.

Now where does she live?

Oh boy, she lived right on the edge of the desert, where Tenth Street ended and the desert out that way.

So what did you like about this neighborhood?

Well, I had a home of my own. It didn't seem to cost very much, and there was others that cost a lot more. Oh, that's what's funny because when we started going to church in our church over here, oh, we helped build that, I feel like.

You helped build the church?

Yes.

Sue Ann: The one that's over here off of Franklin [Avenue] and Eighth [Street].

They tore it down just last year.

That's what I was going to ask you, if that was the same church. OK.

Yes.

Sue Ann: We went and got a brick. [Laughing]

Oh, that's great. That's great. So tell me about your house. How did it look? How many bedrooms? Tell me exactly what it was like.

Well, is there one still up? Oh, the one right at the end of the street here. We added this room and the porch.

Sue Ann: Because this used to be a window, so this was part of the porch.

Ina: Oh, that was a door.

Sue Ann: And the door, there.

So we're sitting in what used to be the back porch?

Ina: Yeah.

Sue Ann: Or the front.

Ina: The porch was here.

Sue Ann: So the porch, that continued all the way over to here, see, and the wall to the house was here.

Ina: Was the window.

Sue Ann: You can see, you know, the patching up there.

Oh, oh, I see. But now that room was just like it is now.

Sue Ann: Yeah. Everything else is original in the house.

Oh, I see. So is it just this one room that you added?

Sue Ann: No. She added a room. There's that extra bedroom in the back that they added, because it used to be the two bedrooms, and the bathroom, and the kitchen, and the living room, and then they added the dining room on here, and then they dug a basement, too, later on.

Ina: My husband dug that basement. We've got three rooms under this [floor].

Sue Ann: On that side of the house. It's over [on] that side is where the basement is.

Oh, that's great! So now why did you want a basement?

Ina: We had four kids. Oh, my golly.

OK. So at first you had two bedrooms, a bathroom, a kitchen, and a living room.

The dining room was here. The window was here. The wall was here. It was just a little nook, and the window went clear through to the end of the kitchen.

Sue Ann: This window?

Ina: The very end. That's where Mr. Gibson lived, that was involved in Henderson.

Are these the same Gibson family that are still involved in Henderson, still in politics?

Yes, I guess so. He was the big shot. Anyway, I'd see his name all the time. I don't think they were Mormons. They were in the building business or whatever they had to do out to Henderson.

OK. So getting back to the house, how did you feel moving into this house, your first house? What was it like? What was the neighborhood like?

Sue Ann: How many houses were in the neighborhood when you moved here, Mom? Was there a house next to you or across the street or on the other side? Was it dirt roads?

Ina: There was nothing there. It was built after we got here. There was nothing there, nothing there, nothing there.

So nothing across the street; those three houses weren't there, and the house on the left side where we're sitting right now was not there.

And the one next to it wasn't there. And the one next to it, it was being built. Mrs. Matuse moved into that one. And Gibson. And then a fellow from the railroad. He ended up later by buying the house next to him, so he had the two homes. And then the other one was a fellow that worked at one of the hotels.

So were most of the houses just like your house: two bedrooms, a bathroom?

They were small. Mr. [Bob] Huffey built his own. He was a contractor himself, I guess. He traveled all over the world picking up bones and emeralds and diamonds. He helped my husband build the porch, I guess it was, the steps.

Sue Ann: I asked you about Mr. Huffey, about what he did, and you said that he was in gold mines and went around mining, too.

Ina: Well, he was looking for gold, too. He had money and he made money. He had a big motel [the Normandie Court] up here on Fifth Street.

Is that Paul Huffey's father?

Yes. Is he still alive?

Paul is. I'm going to interview him in a few days.

Sue Ann: I always remember Mr. Huffey with a big cigar. He always had a big cigar in his mouth.

I will be sure to tell him.

Ina: Do. I was just last night reading a letter that he wrote to me for going to his dad's funeral, and thanking me.

And then I worked down at the preschool.

So you went to work. After you moved here, you had got a job?

Sue Ann: But didn't you work at Huntington's Dress Shop before that?

Ina: Yes, but I waited until you were in high school.

Sue Ann: No, no, no, no, I remember I was in fourth or fifth grade. That's when you were working at Huntington's or [another] dress shop.

Where was the Huntington Dress Shop located? Was it here in John S. Park?

It was Las Vegas Boulevard. Fifth Street back then. Wasn't it up in Fifth Street?

Ina: No, honey, it was right up here—well, it was Fifth. There was a cleaning outfit.

Sue Ann: The cleaning is still there. Jiffy, or a cleaners that are around the corner.

Ina: Mr. Huntington owned the [dress shop].

So it was the same person that owned the theater?

Sue Ann: No, it's the Huntington that's with the jewelry shop. His wife ran the [dress] shop.

Ina: He didn't have a jewelry [store].

Sue Ann: What Huntington was this? It wasn't the Huntington that's in our [ward].

Ina: That lived up here. Yes.

Sue Ann: OK. And he worked in jewelry, too. He made jewelry. He had Huntington's jewelry store for years.

Ina: Oh, maybe so.

Sue Ann: And I thought it was his wife that had the dress shop.

Ina: Well, it was a family affair.

Sue Ann: Because she always had those big skirts with all the petticoats. [Laughing] Always dressed [well]. And the kids were always dressed [nicely].

What kind of clothes did she sell in the dress shop?

Ina: Kids'. Children's.

Oh, children's clothing. OK. OK.

And dolls. Madame Alexander dolls.

Sue Ann: I got one.

Ina: Did you? And yours went like this. And [my daughter] Joan had hers for years.

Sue Ann: No, I still have mine.

Ina: I know, but you weren't very good to it.

When she said it went like this, what does that mean?

You didn't take care of it.

Sue Ann: I don't know because I still have it and it's in perfect condition, still in its box. Unless you gave me one before and I destroyed it.

Ina: Really? Have you got one down there?

Sue Ann: Yeah.

Ina: Oh, and I've always [believed you didn't]. Because you were so bad with most of your things and Joan was so good.

Sue Ann: I played with them. [Laughing]

Ina: Well, OK.

OK, so tell me, where was Paul Huffey's house?

Right across the street. His dad built that. Is he the one that started bringing in the—

Sue Ann: No, that's the Sandinos. Remember, Huffey, he built the house, and he built this huge [house], I mean this was completely different than what the neighborhood [was like].

OK, so the Huffey house was larger than most of the houses.

Ina: Oh yes.

So did you ever go into it?

Oh yes. We were good friends.

OK, so what was it like on the inside? How many rooms?

Let's see, you go into a good-sized hall. If you go to your left, I guess you'd call it a library.

Sue Ann: It was like a sitting room.

Ina: And then it had one bedroom or two bedrooms?

Sue Ann: I think it was three. They had the front bedroom there and then they had a bedroom across the way, then they had a bathroom, and then I don't know if they had another bedroom, because I'm thinking about the Sandinos'. That's when I went in, because I played with the kids and went in the house and not when Mr. Huffey [owned the house].

So the Sandinos moved into that house after Mr. Huffey.

Sue Ann: After Mr. Huffey, and that was the early Fifties.

Ina: Oh, that's right, the Huffeys [Bob and Julene] just had Paul. They didn't have any other children. They were nice people but they were kind of gruff with each other, you know. And Paul, he was kind of antsy. And you know this boy that was at our meeting over there?

Sue Ann: Jim Gubler?

Ina: No. I had his youngster down at the preschool and I mentioned the picture that his little daughter had painted, and when this other one came down, his wife came down and wanted him to make that same picture because it was a picture of an apple, I believe, a great big one that they could paint, and she wanted another one just like it for the other little girl to put on the wall. Anyway, he was a grocery boy down here at the store, this other guy.

So who else was there that night? Senator [Richard] Bryan. Is that who you're talking about?

Uh huh. He and Paul were good friends. Paul was so tall and so different. Bryan, he could talk a lot, but he was a darn good kid.

So did you have a lot of kids in the neighborhood when you moved in here?

No. Waldmans down here, they had three boys, one, two, three, just a year apart, I imagine, all of them young. They were Jewish and they'd kind of keep to themselves.

They became the attorneys?

They were, yes. But they would fight, I mean wrestle and rough. They were rough, and my boy, he'd go down there and he'd get roughed up, so he'd stay over here because the boy that lived next door was more Dan's style, so they didn't mix with those [Waldmans] because they'd get into a fight. Boy, they were good. [Laughter]

It seems that a lot of very successful people came out of this little John S. Park community. You have senators and lawyers and doctors and just everybody. What was it about this community that kind of made everybody want to achieve something?

Well, the fellows in the first place had been, of course, to college, been to school somewhere. Now the people that built [this neighborhood], I remember they tried to get us to move down to [another] area [of the city]. They said, All the railroad people are building down on, I don't know whether it was North Tenth or Eleventh [Street]. It was out that way.

Across Charleston.

Uh huh, and across Fremont.

Sue Ann: Clear on over to Fremont.

Oh, OK, so a completely different development. OK.

And they were cheaper. And my husband, he wanted a better one. I didn't care. I just wanted a home. But then later, different people in the church, as they moved into it, they says, Oh, you'll live over in the ritzy place.

Let me ask you about that. So did you see a class system? Did you consider this different classes over here?

I didn't. I hadn't brains enough.

Sue Ann: It's such a mixture, too, because I can remember it, growing up with the kids in the area here, and I always thought the rich kids lived over there.

Where was "over there" to you?

Ina: Fifth Place, more so.

Sue Ann: Over there, or over on, you know, this side of Oakey [Boulevard] a little bit, the houses got bigger, and you wanted bigger houses. [Laughing] We considered the rich kids [lived] in that [area].

OK, so over by Oakey.

Sue Ann: The other side of Oakey.

Ina: No, no, it took a while for them to go up.

Sue Ann: I know, but when they did.... But when I was a kid though—

That's when you were a kid. So by Saint Louis [Avenue], on towards Saint Louis?

Sue Ann: Yeah, or even down the hill over there by the temple and over.

Ina: Huntridge was here, see, and that was definitely—

Sue Ann: Middle class. Huntridge area was like us.

Ina: The people at the airport, see, they built that especially for the fellows at the—because Mom and Dad, they bought one of them but then things had quieted down before Mom and [Dad arrived in Las Vegas]. Although Dad built airports.

Sue Ann: What do you mean, the Air Force during the war, they built the homes for the military, is that what you're talking about?

Ina: Yes.

Sue Ann: Over in the Huntridge area.

Ina: Yeah, the Huntridge, because they were nice homes and they were smaller. They were cheaper.

They were built for the military people?

Mm hmm. Now my folks bought one of these. They didn't have any particular—well, he was too, he had his truck on, when they were enlarging the airport out there. But they did have the air base in mind.

So we're talking [about] Nellis [Air Force Base].

Nellis. I'm just talking too much.

No, you're not. No, no, no, no, no. I want to know that kind of history about the neighborhoods, so I want to know about the people you remember and where they lived. That's exactly what I want. So you're doing great. Don't think you're not.

Too often people said it to me, Oh, you're over in the ritzy part. I said, I'm not either.

And it would make me so mad because I didn't feel it. When [I worked with] the counselors in the [Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints] [Women's] Relief Society, well, that was an important job and I had it for five years.

Sue Ann: And wasn't Mrs. [Rita] Gubler with you, too, the Gublers that were over there? The Church was the mix of what was in the neighborhood because there was the rich kids, and then there was us. I considered us middle class. My dad was a bus driver. Sandy's kids, they worked for the Union Pacific. A lot of railroad people. And yet we had Mr. Gordon on the corner that was a big house, on the corner there, and they worked out

on the Strip. And behind us was Mr. Heinz, who worked with the El Cortez [Hotel and Casino], was involved with that. It was just such a mixture in the neighborhood.

Well, tell me about the Gublers, and tell me about the Gubler house.

Now she and I were special friends. My husband's sister died. They lived in Ogden [Utah], and that's where [V. Gray] Gubler came from. Anyway, I remember Rita coming over so excited because her special friend had married my husband's brother-in-law. Although I didn't know them, we knew them here. She always had a special job in our church. In fact, I think she came into the Relief Society the year I went out. You usually stay about five years.

Then there was Dr. [Stanley] Hardy. He was in charge of the hospital down here.

Sue Ann: They lived down the street. He was our doctor.

Wasn't he one of the people who started the hospital?

Yes. He delivered all of us, didn't he? Did he deliver Dan and David, Joan and me?

Ina: Are you the one that drank the—

Sue Ann: Yeah, the cleaning fluid. [Laughing] And he sewed up David's arm, too, because he did that at the church, running his arm through the window at church, messing around, and Dr. Hardy lived right across [from] the church, so you took him across.

Didn't you take him across the way?

Ina: Well, we were just leaving to go to the hospital when Dr. Hardy drove up, and the kid was bleeding from the artery and he just says, Just keep driving. And I said, Well, it's Fremont Street. He said, Just keep going.

Sue Ann: But yeah, Dr. Hardy. Like I remember him coming to the house. Those were the days doctors came to the house.

Two questions. First tell me about the Gubler house. Did you ever get to go into the Gubler house?

Ina: Oh yes, yes. Their oldest boy and our boy Dan were the same age. They associated with each other all the time. However, not all the time. After they got to be teenagers [laughing]. I'd just better keep quiet. They were still friends except they [the Gublers] were a little more worldly.

They probably had more opportunities?

More money, that's it. But he was a good kid.

Were the Gublers in the same church that you were in?

Yes.

Tell me about the importance of the church to the community.

Well, I think it was a good influence.

Sue Ann: It was a big influence.

Ina: It's surprising because, as we go through [the history of the neighborhood], so many of them are LDS. They had good jobs, usually.

Sue Ann: And the social [aspect], too, because the church was our social outlet. You know, you could walk down the street and there was the Matthews' and the Longs and the Horsleys and the Adamses and the Harrises. I mean that's all that one street there, and then you go to the Stranges. So it was a big Mormon community here. Plus the other kids that weren't LDS, they were all involved, and a lot of times they'd get involved in activities at the church because we had basketball and we had volleyball. I played softball in the girls' league and we'd have kids that weren't LDS that were involved in it. And

then plays. Road shows. I mean when I think about growing up in this area, it was the church [that] was the thing that kept us [involved].

Ina: Well, and I was involved in the dancing. Each year the church had this dance festival. I was involved in the dancing for some time. But they wanted couples. And in fact, at first he [my husband] didn't want me to do it because, well, I'd be busy. But he tried it with me. We were listed on the board as Mr. and Mrs. Burdell Porter, as the leaders, but when it would come right down to it, I would go all the time and then I'd pick up one of those kids that could really dance.

Sue Ann: I remember Bobbie, the dance director, and this was in the Mutual, which is the teenager [group], years twelve to eighteen, and I remember cornering all these kids and I mean it was a lot of kids in this area. I mean there was kids everywhere. It was big. And then trying to get those boys to learn the dance, maybe square dancing or swing dancing or minuet. It depended on what the dance festival's theme was about and they'd have different groups doing different dances through the ages or something.

Ina: They had this sorority, Beta Sigma Phi. I was involved in that.

OK. That was part of the church as well?

No, that was a community [organization], and that influenced people from all walks of life.

Oh, that's amazing. So what kind of activities, what kind of things did the sorority do?

Well, Mom [Delphine Anderson] Squires, oh, she was one of the important ladies in the growing-up of Las Vegas.

Oh yes, OK, so she was in it.

She sponsored it, she and Mrs.—

Von Tobel?

Now that name is so familiar but right now I [don't remember].

Sue Ann: We know who the Von Tobels were but I don't know if she was in the club, because it was early and a lot of people were in your [club]. Well, I'm thinking of the Mothers' Club because you did the Mothers' Club after the [sorority].

So there was the sorority and a Mothers' Club. What was the Mothers' Club?

Ina: Well, it was strictly Mormon. The teacher in one of the schools, what was her name? Stewart. In their particular ward, a few women got together, and then as the years went by, they would reach out and invite somebody to come to it, so it was going for some time before I [joined]. Anyway, it was strictly Mormon.

What kind of things did you do?

Lessons about how to raise children. Then we'd have picnics now and then.

Sue Ann: I remember the picnics, at the park over there.

And when you were in the sorority, what kind of things did you do there? Was it more social?

Ina: No, there was a certain lesson that [we did]. My niece up at Salt Lake City, she told me that she belongs to it. So it's all over the country.

So the sorority is still in effect, or are you talking about the Mothers' Club?

Ina: Yes.

Sue Ann: I guess. I don't know. I know there's newspaper pictures because I find old newspapers of these and they'd all be dressed up in old [fashioned clothing], maybe

at Helldorado time, did you guys do stuff for it? Or they'd have an article in the paper about the [sorority] had a luncheon. So there is stuff in the paper.

Ina: And every now and then we'd have our meeting out at the hotel. A lot of the husbands were in the [military] service, and it took care of the social life for the ones that were left home.

So, the two of you just told me how important the church was in this community.

How did you feel when they decided to tear the church down?

Oh, they had a good reason, but it sure made [an empty space]. See, I am getting older each [year] and I spend most of my time in bed, not that I want to, but I get tired too quick, and I've learned I've got my hours to go with yours [to Sue Ann] and so it's crazy.

Sue Ann: OK, what about the church, Mom, being [torn down]? They gave us a year, see. It was almost two years before they did [tear it down] and we never really knew until the last month, maybe, that it was going to be torn down.

So how did you feel when you found out that it was going to be torn down?

Ida: Sad. Bad. We thought somebody could move into it, but there was something wrong with the building.

Structurally, there was something wrong. OK.

Sue Ann: Well, you know, and I didn't feel as bad as I thought, and I think it was because it sat there empty for so long and they kept it up and it just looked kind of sad with nobody using it, and knowing that it couldn't be fixed, that they didn't want to put the money into it, see, was the problem, because they need to put in a sprinkling system and it would've cost just too much money. So we all knew this. I think they gave us time to kind of get used to the idea but it was going to [happen].

OK. So the people who were still in the community attending church services, where did you have to go after that?

Well, when they condemned the church, they moved us down to the stake center, which is the chapel off of Wyoming [Avenue] and whatever it is.

Ina: They shared it with us.

Sue Ann: Yeah, we went and shared it with their ward, but then it got to the point [where] we decided, you know, we need to be a ward, and not sharing, and so they found a ward in another stake, another building, that only had one ward meeting in there, so we were meeting over there at the chapel off of Pecos [Road] and Washington [Avenue]. for about a year. And then they were trying to decide what they were going to do with us, you know, should we keep them together, should we split them up, should we move boundaries, should we do [something else], and so they finally just decided to split us up between three wards. The people on the south side of Oakey are meeting in the stake center. We on the north of Oakey are meeting with another ward in the stake center, too. And then there was another group, I think it got split off, it's meeting at another ward. So they eliminated the First Ward, which is kind of sad because of the history of the First Ward and that. They just split us up.

Ina: And me with my memory, see, I don't remember their names. I'll go to church and I'll tell my name. Who are you? And they tell me, and then after we get through talking I'll say, Now who did you say you were?

Well, I'm the same way when it comes to names. So Ina, how old are you now?

I'll be ninety-three in May. I had no idea I would get this old.

Wow, but every day is a blessing, isn't it?

Yes, and I'm lucky, because I've got [my daughter] Sue Ann to live with me, and she's never moved out. She never got married.

Me either. Wow. OK. But I love the relationship that the two of you have.

Ina: Well, we do [have a good relationship].

Sue Ann: [Laughing] There's conflict, a lot of times.

Ina: There's our days, but they're not final. I tell her I have a right to get that way because I am ailing, and I can feel the ailing coming on, and I'll think, Go to your room. Go crawl in bed.

Sue Ann: And I send her. [Laughter]

Ina: She'll say, Go get something to eat, because that always helps. And I tell her, if she'd just let me get in there without saying something, but she [will]. I say, Then you bait me. She'll say something and so I have to say something. [Laughter] But we laugh about it. And I feel so sorry for her to think that she's stuck with me, but she's got the house.

It feels like a home here. It feels warm.

You should've seen it yesterday.

I'm not talking about the physical [aspect]: I mean it's wonderful. It's beautiful. I love it. But I'm just talking about the feeling you get when you walk into the house.

Well, good. I've been so busy this past [holiday]. We had a family party.

Sue Ann: My sister [Joan] lives in New Harmony, in Southern Utah. We went up there Christmas Day. She had all her kids come down

Ina: I've just had so much excitement, it's about put me under, and I'm surprised that I'm still here. I talk too much, but I'm doing it.

[Laughing] That's right. Let me see if there is anything else that I have on my list that I should ask you.

What are some of the major changes that you've seen right here in the John S. Park community, in the fifty years that you've been here?

Well, it isn't neighborly like it used to be. That's what I heard. She [Sue Ann] tried to get me not to sit on the front porch. She's so afraid somebody is going to run away with me. Who wants me?

Sue Ann: No, it's the house. I mean they'll rob you, Mom, see, that's what [I'm worried about]. Because the people walking in and out of the area are not the same as they used to be.

Ina: Honey, let's don't talk about it because I'll always go out there when I want to.

So when you first moved here, you didn't have to worry about that. You could just walk throughout the neighborhood. Explain to me the difference.

Well, it was a small town when we came, and it was so open. I sat with my kids down at the preschool. Some of the people from out of town would need someone to stay at the hotel with their children, so oftentimes I would go out there, and feel perfectly at ease. Joan Rivers would always ask for me. I took care of little Melissa. Every time she would play here, she would always ask for me to have Melissa down at the school.

So how did they find out about you, that you would come and babysit?

Well, there was one of the ladies, Mrs. Bush. See how that come to me and I didn't know here that well. But I had her boy down at the school, and she would get people to stay.

That was her program with the hotels. So they depended on her and so just one time she was needing somebody and I says, Well, I'll go.

Oh, that's great. So one of the changes is it's not as safe as it used to be.

Sue Ann: Oh yeah. Because as kids, we'd leave and we'd run down the street and play in the neighborhood. We'd let her know where we were going. And the neighborhood, for me, growing up, was the circle. See, I didn't extend out any further.

And by "the circle" you mean Ninth [Street]?

Yeah, Ninth, you know how it circles around. So that was my play area, or the kids up here, because there was enough kids, the Gordons and them and the Heinzes, and so this is the area that I played in. But it was still a safe area to play in. But then, as people started getting older and the people who were the originals would die off and people would move in.

Ina: I have no friends.

Sue Ann: You don't know who half the people are in the neighborhood anymore. Like I say, I can see the people walking around, but are they staying? It used to be this is the place that people would move [to] until their house got built out at Summerlin. See, they'd move in and stay here for a year and then they'd move to Summerlin. In our ward we saw that. We'd have young couples move in, and they were here for about a year and then, goodbye, they were gone, and so it was in and out and in and out and in and out of the area. I don't know if they're still doing that.

Ina: Well, and I noticed that place that the Earls had (he was a lawyer).

Sue Ann: Oh, Rulon Earl, you know, the brick house over here.

Ina: They had cars parked up that driveway. Somebody says, What is that, a school or something?

Sue Ann: We don't know how many people lived there.

Ina: They had a little granary at the back of the house. I don't know who they were, and that kind of bothered me.

You have been here for a very, very long time, and at one point, this area became part of the National Register of Historic Places. What did that mean to the neighborhood?

Well, there was a lot of discussion because it was the way it was presented to us. Some of them had the idea that we couldn't paint our house, that we couldn't do this, we couldn't do that, and so there was a lot of bickering there for a while. Come to find out, it wasn't as bad, if we'd just cooperate and listen.

So did you find it to be a positive thing now? When you look back on it now, or you look at the community now, is it positive that you went through that process?

Yes, because the homes are kept up better.

Sue Ann: And they don't have all the rules we thought they were going to come in and [impose] because this is a very independent area here. We see what's going on up at Summerlin and the homeowners' association and that is really restrictive, even though it keeps everything clean and that, but it can really get restrictive. We're used to doing what we want with our homes, so that's why we're glad that it's there, and it gives us some kind of a cohesiveness in a sense about who we are here in the area and who's going to move here. If they're going to move here, do they know what they're going to do with the house?

Ina: After all, I'm old. I don't know as there's anyone else as old as I am.

Sue Ann: I don't know either, Mom. You might be the oldest person in the world, huh? [Laughing]

Ina: Yeah, I feel like it sometimes. But we found a dead man, remember?

Sue Ann: [Laughing] On the other side of the wall. And they're [the police] knocking on the door and said they had found a dead body on the other side of the wall in the insurance guy's thing and so [they asked] if we had heard anything or whatever. I don't know what happened with that.

Ina: But it made me realize. And then Marie Horsley, across from her, you probably heard about that, the man, she killed him, tried to dig a hole in the yard to bury him.

Sue Ann: [Laughing] Well, she buried him, but his hand stuck up.

Ina: His leg or his arm, something came up.

Sue Ann: Popped up.

How long ago?

That was about five years ago, maybe. It was down the street. I mean that's excitement, anything like that, that's fun, you know, and to find out that she killed him and dug a hole in the backyard. So that was excitement in the neighborhood. And when the Jolleys' home burned down, the big one at the end of the cul-de-sac, that big beautiful home there, when it caught fire, I remember because there was just smoke everywhere. So that's about the excitement we have. [Laughing] But the dead body.

Ina: Oh, that frightened me.

Yes. So that really means that the neighborhood has changed somewhat.

Yeah.

Well, Ina, I really appreciate this so much.

Sue Ann: You made it through! [Laughing]

Ina: You know, and I feel good. And I thought I'd get so wound up that I couldn't talk at all.

I love some of your stories; I love some of the early people who were here. This information is so valuable. I really, really appreciate it.

The Nungessers that had the big lot down on the corner of Fifth and Fremont, she was so nice. She would show me how to cook. She'd make pies with big green leaves on them. Anyway, she was so nice but she died in an accident. She thought she could ride back to visit her folks in Colorado.

She was your neighbor when you were downtown?

No, here. This lot was vacant for some time.

We're talking about the lot here to the left of us?

Uh huh. We would wonder who was going to move into it.

But that was an example of how people were so neighborly at one time.

Mm hmm. Yeah. And the fellow down on the corner, [Mr.] Ragsdale, he was [friendly].

Well, everybody was neighborly, and now, they drive by, and their [car] windows are tinted, so I really can't see, so I've quit trying to see. Oh, a young boy that was over to

Bob's place, what was his name?

Sue Ann: She started telling that [earlier]. Anyway, he was walking down the street.

I got after her: Who are you talking to?

OK. So it must have been Chris?

Ina: This is another one.

Sue Ann: I guess he lived down there at the end of the street?

Ina: No, no, no, no, no. Chris.

Sue Ann: This is another one?

Probably Chris.

Ina: Well, maybe I didn't tell you about this one. Anyway, when he came over and spoke to me, I noticed this young fellow walking toward [me] and I thought, well, he was going to the garbage can. I was with my nephew and his wife and three little kids. And all at once I could hear, Ina? Ina? Finally I looked up and I said, Did I hear my name, Ina? And he says, Yes.

Sue Ann: Oh, you were out to the Boulevard [Mall]. You were eating out there.

Ina: Yeah, uh huh, and we visited, but I didn't recognize him until he mentioned that he was at that meeting over at Bob's. And it just felt so good to have somebody say my name and recognize me, because I sit here day after day, and I don't know if there's anyone else in the world because my friends have all died. There's days that I get pretty rough sometimes. Boo!

Well, when you find those photographs again, you have to share them with us. We'll make some copies of them, and we'll make sure that they fit into this history. So when you run across your photographs again....

Sue Ann: [Laughing] In your room, Mom.

Ina: Yes, yes, because they're there.

Yes, so if you find them again, we would love to include them. We're going to eventually do a website. We're going to put a lot of the material that we're collecting

on a website, so you'll be able to go into your computer and you're going to be able to click on "John S. Park" and you'll be able to find your name and your interview. I want to come back one day and take a photograph of the two of you.

Sue Ann: We'll go get your hair cut. [Laughing]

Ina: She gets after me. I like to let my hair be bushy.

Me too. I love it too. I have a girlfriend who's always talking about, she wants my hair to lay down perfectly fine. Oh no, I want my hair to be wild!

I didn't send any Christmas cards last year, so I was going to do it this year, and I didn't.

It's OK.

It isn't. I want somebody to remember me.

Sue Ann: Well, they're still sending cards to you, so someone does.

Ina: Well, get them out because I'm going to [send them]. At first I thought, well, I've got New Year's. Well, I can have it [at] Valentine's [Day].

That's right, you send some Valentine cards.

I've got to get something out there. Like that little saying, I'm still kicking but not making much dust.

Thank you.

INDEX

B

Boulder City, NV, 15
 Bryce Canyon, UT, 10
 Businesses
 Boulevard Mall, 41
 First State Bank, 18
 Huntington Jewelers, 23
 Huntington's Dress Shop, 22
 Sears (department store), 16

C

Cedar City, UT, 1, 2, 10, 12
 Churches
 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
 First Ward, 18, 33-35
 Mothers' Club, 32
 Women's Relief Society, 28
 Community Organizations
 Beta Sigma Phi, 31

E

Entertainers
 Rivers, Joan, 37
 Entertainment
 Huntridge Theater, 15
 Escalante, UT, 12

F

Flagstaff, AZ, 7

G

Grand Canyon, AZ, 5, 10
 Great Depression, 6, 8
 Greyhound Bus Lines, 13

H

Hellorado, 33
 Henderson, NV, 17, 21
 BMI, 17
 Hotels/Casinos
 El Cortez, 29
 Normandie Court Motel, 22

K

Kanab, UT, 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 12

L

Logan, UT, 9

N

National Register of Historic Places, 38
 Neighborhoods
 Huntridge, 17, 27, 28
 Summerlin, 38, 39
 Nellis AFB, NV, 28
 New Harmony, UT, 36

O

Oak Creek Canyon, AZ, 7
 Ogden, UT, 29

P

People
 Jews, 26
 Mormons, 14, 28, 31, 32, 33-35
 Personalities
 Adams family, 31
 Baldwin, Dr., 3
 Bryan, Richard, 26
 Bush, Mrs., 37
 Dexter family, 16, 18
 Earl, Rulon, 38
 Gibson family, 17, 21
 Gibson, Fred D., 17
 Gordon family, 29, 37
 Gubler family, 30
 Gubler, Rita, 29
 Gubler, V. Gray, 29
 Hardy, Stanley, 29
 Harris family, 31
 Heinz family, 29, 37
 Horsley family, 31
 Horsley, Marie, 39
 Huffey family
 Huffey, Bob, 22, 24, 25
 Huffey, Julene, 25
 Huffey, Paul, 22, 24, 25
 Huntington family, 22-23
 Jolley family, 40
 Long family, 31
 Matthews family, 31
 Matuse, Mrs., 21
 Nungesser, Mrs., 40
 Palmer family, 17
 Porter family
 Porter, Burdell (husband), 10-14, 15, 18, 20,
 22, 27, 29, 31
 Porter, Dan (son), 8, 16, 26, 29, 30
 Porter, David (son), 16, 29
 Porter, Joan (daughter), 24, 29, 36
 Porter, Sid (brother-in-law), 12-13
 Porter, Sue Ann (daughter), 35
 Ragsdale, Mr., 41
 Sandino family, 24, 25

Squires, Delphine Anderson (Mom), 32
 Strange family, 31
 Von Tobel family, 32
 Waldman family, 26
 Whipple, Reid, 18

S

Salt Lake City, UT, 2, 9

Schools

Fifth Street School, 14
 John S. Park Elementary School, 17
 Las Vegas High School, 15

Sedona, AZ, 7

St. George, UT, 15

Streets

Charleston Boulevard, 16, 26
 Eighth Street, 19
 Eleventh Street, 26
 Fifth Place, 27
 Fifth Street, 22, 40
 Fourth Street, 13, 14, 17
 Franklin Avenue, 19
 Fremont Street, 13, 14, 26, 40

Las Vegas Boulevard, 22
 Ninth Street, 16, 37
 Oakey Boulevard, 27, 34
 Pecos Road, 34
 Saint Louis Avenue, 27
 Strip, The. *See* Las Vegas Boulevard
 Tenth Street, 19, 26
 Washington Avenue, 34
 Wyoming Avenue, 34
 Sun Valley, ID, 12

U

Union Pacific Railroad, 12, 13, 29

W

World War II, 7, 8, 16, 17, 28

Z

Zion National Park, UT, 10