

CT
247
S69
2007

An Interview with Janice and Robert Spurlock

An Oral History Conducted by Claytee D. White

The Boyer Early Las Vegas Oral History Project

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

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

Produced by:

The Oral History Research Center at UNLV – University Libraries

Director: 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
Interview	1 – 33
Index	34

Preface

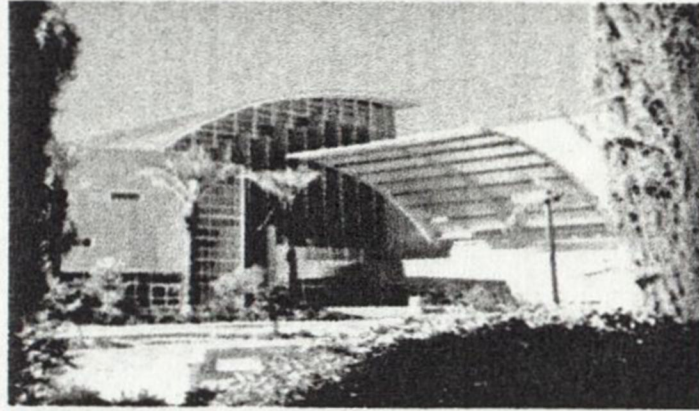
Janice and Robert Spurlock were married in 1990 and each has a lifetime of Las Vegas memories. They have made Sandy Valley home for nearly 32 years. Together the couple recalls the people and places of Las Vegas' past from their points of view during this oral history interview.

For Janice the stories begin in the 1930s after her family moved to Las Vegas from California. She was a youngster of about five. Among the topics she talks about is walking to Fifth Street Grammar School, graduating from Vegas High School, and fun had during Helldorado Days.

In 1953, Robert arrived. He was a young man headed from Arizona to Colorado seeking work as a welder. He stopped in Henderson, Nevada and never quite made it out of the area. For the next two decades he worked construction and helped build many local landmarks. He shares stories about the range wars and about being accidentally exposed to radiation from the Nevada Test site.

ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER AT UNLV

Boyer Early Las Vegas Oral History Project



Use Agreement

Name of Narrator: JANICE B. SPURLOCK

Name of Interviewer: CLAYTEE D. WHITE

We, the above named, give to the Oral History Research Center of UNLV, the recorded interview(s) initiated on 6/17/2010 as an unrestricted gift, to be used for such scholarly and educational purposes as shall be determined, and transfer to the University of Nevada Las Vegas, legal title and all literary property rights including copyright. This gift does not preclude the right of the interviewer, as a representative of UNLV, to use the recordings and related materials for scholarly pursuits. There will be no compensation for any interviews.

Janice B. Spurlock 6-17-2010
Signature of Narrator Date

Claytee D. White 6/17/2010
Signature of Interviewer Date

ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER AT UNLV

Boyer Early Las Vegas Oral History Project



Use Agreement

Name of Narrator:

JANICE B. SPURLOCK

Name of Interviewer:

CLAYTEE D. WHITE

We, the above named, give to the Oral History Research Center of UNLV, the recorded interview(s) initiated on 6/17/2010 as an unrestricted gift, to be used for such scholarly and educational purposes as shall be determined, and transfer to the University of Nevada Las Vegas, legal title and all literary property rights including copyright. This gift does not preclude the right of the interviewer, as a representative of UNLV, to use the recordings and related materials for scholarly pursuits. There will be no compensation for any interviews.

Janice B. Spurlock 6-17-2010
Signature of Narrator Date

Claytee D. White 6/17/2010
Signature of Interviewer Date

This is Claytee White. This morning it is June 17th, 2010. I am in Sandy Valley in the home of Robert and Janice Spurlock.

Mr. Spurlock, could you give me your full name and spell Spurlock for me?

Okay. Robert Newton Spurlock. I was born July 31 in 1924 on Walnut Creek, a cattle ranch in Tonto Basin, Arizona. My dad ran cattle all his life from when he was a kid in Texas. That's where my mother was born. I think they were married in 1905, if I remember correctly. They ranched in New Mexico and then Nevada before moving back to Arizona. I think they moved back to Arizona in around 1911.

Okay, so this was in Tonto?

Tonto Basin.

Tonto Basin. Did you have brothers and sisters?

Two brothers, both of them older. We all grew up like I say way out in the sticks. Our nearest neighbor was one of my uncles about six miles away. Then in later years some people homesteaded about two miles from us and did some dry land farming. But about everyone else in the country was occupied raising cattle. It was good cattle country back in those days.

What was the work like?

As a kid, taking care of the cows and the pigs and the stuff that we had around the farm. I've told many people probably the most spankings I ever got for anything, as I loved to run as a kid and we keep the milk cows in the day and turn them out at night and vice versa with the milk cows. So every morning being the youngest my job was to go out on the ridge above the house where the cattle grazed and bring in the cows. Well, when you see a wild turkey standing two and a half foot tall and strutting with his legs on the ground and gobbling and you're six or seven years old, the temptation is terrible—how my dad knew I chased those turkeys, I don't know. But he'd snatch me up and bust my rump and he'd say, leave them turkeys alone. I'd say, yep, Dad, I will—until the next morning I did it. That was almost impossible to resist chasing those wild turkeys.

Now, that's different. The turkeys used to chase my younger sister.

So, Janice, tell me about how you grew up and where.

I was born in Glendale, California. We lived there in San Diego, California for a while when I was younger. Then we moved to Las Vegas. I was in kindergarten in Las Vegas. I went to school

there. With my dad moving around when he was an electrician and a dealer and whatnot, we went where the jobs were because we weren't into the Great Depression at that time. So he got whatever jobs he could where he could. So we lived in Fallon, Gardnerville, Minden and Las Vegas, of course. I wound up in Las Vegas and I graduated from Las Vegas High.

Did you have brothers and sisters?

Yes. I have a sister and two brothers. And they're all still alive. I am the oldest.

So tell me what Las Vegas was like, your first memories of Las Vegas.

Oh, Las Vegas, I love Las Vegas because what is now Las Vegas Boulevard was Fifth Street back then. We lived at Fifth and Gass. I don't know if you know about Las Vegas or anything.

Yes.

Fifth and Gass. I could walk to school to Fifth Street Grammar School. Then like I said we moved to Fallon and I went to school there.

Do you remember what Fifth Street School looked like?

Yes.

Could you tell me?

Well, it was not a large building, one story. It was kind of a cream-colored building. It was on Fifth Street, Fifth and Gass, that area.

Have you seen it since it's been renovated? It is now on the National Registry of Historic Places.

I've not been inside. I've been by there.

Okay, good.

Robert, living like you did on a ranch, were you able to go to school as a young boy?

Yes. We rode horseback over to where the post office was, a little settlement that is today called Young because of the post office. When the snow got too deep to ride horseback over there, we would get a place in town or in the valley somewhere within walking distance. And my brothers and I "bach-ed." Therefore, we all learned to cook, wash dishes and do all that culinary type of thing because we grew up doing it.

You said that you and your brothers did what?

"Bached."

What does that mean?

Well, that means we lived without parents or without anyone else. Bachelor is where it comes from, the word bachelor. Well, we were "bach-ing" to go to school in walking distance.

So you lived in whose house?

Any vacant place we could find.

There were no rentals or anything like that until probably my last year up there. A fellow had about four or five little cottages that he rented. And before that there was no rent anywhere. It was just someplace where a homesteader didn't make it and there was a vacant house.

Wow. Now, you told your son a story. Your son, Robert, told me that you knew something about some of the range wars.

Well, I knew a lot of the people when I was a very young lad and they were old folks because that was years before my time. But I did know several of the people. Fred Haught was one. Henry Blevins was one and Sam Haught. I knew these people. I can't remember all their names.

That's fine.

Not Graham, but -- I'm trying to think of the first guy shot there. I knew his brother quite well, the first man that was shot in the Pleasant Valley War. And I also knew the doctor that removed the bullet over in Payson some 30 miles away that he had to ride horseback after getting shot in the back with a .30-40 rifle.

So tell me who was fighting whom.

Grahams and the Tewksburys primarily. But like in many skirmishes people took advantage of it. If they wanted to get rid of somebody and caught the right place and the right time, they got rid of them and laid it onto the Pleasant Valley War.

I mean what were they fighting about?

Sheep and cattle war. The Tewksburys joined a wealthy sheep owner who wanted to take over that country and run sheep. And where sheep graze, then cattle won't. So the fight was on just like it's going to be over water all over the country in the next few years. The battle will be on. But who gets the range or who gets the water? Here we don't have to worry about the range because it's dried up so much it's worthless.

That was a great story.

When did you move to the Las Vegas area?

In the spring of 1953.

And why was that?

I was headed for Leadville, Colorado, because I had heard through the working man's grapevine that the mines up in Leadville were having all kinds of problems trying to weld some abrasive-resistant steel. And having been fairly well educated in welding, I knew how. I knew they needed somebody up there to do that. So I was headed for Leadville and I stopped to visit in Henderson. I went broke and never had money enough to leave on.

How did you go broke?

I didn't actually go broke, but I was encouraged to join a construction company here because of my abilities. I got into construction in '53 and I stayed with it up until about '72 I think.

So what are some of the places that you worked on?

Well, all of the old places in Las Vegas of any size I helped build. The convention center was one and the Tropicana, the Riviera, the Stardust and --
Meadows Mall.

Oh, yeah, Meadows Mall was one. That was kind of a funny one that was brought to mind the other day about bypassing the law. If a very high-pressure pipe is buried next to a cable, you're supposed to put sand in the bottom, put the pipe in and put sand over the top. I was up about the third or four floor at Meadows Mall working and look over the side and seen the rig moving. I thought he was draining water out of the counterweight. He was going up a steep hill. When he moved from over it, I got a bath because the water shot so high it came down on me on the third or fourth floor. You know, a high-pressure line in there with no sand, no gravel, when that rig ran over it, it busted a big rock in the pipe. So there's water shooting at least three floors high. That was enough to make you remember that job in particular.

Oh, yes. What was it like to build the Riviera because that was one of the first high-rises I believe?

Well, it was like in many cases a little bit perturbing to see how the contractors flaunted the building code. The fifth floor of the Riviera, maybe it was seventh, they were supposed to put rebar in the floor and all that. And they used what's called K-Lathing instead. And they were

dumping concrete on it. And they put so much concrete up there it fell through.

Fell through?

Yeah, the whole thing fell through. Took the next floor with it down. I think that was only two it wiped out. I can't remember which floors. Fifth and sixth I think wound up on the fifth floor -- or sixth and seventh I mean. It was just a lot of things like that. Some of the building that was allowed in Vegas was absolutely unbelievable. I bet an inspector that I could walk through every room on a given floor of the hotel without a tool and do it in ten minutes. And he wouldn't take me up on it because my back was hurting and I leaned against the wall like that and bent my feet way out behind me to bend my back a certain way. I went to straighten up and I broke the wall when I pushed against it.

So you are saying that all of the buildings here, at that point anyway, were inferior?

Well, not all of them because I didn't work on all of them. But almost every one that I did work on was. Some of them were real scary.

So not up to code at all?

No. No. Not even up to common sense.

Wow. So what was life in Las Vegas like when you were not at work? What was it like at that time?

Well, it was a friendly place. People seemed to care about other people more. I've told visitors from out of state, heck, I don't know anybody in town, and we go two blocks in town and somebody says, hi, Bob, four or five times. That's the way Vegas used to be. You could hardly walk down Fremont Street without meeting somebody you knew, more than likely three or four, maybe five people.

Describe Fremont Street to me. And which year are we talking about? Are we talking about when you moved here in '53, that era?

Yeah. In '55, '54 and in there.

So describe what Fremont Street looked like.

Well, it looked like the main street of many old western towns, the stores that they had. And they did have western stores here in those days because then there were a few cattle people still in the country. And you could go in and buy a pair of spurs. You could even buy horseshoes in town

years ago. I bet you couldn't find a horseshoe now this side of Salt Lake City. But you could back then. And you could buy a hat or whatever you needed in the way of gear, saddles. Everything was for sale. There were saddle shops in Vegas, a couple of them.

What kind of entertainment?

Well, mostly western. The Strip brought in entertainers from all over the country and had a different type of show. But mostly outlying places and the places that locals mostly went ordinarily all country or western or a mixture of both.

You used to have the Rat Pack here, too.

Well, that was on the Strip. That wasn't out in the boonies.

Oh, in the boonies.

So what did the local people do for entertainment?

Well, it's hard -- a lot of them like myself liked to get out of town, get out in the country for entertainment. At night if you had company from out of state generally is what prompted something like that. I used to go to a good dance and hear some good country western music and meet a lot of people, like-minded. It was nearly always very friendly. Once in a while somebody would get their wires crossed and have a fistfight or something like that. But there wasn't any shootings and knifings like there is today. That was almost unheard of.

So, Janice, when you came here as an adult -- when did you come to Las Vegas permanently? That's what I should ask.

Probably my sophomore year of high school. And I graduated from Vegas High.

In which year?

1949.

Okay. So 1949. You're here at the same time. You're here a few years earlier. So describe to me what it was like for a young girl at that time.

It was very nice. Well, you could still walk to school from where we lived. All the kids were friendly. They weren't backbiting or anything of that sort. They weren't -- well, how would you call it?

You could ride your horse to the grocery store, couldn't you?

Oh, yeah, I did. In fact, I kept my horse just across the street from where we lived.

Where did you live?

I lived on Mesquite, Mesquite and Bruce.

Is that in North Las Vegas?

No. Well, it's kind of in the southeast.

Is Bruce the same as Maryland Parkway?

I don't think so. But anyway, Bruce Street and Mesquite Street. Mesquite ran east and west I guess it was. But anyway, our house was on one side of Mesquite and on the other side was the county. So I was able to keep my horse in the county. So all I had to do was walk across the street, saddle up, ride bareback or whatever, and take off and go wherever I wanted. And down below that was where all of the affluent went.

What was that area called?

Well, it was Las Vegas.

Was it John S. Park?

No. But we had John S. Park. I remember that school, but I didn't go to it.

How close were you to the John S. Park community at Bruce and Mesquite or the Huntridge, that area?

It wasn't within walking distance.

I'm trying to figure out where Mesquite --

I know we used to go to the Huntridge Theater.

Okay. A few minutes ago you made the statement -- let me see if I can remember... Oh, I know what it was. Your horse was in the county. So you couldn't have horses in the city?

No. Oh, not at that time you couldn't have them in the city. But in the county you could have horses. So it was really nice.

What kind of entertainment for young girls in high school? What did you do for entertainment?

Well, we belonged to different clubs in the school. We would all get together and maybe go to a movie or sometimes go horseback riding. I can remember we would get together, my girlfriend and I. I would ride my horse and she had a horse that she borrowed from a friend of mine. And we would pack a lunch. And we would ride down to a stream and go swimming, have lunch and

then come back home. We'd spend the whole day down there. So we had a lot of fun growing up. It's just too bad it's not that way now.

Did you work as a young girl as well?

Yes. I worked for F.W. Woolworth. I did that after school and then part-time in the summer. I was an usher at one of the theaters. I got into sign painting and painting murals. My sister started that because she worked for a bowling alley, well, actually near the Huntridge Theater, in that area. She wanted me to paint a mural in her living room. Well, then this woman that was a big shot in one of the businesses in town, she happened to see it and she wanted me to come and do murals on the bowling alley on each side of the wall. And it just went from there. Then it got into sign painting. It wound up being that I was busy from four days after Thanksgiving and up to about four days before Christmas doing Christmas windows, painting decorations on the store windows.

Oh, wonderful. So what is one of your signs that you remember that you painted?

Oh, there were so many of them. But I did them for service stations.

Which one do you remember because you liked it?

Oh. It was for a Union 76 station. That was part of downtown area. It was one of those A-frames for things that they did there. Then I wound up painting the signs that went up over the bays that they put the cars in. Did those. But it just kind of snowballed because somebody -- I never advertised. Somebody would just see it and say, well, now --

That's wonderful. What did you charge for that?

Oh, it would be by whatever size it was. Not a lot because I called that my Christmas club account because whatever I made I spent on Christmas. And I would spend it all. And I got everything that everybody wanted. And one year I had money left over.

What did you do for a living in addition to the sign painting? Did you have a regular trade or regular job?

I worked for a veterinarian.

One of the early veterinarians here?

Yes.

Who was that?

Dr. Phillipson.

Dr. Phillipson. Great.

That was at Fifth and Main. You know where they come together?

Yes. Yes. Today, yes, I know exactly.

Well, that's where I worked. That was my favorite job.

Good. Good.

Well, Robert, getting back to you, you talked about all the hotels you worked in. Now, this was in the 50s.

And this is really a question I want you to think about, too, Janice.

Tell me about what you remember of the Test Site, of the bombs that were tested here. Do you remember any of those explosions and seeing the blasts or anything?

Yeah. I've been there.

Okay. Tell me about that.

Well, the first one that I remember was long before I came here. I was living in Kingman, Arizona. I think it was probably in '50.

Talk a little louder.

Oh. Probably around 1950. As I got out of bed one morning the whole house lit up and I felt it shake. I went and grabbed the wife and out the door. I thought there was an earthquake coming. I didn't know what had happened. I got outside and everything was quiet and still. That was the first aerial bomb they set off at the Test Site. And clear down in Kingman we got the shockwave and the light from that bomb. That was number one. It was years later I worked at the Test Site, off and on probably ten years or more.

So do you know anything about Area 51?

Yes, ma'am.

How much can you tell me about it?

Not a lot I wouldn't think because a lot of it is probably still classified and I'm not sure which is and which isn't. But it was an extremely interesting place to work. I enjoyed it. I worked at 51 five and a half years. I enjoyed almost every day of it. Something different all the time. Not like the day-after-day punching a time card or something.

So can you tell me what you did?

Well, welding was my occupation, actually ironworker. We built a lot of hangars and built some towers and numerous things like that.

And the hangars and the towers were used for?

Well, the hangars, of course, to put airplanes in and the towers were mostly radio towers. The atmosphere up there was so -- what would you call it? Everything was so secure till after you had been through all the clearances and all this, that and the other, the people you worked with were almost like your own family because everybody had been through the same bull and everybody knew everything. So it was a very pleasant place to work. We had an excellent superintendent up there for many years. All in all for a construction man you just couldn't beat it.

Did you live up there or did you drive back and forth?

Stayed there from Monday through Thursday, came home Friday nights for the weekend.

And they had accommodations and food and everything?

Oh, yes. Excellent food.

What kind of living arrangements?

Oh, we had first some little tiny trailers, two men to a trailer. And then later on they bought some houses somewhere and moved them in, big old houses. It was ten men to a house. That was a good arrangement because everyone had their own room and everything. There were two men to a room. But it was very convenient.

And how did they serve the meals?

In a mess hall, which was something of its own value you might say because the guy who was really in charge up there, he believed in feeding properly. And anytime that he came in the mess hall and found something that wasn't quite up to par, somebody got the word real quick and it was up to par.

On top of that everybody's favorite up there was a little colored fellow named Murphy Green, who was the cashier. Murphy was not any bigger than you are. But when he expanded (indiscernible) to cut loose of the orders about the mess hall, everybody listened. It was like it was Murphy's own private place. You do things his way or else you hear about it. Everybody thought the world of "Murph." He kept everybody in a good mood all the time because he was a real

pleasant fellow himself, but then he had good thoughts. One Teamster in there one time weighed enough that they could easily have taken Murphy in one hand and held him out like that. He give Murphy a little lip and Murphy snatched him out of his chair, kicked his rear right out the door, dusted his hands, and he come back and says, there'll be no rough housing in my mess hall.

So about how many people lived in Area 51?

Oh, really I couldn't say because that's classified. But it was quite a bunch.

And you can't tell me anything about the work?

I'm afraid to because I don't know how much is still classified and what isn't. Probably most of it isn't anymore, but I've never been notified that it wasn't. I did get told many times keep your mouth shut.

All righty. And I think everybody must have gotten the same information because nobody talks about it.

They all got the same thing.

So when you would drive back and forth from Las Vegas up there, did you car pool or did you have your own car up there?

From out here I had to drive by myself most of the time.

So were you living in Sandy Valley at the time that you were -- so how long have you lived in Sandy Valley?

Since 1958, the first day of January.

So you only lived in Las Vegas for five years?

Yes.

So where in Las Vegas did you live when you lived in the city?

I didn't live in the city of Vegas. I lived out in Henderson. I bought a place on the road that goes down towards the lake and lived in Henderson, which beat living in Vegas a little bit because it was more country life. But it wasn't enough. Out here was far better.

How did you find Sandy Valley?

Because of a couple of drunks. They had been down to Los Angeles to the union hall. Of course, being out there without supervision, they got their noses wet. And then one of them wanted to show the other some property he had inherited. And they came through Sandy Valley and got

stuck because there was no blacktop here. It was just dirt. And they got their car buried and liked to starve to death before a farmer came along and got them out. And I overheard their conversation the next day on the job or the following Monday. And I decided I better come and find that place that was so isolated. When I saw it I said, that's it right there.

Well, so what was out here at that time in 1958? What did it look like out here?

A whole bunch of vacant land. A whole bunch of it.

So were there any houses, schoolhouses, anything?

No, there were no houses. I can't think of -- well, there was, let's see, one, two, three, four. On the California side was four houses. The old mill that you passed over here was here at that time. There was a house there. And there was a little, tiny house on the mining claim further on down the road. I guess that's all the houses that were here.

Wow. So how close am I to the California line?

Within a pistol shot.

So is that a couple of miles?

Oh, not hardly. It's about, oh, probably 600 yards.

Oh, really? I'm that close.

When you crossed the runway down here, you were only about 50 yards this side of California.

So right there at the runway?

Yeah, where you crossed the runway and turned on Geronimo.

Yes.

Well, you were within 50, 60 yards of California.

So is this your original piece of property in 1958?

No. It's over on the other side of Cherokee Street.

Okay. I saw Cherokee Street.

Yeah. That's the last street on the east side of the valley. That was 200 acres of land that I could squeeze by and bought range to go with it to run cattle. This place at that time was part of my range to run cattle on. There was nothing here, absolutely nothing. There was no road that came up through here.

Why after being a welder and working and probably making really good money, why did

you want to run cattle again?

Because that's what I was raised to do I guess. That's the only thing I really knew. And I learned to weld because of the economics of the country because when I started welding in the late 30s, it was hard for anybody out in the country to make more than 35, \$40 a month, not a week, but a month. And cowboying didn't pay. I was the highest paid cowboy on the last ranch I worked on before going in the army because I rode the bucking horses. And that was 14, 16 hours a day, seven days a week. It paid a grand total of \$45 a month.

So you were in the military, then, during World War II?

Yes.

Did you see action?

Yes, ma'am.

Where were you?

North Africa and Italy and France, Germany and Austria.

Wow. What were some of your memories about World War II?

Cold and wet, mostly. In Europe it seemed like if it didn't rain every day, it rained every other day. And we went for months on end you were never really warm or dry. Your clothes would mold and your blanket would mold and everything you had smelled like mold. And it got awfully, awfully old.

So, Janice, let's come back to you and let's talk some more about Las Vegas. So you were telling me about some of your jobs. You were getting ready to tell me about your favorite job.

I was working for a veterinarian, Dr. Phillipson.

So tell me what that work was like.

Well, it was something I enjoyed doing because I could handle the animals. I wasn't afraid of any of them. In fact, the veterinarian himself wouldn't go and get one animal, a Kerry Blue, big dog, out of the kennel, but I would go get him. And I would do it in a hurry because I would open the door to the cage and I'd reach in there and pull him up, just boom, like that, put the leash on him and take him out to the run. But it was a job that I enjoyed. I got along very well with animals. I wasn't afraid of them. And it seems like animals can sense when you're afraid of them. You put

off an odor or something.

Yeah, because I do it around animals, whatever that is.

And so I've always been that way, just handled animals. Like I said sometimes I felt like I would almost pay Dr. Phillipson to work there I liked it so much. But that was my favorite job.

Did you ever work in the casino industry?

Yes.

What kind of work?

I was a cocktail waitress.

Oh, really? Tell me about that.

Well, it was something that I enjoyed, too. I got along very well with the bosses.

Where did you work?

At Binion's Horseshoe.

Did you know any of the Binion family?

Oh, yes, very well.

What was that family like when it comes to getting along with the public?

They got along with the public very well.

Give me some examples.

Well, there was only one I guess that was kind of a loner, but most of them did. They had about five kids. The youngest one, I don't know if she's handling the casino now or not. In the parades you'd see them all lined up in the parade. I rode in the parade, too, the Helldorado parade.

Tell me about Helldorado.

Well, the Helldorado Days is years and years ago when they had the old Helldorado Village. That was on Fifth Street. That was a lot of fun.

Tell me some of the things that you did.

Do you remember Shmoo?

Do you remember Shmoo?

I don't know.

It was almost like a figure like this. We had a sign, well, a front made like a Shmoo like this for the Helldorado at the Helldorado Village. There was a cutout place like this and we served

Shmoo juice.

What was Shmoo juice? What was it made out of it?

Oh, it was more like a pop.

And the shape that you did is like an eight almost.

A Shmoo was almost a ghost in the old funny papers some years ago capable of anything.

Whatever was good, a Shmoo could do it. And whatever was bad, the Shmoos would fight it. It was a comic strip many, many years ago. I was just thinking you're giving your age away when you talk about Shmoo because people don't know.

That's right.

But it was popular enough that people picked up on it. And anything that was good, it was Shmoo juice or it was a Shmoo something else because it was good. And in the life of the Shmoo, they only had the very good things in life and they fought everything else.

Okay. So getting back to Helldorado, do you remember the Helldorado parades when the casinos participated?

Oh, yes.

So explain the parades to me, the different parades each year.

Well, each hotel sponsored a float. I had been on two of them at one time and the next time also.

But that was the fun part. The Helldorado Days that they have now is altogether different. But they had the horses and the floats and they'd have different groups that were horseback riders.

Then they had prizes that they gave for the best of whatever was. At the end, why, that's when everybody would participate in the drinks and this and that and the other.

And they had the Whiskerino Contest.

And the Whiskerino Contest.

And they had the Shriners on their teeny weenie motorcycles, the clowns.

Yeah.

I remember them because a friend of mine liked to killed himself doing that, being smart on this little thing.

Oh, yeah. They go back and forth and around.

He had learned to ride it real good, but the horse parade was in front. And he was making one of

these sharp turns and hit some horse apples and the motorcycle went down. He almost killed himself.

Now, are you aware that the parades and the animals, it's all back?

Yeah, they're back finally.

They were not for many years.

Many years, right. And they came back for the Centennial. And that they still have the rodeo now?

They have a rodeo, yes.

But I don't know where.

Yes. Downtown.

The rodeo?

Uh-huh.

It's not like it used to be at Cashman Field.

No.

It's usually in the convention center that they hold the rodeos and the --

I haven't been to them.

-- what do they call them? -- the bull riding finals and all that sort of thing. But that's usually in December.

Oh, yeah. You're talking about the National Finals Rodeo.

That's what I'm trying to think of.

That's out at Thomas & Mack at UNLV. But thank you for those Helldorado stories. That was good.

Being a cocktail waitress, what kinds of tips did you earn?

Oh, I made enough tips to live off of and I could keep my check. It was funny working there because one of the bosses would introduce me to different customers that I guess came in a lot. At that time I had long hair and lots of it. And I'd wear it in a ponytail and then I would braid part of it and have it like this. And he'd come up and yank my ponytail and he'd introduce me to this customer as Annie Oakley. I was Annie Oakley.

But back then you enjoyed the job. When I went to work as a cocktail waitress, I was

under the impression from rumors I had heard that, oh, they'd pinch your behind and do this, that and the other. I thought, well, I'd smack them. I never, ever had a problem. One of the security guards that was at the casino windows, he told me, he says, if anybody gives you any trouble, you just let me know. And I never, ever had any problems.

Wonderful. How long did you work as a cocktail waitress?

Oh, probably a year and a half.

What kinds of uniforms did cocktail waitresses wear at that time?

Well, at that time they weren't skimpy. They were shorts and then you had to wear stockings and high heels. But I got some comfortable high heels. They were those kind that had like the wooden clogs and wooden heels. And those were the most -- in fact, I still have them. They are comfortable.

Not only comfortable, but very good shoes evidently.

They are renovating downtown again. This question is for both of you. As you know a couple of years ago, several years ago back in the 90s, they put the top over Fremont Street and you can't drive through it anymore. And now they're developing the other end of Fremont Street, Fremont Street East. They're putting restaurants in and little coffee shops and things like that. Have you seen any of that?

No. I just don't go downtown anymore.

You have to go downtown to see the difference when you lived down there and worked down there until today. You have to see it.

Tell me about the religious community here. Did either of you participate in the religious community in Las Vegas?

I did.

Where did you go to church?

The LDS Church. But when I was growing up, I lived and went to whatever church was within walking distance. So I've been to just about all of them. I have even been to Holy Rollers, the Baptist Church, the Catholic Church, of course the LDS Church. I guess just about every one there is.

How did you become so open-minded?

I just am open-minded. I don't criticize anybody. That's their business as far as I'm concerned. And what I do is my business. And if I want somebody to know anything, I tell them. I don't get into their business or divulge it either.

What did you like about Las Vegas, the old Las Vegas?

I guess friendliness of the people. Back then it was a close-knit community and you just about knew everyone. I knew Benny Binion personally, Doby Doc and Doby's girlfriend.

Now, who is Doby Doc?

Robert Caudill.

So tell me who he is.

Well, he was a gambler. He and Benny Binion were buddies. He was very generous. I can remember when I was over visiting with Doby's girlfriend. Of course, he knew about the kids and everything. It was funny because my son, I never let him drive the car. Doby had a Rolls-Royce. He wanted something from the store, which was not too far away. This was down in the northeast part of town. So he gave my son the keys to this Rolls-Royce to go down and get whatever it was that he needed, a loaf of bread or something. He was kind of laughing. He says, here Doby lets me drive his car and my mother won't let me drive her car.

Let him drive the Rolls-Royce, wow.

I thought that was pretty funny.

So you used the name Doby Doc as somebody that we all should know. Is there anything --

Well, if you grew up in that era, you should. But he's dead now.

What else was he known for? A gambler, but did he own gambling property or anything?

Well, he owned property.

A lot of property, but not gambling property.

Okay. But he owned a lot of real estate?

Right.

He gambled a lot all right in the manner of the old-time gamblers of giving everybody a fair shake. The house has the advantage to start with. So don't job them; don't crook anybody because you've got the advantage to start with. And he was well respected wherever he went, and he was known far and wide as being a dealt of a fine man. His main ambition in life was to be a veterinarian.

After he came from the northern part of the country and came down here, his passion turned to building things out of adobe. Consequently, he wound up with the name Doby Doc. Most people in the country had no idea his name was Robert Caudill at all. He was Doby Doc; that's all. Many, many of the old-timers here in Vegas had no idea Doby had any other name but Doby Doc. Doby Doc's little barn is right out here in the back corner of this lot.

Say that again.

Doby's old barn, his horse barn is right out here in the back corner of this lot.

A few minutes ago you said that the house had the upper hand. So did he have anything to do with gambling other than as a player?

I'm sure he did because he and Benny Binion were so close. They were like brothers. Binion's kids was the only family Doby Doc had. That's how come when Doby died -- what is the kid's name that got killed here recently?

Benny, Benny Binion.

Ted.

No. Ted Binion.

Ted Binion. Well, what he got was Doby's place up in Pahrump Valley. There was over a million dollars in silver buried on that place. Do you remember? If you read the accounts in the paper, this guy from Montana was trying to steal it all and trying to do it legally, at least with the sheriff's consent, and he didn't quite make it. But all that money was Doby Doc's. And he gave everything he had to Binion's kids because he had no family of his own.

Okay.

The Binions was his family. He and Benny were like twin brothers. And many times in the old Horseshoe Club if you seen one, you seen the other because they were together nearly all the time. I talked to Doby many times. I went to see him about drilling a well when he first bought the property up in Pahrump. He had already contracted the job to someone else. But he got interested in talking about Sandy Valley and out in the country. Consequently, Clair Clark and I, who used to live across the valley, was together at the time. And we probably spent three and a half, four hours sitting there drinking coffee and talking with Benny and Doby Doc because they were very interested in the countryside more so than most people. In the older days, even before, everybody

who knew anything about any of the gambling business knew Doby Doc.

All right. So you were going to add something else?

One time when I was out visiting with Doby and Astrid -- that was his girlfriend.

Would you spell that name?

Astrid, A-S-T-R-I-D. It was Astrid Eckmond. He had something in his hand and he says, here, hold out your hand. And I did. He put it in my hand. And he says, now, take this home to Kim, my daughter. And it was a gold nugget necklace. So she's got that. But that's just the way he was. He wasn't a moneygrubber. He was generous.

Another little item of interest since we're talking about history and things, Doby Doc usually wore bib overalls. And he was a little bit eccentric you might say. He liked white shoes and a white straw hat to go with his overalls. He was so well known by so many people. In his suspender here on the bib overalls, he had a diamond about that big, a stickpin. Most people had no idea why or where that was giving to him in appreciation for something he did for Bing Crosby. Crosby gave him that stickpin, and Doby was quite proud of it. He stuck it in his suspenders of his bib overalls.

And do we know what he did for Bing?

I do not remember. But Doby would help anybody that was in need.

And he had this straw hat that he would wear. And instead of buying a new straw hat, he took white shoe polish and polished it with white shoe polish.

The hat?

The hat.

Wow.

As I said maybe a tad eccentric.

Yes, just a little.

Who can wear a 5,000-dollar diamond stickpin? Won't go buy a new hat. He took shoe polish to it.

So in Las Vegas where do people like that live, people with that much money?

He lived done on -- what do they call that little street off Tropicana? Goes east off Tropicana.

Like Maryland Parkway or Eastern?

No, no. It runs east and west. About a quarter of a mile off where Tropicana is now. Doby had

ten acres in there.

Oh, okay.

Nothing fancy. Had a house built out of railroad ties.

That's where Astrid lived, too.

Yeah, I know.

On Reno.

Reno. That's the one I'm trying to think of.

Okay. I know where those streets are. Those areas you could have your own horses.

Could then.

At that time, yes. The big pieces of property.

Yeah.

So where did the Binions live when you knew Doby Doc?

They lived on Bonanza Road.

So that house on Bonanza and Tonopah?

Right. Because I used to live off Bonanza also. But my backyard backed up to their big horse corral.

Oh, okay.

I had a horse down there, too.

So you were really close to the Westside?

Uh-huh.

How much do you know about blacks in the city?

Well, I was friendly with everybody. It didn't seem to matter whether they were Mexican or black or whatever, I got along with everybody. And I remember going down this one street that was in the Westside and it was at night and it was in that pickup truck, Chevy pickup truck. And I was going down I don't know if it was F Street or one of those streets anyway. I had a little bit of trouble getting the truck started again and I had stopped. And this fellow came up and helped me, a black fellow. Of course, this was at night. So he got it started and going again. He says, you don't come through here at night, never again do you come through here at night. That's what he told me back then. Of course, that was when the Westside was -- whites just didn't go, you know.

So do either of you remember the Moulin Rouge?

Oh, yes.

I helped build it.

Tell me about that, the building process.

Well, I can't remember any real particulars, only just putting up the iron because that was my job. I never actually done interior or anything like that work, just structural steel. So we had put that up. I remember it quite well, the contractor who delivered the steel. The steel was all made in Salt Lake City. I remember that because there was so much sand in some of it you couldn't weld it. Start the arc on it and it would melt and run down the side. It wasn't dangerous or anything. It was pretty good for what it was made for. But that was Utah Iron and Steel. That's who furnished all that. And Utah Crane and Rigging was the outfit we worked for putting it all up. I think that was in '55, wasn't it?

I think so.

Yes. 1955 is when it opened.

When we look at the history of that place, they say that one of the reasons that it closed so quickly -- it was only open for six months the first time -- they said because the contractors and the subcontractors were not paid. Have you ever heard that or know anything about that?

Oh, I've heard it, but I was not a contractor and I don't really know. There's always been (indiscernible) one time or another trying to get you to bid on a job or do it and then you don't get your money. The hotels themselves, all of them were very guilty of that a few years back when interest rates were so high. They would stall the contractors and stall them and stall them as long as they possibly could until (indiscernible) before they would pay them because they were leaving that money where it was earning high interest. And that's what it was all about. And they would take the checks so, oh, yeah, I sent you a check last week. Well, the check would be no good and they knew it was no good when they sent it. It wouldn't cash. And they're still keeping their money on high interest. And they broke a lot of small contractors in Vegas doing that very thing because a small contractor like myself when I was drilling wells, you don't have \$500,000 behind you to take you over a rough spot. You've got to keep things going.

Consequently, the big money people in gambling did that all the time and they've gotten to where a lot of small contractors wouldn't take jobs at hotels at all because they knew what was going to happen. You're not going to get paid for six or eight months down the road. That's where the greed really started in this country like it has spread all over. Anything to make an extra dime they'll do.

Wow. You just said something a few minutes ago about when you were drilling wells. Did you do that as an independent person?

Yes.

Was that your own business?

Yes.

When you say drilling wells, what are we talking about?

Putting holes in the ground and getting water, bring it back up.

For whom? Private individuals or businesses?

It's individuals.

Here in Sandy Valley. People move out from Vegas.

I drilled more wells in Sandy Valley than any man alive. I drilled wells in Pahrump Valley. I drilled wells in Arizona as a kid for ourselves. But I only did it commercially here in Nevada and California.

So you didn't drill wells for private people here in --

Uh-huh. I drilled the wells for this place.

So if I purchased a piece of property out here, there are no utilities on it?

That's right.

So tell me what I would have to do.

Well, the first thing you need to do is get either a generator or get some electricity. Get a well drilled so you get water. Then you dig a hole and bury a 50 tank and leach field so you've got a disposal plant. And after that you're on your own. Build a house or do whatever.

So today would I have to do the same thing in 2010?

Yes.

Uh-huh, out here.

Absolutely.

You're kidding?

There's a septic tank buried right there and the leach field runs out here in front of the hangar.

We're on a community well, which I drilled right down the street here.

So explain to me what a community well is.

Well, there's 50-something people get their water from that same well. We have a pretty good-size water system down here.

Only for the airport.

Right. It's only for the airport.

Now, what do you mean only for the airport?

Well, the 160 acres of this airport coverage.

This is Sky Ranch Estates.

Okay. But now, you just said that some 50 people use the well.

More than that. I don't know how many people use that.

Yeah. But there's 1900 or people that have to find their own water because they live over there.

Oh, okay. This is just for this small village.

Right.

Okay. There is an airport here. That's why I see this runway.

Yep.

So now, the people that I see with airplanes in their front yard --

A lot of them.

-- they use the airport?

That's right.

Uh-huh. Right here.

That's so you can walk to your airplane instead of having to drive ten miles and so you're not paying hangar fees or tie-down fees.

That's why it's called Sky Ranch Estates.

It's a fly in, get up. It's been pretty successful. A lot of people retired. One of the fellows used to live on the end of this street down this way, he probably had more hours in the air than some

people have lived. He flew for, oh, the business airline in Utah and all them. Delta. He flew for Delta --

Delta, yeah.

-- since he got his pilot's license. That was a long time ago.

Yeah, because he's not even here anymore.

And so, when he lived there he had his own plane?

Oh, yeah.

Wow. And how many people would you say here on this Sky Ranch Estates would have their own plane?

What would you guess, mother? Fifty, 60? At least.

Yeah, about 50 of them.

Wow.

And some of them have three or four airplanes. This one guy down here on the street you gave in on, on Eagle Street --

That's where I saw it.

-- I told him he's going to have to build him a bigger hangar the other day because he builds his own airplanes. And he's built so many now if he wants to work on one, he's got to take two others out of the hangar to make room to work in there.

Wow. So now, did you ever fly?

What?

Did you ever fly a plane?

Did I ever? Yes, ma'am. Years ago, many years ago.

Wow. Wow.

So, Janice, how long have you lived here in Sandy Valley?

Probably about 32 years.

So I won't even ask the next question then. I was going to ask you do you like --

I was the first one on this airport.

Really?

I had my choice of what lot I wanted and I wanted to be as far away from the runway as I could

get. And I'm on a little more than two and a half acres here.

Oh. Did you ever have a plane?

Uh-huh. Cessna 182.

How did you learn to fly?

Oh, I learned to fly after World War II because our range down in Arizona was on the Sandy River over across Burro Creek and down to the Santa Maria. And it's rough, brushy country, lots of cedar brush all over the country. And when you round-up in the spring, you have to ride every trail up and down, up and down every ridge to find all the cattle because they're scattered over many sections of land. The object was -- and it worked quite well. I learned to fly a little Ragwing Aeronca Champ, which is a very slow, little 85-horsepower engine. And I would fly down there and my dad and my two brothers horse-backed. I would fly, oh, 600 to 800 feet in the air and go over. And when I'd spot a bunch of cattle that they should see, I'd stand the airplane up on one wing and turn around. We had no radios or nothing like that. And they're watching me from horseback. So they know, okay, a bunch of cattle there. And they didn't have to ride up and down every damn canyon because I would fly over and find the cattle and go around in a circle like that to make sure they seen me. That's the way we gathered cattle.

Wow. Wow. This is an amazing way to live. People would not believe that this close to Las Vegas that there are people who are living with airplanes in their driveway. I mean nobody would believe this, nobody. This is simply amazing.

So are there any other things that -- let me see what I have in my notes. Are there any other things that we were supposed to talk about that you would like to tell me about from your past, either of the two of you?

Well, I can tell you one thing. We were talking about any community service.

Yes.

Presently I'm not involved in anything. But I used to be an EMT and fought fires, you know, fire department, local fire department. And anytime day or night you got called out you had to go. But now, that was interesting. I enjoyed doing that. That's something I did like to do. If I could be a nurse even now, I would.

If you could get your crutch behind you and get up those steps.

You were a school bus driver.

Oh, yeah, I was a school bus driver. In fact, I kept the school bus right in the driveway there. I was on the clock as soon as I walked out the door.

Wow. Where do children out here go to school? In Sandy Valley?

In Sandy Valley.

And what about high school?

Now, we have K through 12 out here.

Oh, great. Okay. I didn't know that.

We didn't originally, but we do now.

Robert, at one time were you a deputy sheriff?

Yes, ma'am.

So tell me about that time. What were you doing?

Well, I was the only law west of the Pecos so to speak, west of Jean anyway. It was kind of forced on me. Back in those days a lot of people still had cattle in this country. They hadn't dried out yet. And there was a ruckus over across the mountains on the other side where a sharpie who had done this before made his money available to ranchers on the pretext of helping them out over a rough spot and so on, or increasing their herd or whatever his excuse, anyway till he could get in a partnership deal with them. And then at the most inopportune time of the year, he would demand his money and either cause them to have to sell and so forth and he would wind up with the ranch, which he did in Utah several times.

And he tried to do it here and I heard about it. And I didn't know the fellow that he tried to pull this on, but I knew some of his family years ago in Arizona. And I figured he must be a good guy like the rest of his family. So I went over and hunted him up when I heard the trouble he was having and told him he could bring a bunch of cattle to my range because this guy, when he couldn't get him in court and all that, he went all down in that whole valley over there in the foothills, anyplace there were wells to water the cattle, he'd cut the pumps off with a torch and let them fall in the well and put this guy out of water in the middle of the summer. So I went over and told him I had plenty of room on my range. He could bring a bunch of cattle over here and keep them until he got his wells fixed.

Well, the fellow who was responsible for all this, I didn't know anything about him, never even heard of him at the time. But he was supposedly a well-known figure in the mob. According to the sheriff at that time, word got out that he had put a contract out on me, was going eliminate me for what I had done to mess up his plans over there.

Well, the guy who I helped over there was Boyd Rucker. He was in town and talking with the sheriff about what was going on. And the sheriff gave him a card with my name on it and a deputy badge. He said, take these to Bob and tell him shoot first and ask questions later and don't go anywhere without his gun. And I didn't know what it was all about at the time. I found out later there's been a contract on my head. But for many years I was the only law out here.

So who was the mob person?

I don't remember his name. He had some kind of a little business here in town. I did know his name, but that's been many years ago I've done forgotten.

Okay. So any cases that you remember out here in the valley as deputy sheriff?

Oh, only one. Being that it was such an isolated place, a lot of people who knew of it thought they could get away with anything out here. So a sports car club from California came over here. They came up from Jean this way. And they're calling it Sports Car Valley out here racing cars on these roads. And at that time there were some kids that lived over here at the old mill and played out there. And you had these people racing right through their yard almost.

So I went to speak to them about it. They were smart enough to see that I didn't have a two-way radio in my car and all that. One of them got pretty belligerent. He said, well, you're by yourself. He said, you ain't got any radio and there's twenty something of us, so what are you going to do about that? And I said, I'm not by myself. I moved my jacket in the seat and come out with a little hog leg. I said, I got six friends here; who wants to be first? And nobody wanted to be first.

(Laughing.) Okay.

Should I show her that old hog let?

Show me what?

His hog leg.

What we call a hog leg, the old long-barrel pistol.

Okay. Is it unloaded?

No. It's fully loaded. It stays that way.

Oh, god.

A few minutes ago you said that the people here use that well water we were talking about over there. Then you said Robert is here too. Robert Spurlock is Mr. Spurlock's son. He wasn't supposed to say anything, but he said several things. So that's the other voice you hear on the tape.

Hi. Sorry.

Okay. So there are 1900 other people here in the valley?

There's about 2,000 people here depending on who you listen to. We will find out in the new census. And that's spread out over 20 miles.

Oh, okay.

So pretty much everybody is responsible for their own wire from the tower line to wherever their house is.

But at least there are power lines from a power company someplace.

Oh, yes. There are three separate power companies here -- Nevada Power for the Nevada side and then there's Inyo County, which is Valley Electric and then San Bernardino, which is Rural Electric Association.

So there's three counties.

This is my friend I was talking about.

And this is loaded, right?

That is loaded.

I just want to see how heavy it is.

It's heavy.

Wow, it is heavy. So what kind of gun is it?

.38-40 Colt.

Notice how one side of the barrel is much skinnier than the other.

And why is that?

(Indiscernible) out of the holes. So this side is still thick and this side is worn down.

Okay. Wow. Who knew?

That was my dad's. He carried that from Texas to Canada and back to Mexico and all the time he

rode until he got up in years kind of like me and he didn't carry it anymore. He had it holstered behind the cantle on his saddle and he carried it right back there so he could just reach back and get his pistol all the time, even out in the barn. Never came out. Stayed out in the barn. Just an old sidekick from way back.

1896.

I think it was patented in the 70s if I remember right. I can't read it. You can read it right there under that -- yeah.

The 1870s?

Yeah.

September 19th, 1871.

Wow.

This gun is 140 years old, still functional.

Amazing. Still functional.

Quite functional. And noisy.

I can imagine.

So any other comments that either of you would like to make?

Dad, I think you ought to talk about how you got radiated out there at the Test Site.

Well, that was because of a goof-up. We were supposed to cut up some old towers that had been blasted. And somebody got their signals crossed and moved the signs. Three of us went in there to cut up these old towers. And that's one of the worst things you can do to radiated steel because you're releasing the gamma radiation when you cut the steel apart. Well, we got pretty well radiated. And the other two fellows, one of them died shortly after and the other one died in about, near as I remember, about three months.

But you didn't have any direct? Evidently you didn't get it as much as they did?

Well, I had to. But it has different effects on different people. Prior to that I never weighed over about 160 pounds and I had the flu at least twice every winter. After that my eyebrows and eyelashes all came out, but when they grew back I started gaining weight. I got up to about 180 pounds and I haven't had the flu since then.

So radiation was good for you.

So radiation had to be good for me. And how to explain it, I do not know.

So Janice, why did you decide to move to Sandy Valley?

Las Vegas was getting too big for me.

And this was which year that you moved out here?

Well, I bought the property in '76, but actually didn't start building the house until '78, early part of '78. Like I said Las Vegas was getting too big for me back then, back then. And look at it now. But my mother, before she passed away, she said, I won't live to see it, but one day you'll live to see this valley grow from mountain to mountain. Look at it.

That's right. It's here.

Wow. This has been wonderful.

Well, I'm glad you enjoyed it because very few people get to get out and see what country life is like.

Well, I'm really familiar with country life. I'm not familiar with country life in Nevada so much.

In the 21st century.

Twenty-first century. But I am going to Ely in a few weeks. I'm going to spend a long weekend in Ely. And I'm looking forward to that.

I think you'll like it.

Yes. That's different. But you'll run into country folk.

The entire state of Nevada is interesting.

Yes, it really is. I've been to Elko and to Fallon.

Fallon is nice.

Yes. So this will be my first time in Ely I think.

Did you go to Gardnerville?

Never been to Gardnerville.

There's Fallon, Minden, Gardnerville, Carson City. They're all kind of within driving distance.

Okay. No, I've never been to Gardnerville.

What's the most interesting place that you've been in Nevada? What's your favorite?

Oh, in Nevada? Las Vegas. I love Las Vegas. I love Las Vegas. I grew up on a farm. And I

always wanted to live in a city. So you will never get me out of a city. I will always be in a city. I want to be close to a movie theater. I want to be close to those things that I like to do.

Well now, living here it's nothing to get to town.

I know. An hour.

Forty minutes these days.

Well, it didn't take me an hour this morning. It only probably took me about 40, 45 minutes.

It's 40 miles from here to Tropicana and I-15.

See now, I probably could live here because I really love being by myself. I live by myself and I enjoy it tremendously. So I could probably live out here. But I can't get into my car and go -- where is your grocery store?

Oh, we have a grocery store right up here, Trail's End.

Oh, really? Okay.

And we have a pizza parlor.

No?

We have a post office.

We're modern day.

Oh, this is great. This is great. I love it. I did not expect to find what I found when I came to Sandy Valley. When I saw the airplanes in the front yard, I said, where am I? So this is amazing. I have enjoyed this tremendously.

You should go and see a contrast like existed in the movies years ago. Across the way in California there is a well-known attorney who practices in Las Vegas. The suits he wears as an attorney -- he says that's his alias, being an attorney. Out here he's got his horses and his own airport over there where he can get off the horse and get in an airplane and go wherever or vice versa.

That's the way to live.

Well, if you can.

Yeah. I mean if you have the money you can have a plane and I can get into my plane and I can fly to LAX or someplace. That's the way to live.

Well, in the small plane you really wouldn't want to do that.

But I could fly into Las Vegas.

Oh, you could fly to Las Vegas, yeah, or any of the smaller airports in Southern California. But anymore they're all so crowded. When you're flying privately it's a good idea to stay away from the big ones because about the time you get cleared to go in at, say, 120 knots, there's an airliner on your tail at 350 knots and you've got to clear the pattern so he can land. So you've got to go around. And you come back and get in the pattern and here comes another one. Last time I flew into Phoenix down there they had me in a holding pattern so long I was about to bust. My kidneys were demanding some relief. Every time, clear for commercial airline.

I would be afraid of the gasoline.

Running out of fuel?

Yes.

Well, this is great. I really appreciate this so much.

Thank you for coming.

Oh, you're welcome.

You're darn right.

You are so welcome.

Oh, I've enjoyed it too.

Thank you.

A

Area 51, 9, 11

B

Binion, Benny, 18, 19
Binion, Ted, 19, 20
Binion's Horseshoe., 14
Blevins, Henry, 3

C

Caudill, Robert (aka Doby Doc), 18, 19, 20, 22
Crosby, Bing, 21

D

Doc, Doby, 18, 19, 20, 22
Dr. Phillipson (veterinarian), 9, 13,14

F

F.W. Woolworth, 8
Fallon, NV, 2, 32
Fifth Street Grammar School, 2
Fremont Street, 5, 6, 17

G

Green, Murphy, 11

H

Haught, Sam, 3
Haught, Fred, 3
Helldorado Days, 14, 15, 17

Henderson, NV, 4, 11, 12
Huntridge Theater, 7, 8

L

Las Vegas High School, 2
LDS Church, 18

M

Meadows Mall, 4
Moulin Rouge, 22

P

Pahrump Valley, 20, 24
Pleasant Valley War, 3

R

range wars, 3
Rat Pack, 6
Riviera, 4, 5
Rucker, Boyd, 28

S

Sandy Valley, 1, 11, 12, 20, 24, 26, 27, 31, 33
Stardust, 4

T

Test Site, 9, 31
Tropicana, 4, 21, 32

W

Westside, 22