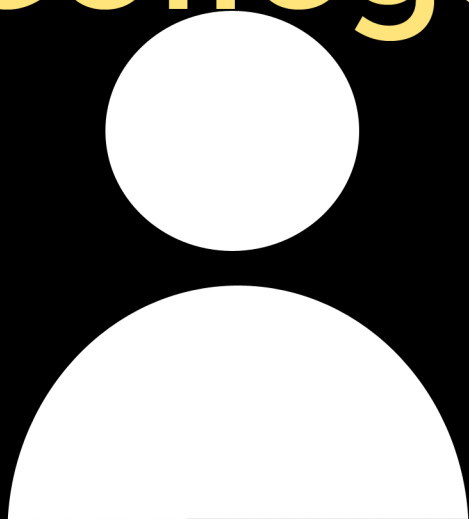


**Nevada State
College**



**Undergraduate Oral
History Project**

Oral History of Barbara Taylor

An Interview

Conducted by

Karen Schank

January 9, 2011

Nevada State College Undergraduate Oral History Project

Produced by:

Nevada State College Undergraduate Oral History Project

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The transcript received minimal editing to preserve the conversational style and content of the narrator.

This interview is from the series *Bridging the Past: Henderson through Oral History*.

Barbara Taylor

Oral History of Barbara Taylor

An Interview done by Karen Schank on January 9, 2011

Biography

Barbara Taylor was born in Reno, Nevada on March 7, 1933. She grew up in Minden Valley, Nevada, and spent time delivering butter with her dad for the Minden Butter Company and playing the saxophone with her school's band. She and her family moved to Las Vegas in 1943, when she was 10. Although she was initially not fond of the move to Las Vegas, she has fond memories of some aspects of growing up in the Las Vegas and Henderson area. Her mother taught fourth and fourth grade students for 30 years West Side Elementary, a largely African American school. Taylor and her mother were members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Taylor moved into Victory Village in Henderson after her marriage.

She worked for the Arrowhead Freight Company and Trans World Airlines (TWA). Through her job at TWA, she was able to watch an atom bomb go off. However, she also knew people who were possibly affected by the radiation from the testing and later developed cancer.

Barbara Taylor

Narrator: Barbara Taylor
Interviewer: Karen Schank
Interview Date: January 9, 2011
Location: Provo, Utah

Karen Schank: I'm here with Barbara Taylor at her home in Provo, Utah. The date is January 9, 2011 and Barbara could you state your name...

Barbara Taylor: Yeah.

Karen Schank: ...and then spell your last name.

Barbara Taylor: Okay. Barbara Taylor. T-A-Y-L-O-R.

Karen Schank: Thank you. When and where were you born?

Barbara Taylor: In Reno, Nevada 3/7/33 because that's where the hospital was. We were living—my folks were living in Minden but there was no hospital any closer than Reno.

Karen Schank: Oh. What did your parents do in Minden?

Barbara Taylor: My dad was an accountant for the Minden Butter Company in Minden.

Karen Schank: Huh-huh.

Barbara Taylor: And my mom she was—she had taught until they got married but those days you couldn't teach if you were married.

Karen Schank: Oh.

Barbara Taylor: So.

Karen Schank: Oh I didn't know that.

Barbara Taylor: Yes.

Karen Schank: The restriction.

Barbara Taylor: Yeah, yeah, in fact in Minden one of the teachers ditched off and got married and nobody ever knew she, took her husband—like Reno or some place on the weekends.

Karen Schank: Huh-huh.

Barbara Taylor: Yeah they couldn't be married.

Karen Schank: Oh, I wonder why.

Barbara Taylor

Barbara Taylor: I don't know.

Karen Schank: Okay. Do you have memories as a child of living there?

Barbara Taylor: Oh yes, I was 10 before I left. So and I was very upset because I really loved that Minden Valley. It had everything I wanted. It was—our school, in fact, it was just one of those schools where the 1st and 2nd grade, it was only four rooms so you paired up and a lot of the kids came in from the ranches—in Minden. It was all surrounded by ranches and so there were only a few of us that lived in town so I took the 1st and 2nd grade in one year. I just followed the teacher back and forth so that put me a year younger than everybody the rest of my life. So.

Karen Schank: Hm.

Barbara Taylor: But lots of good memories because it was small. We knew everybody. We loved—we just a lot of fun things. In the middle of the park in Minden is a—they've even kept it there and redone it is one of the those band things, band stands...

Karen Schank: Stands.

Barbara Taylor: ...or whatever you want to call it and they'd have music and we'd be in the park and it was just a really wonderful way to grow up and I totally resented moving to Las Vegas. It was not my idea. We lived close enough—my dad's area with the Minden Butter Company went clear up to Lake Tahoe and actually into California some ways but we spent a lot of time...going with dad to deliver butter to the different places and my grandparents lived in Virginia City. So we'd take that Kings Ferry Grade [PH] which scared the liver out of me. Always thought if I leaned out the window the car would tip over. It was a switchback shortcut to Virginia City coming out of Carson so.

Karen Schank: A mountain or a ridge?

Barbara Taylor: Yeah, oh yeah cause Virginia City's in the mountains and we were in the valley so you had just do the switchback thing so you could see the road all the way down. Several times. Their home has been turned into a National, whatever you call it so they can't it down there in Virginia City because it originally belonged to the first pharmacist ...

Karen Schank: Oh.

Barbara Taylor: ...and so...

Karen Schank: Your grandfather was a pharmacist?

Barbara Taylor: No they bought it from the pharmacist.

Karen Schank: Oh.

Barbara Taylor

- Barbara Taylor: Because the house had belonged to the pharmacist the government came in and made it a National whoever they call it that they can't...
- Karen Shank: Historical.
- Barbara Taylor: Historical and they fixed it all up so that's nice.
- Karen Shank: Yeah.
- Barbara Taylor: So it's nice every time I go there the house. They did all the frescos and everything. It's right up off the main street. It sounds nice...
- Karen Shank: Yeah.
- Barbara Taylor: ...to always be able to and show them. Where my grandpa lived and where my dad was raised.
- Karen Shank: What did your grandfather do?
- Barbara Taylor: He owned—he was a mechanic. I don't know. I'm trying to find out if he actually went to the University of Nevada and took courses in mechanical engineering. I saw something that said he did but I can't find it in the records yet but he did mechanical engineering for the mines. He invented a lot of the tools for the mines. He actually went down in the mine once and said no I'm not doing this. I'll work on the outside of the mine so he had a store on the main street and owned several pieces of property.
- Karen Shank: Is that Comstock?
- Barbara Taylor: Yeah, well not it was all the mines. In other words there were a lot of mines he just had the store and then he would sell to them and...
- Karen Shank: Oh.
- Barbara Taylor: ...he had a lot of metal stuff and tools and it was a hardware store but it was more than a hardware store. It did big stuff. Big tools and stuff for the mines.
- Karen Shank: Oh.
- Barbara Taylor: So he did very well. He had one of the first cars... a Rio.
- Karen Shank: Oh wow. Did your father tell you about that?
- Barbara Taylor: No I read—I found it in the newspaper.
- Karen Shank: Oh.

Barbara Taylor

Barbara Taylor: I had pictures of him with this car but I didn't know about it but if you go in the newspapers they have the articles and my last name was very interesting. Our last name, my dad's was Sexsmith S-E-X-S-M-I-T-H. Which is an interesting name to go through Las Vegas High School with. Anyway...so all I have to do is put that name in and every place it shows up in the newspaper—so I pulled all these—the hundreds of articles up and there was one talking about him getting the car and everything and that, oh, cause I had the picture of him with car but I didn't understand the relevance

Karen Schank: Uh-huh.

Barbara Taylor: ...or whatever. Yeah it was a Rio...

Karen Schank: Wow.

Barbara Taylor: ...convertible. So. He was a neat guy. I was old—I was older. I was the oldest of the three girls and so I remember my grandmother and grandfather and I was the oldest cousin the whole thing so I remember much more than my siblings do.

Karen Schank: Uh-huh.

Barbara Taylor: Or even my cousins—being up there and sliding down the hills in the snow and enjoying my grandmother and grandfather who were wonderful people.

Karen Schank: That's great. You said your father owned the butter business?

Barbara Taylor: No, no he was the...

Karen Schank: He was the...

Barbara Taylor: ...manager but he was the account manager. No he didn't own it.

Karen Schank: Oh.

Barbara Taylor: It was the Minden Butter Company. I think it—I'm sure that it was probably a combination of all the ranchers, farmers, you know I think that's what it was a co-op. I'm not sure.

Karen Schank: Mm.

Barbara Taylor: He didn't own it. He just was the manager and the accountant.

Karen Schank: Bookwork...

Barbara Taylor: Did all the bookwork for them.

Karen Schank: Oh. Okay.

Barbara Taylor

Barbara Taylor: So we lived there until I was 10.

Karen Schank: Uh-huh. You'd mentioned that park with the grandstand.

Barbara Taylor: Yeah.

Karen Schank: Or bandstand...

Barbara Taylor: Bandstand.

Karen Schank: ...was that kind of like the Town Center?

Barbara Taylor: Yeah.

Karen Schank: ...kind of the activity...

Barbara Taylor: ...and as I say the town was probably five blocks. Yeah very small town. It was just two blocks from us. One block. There was a block that separated our house from the park. Everybody—it was just the kind of thing you'll see in some of these movies, you know, of the old days. That's how it was. It was nice. Everybody knew everybody. We didn't even have a theatre. I only went to a couple movies before I was 10—we'd go to Reno but...but we had a lot fun. We did fun things. We played with each other. We—it was so much different than now. We were inventive you know. Climb trees.

Karen Schank: Uh-huh.

Barbara Taylor: You know. Just did stuff. The kids would bring their horses in from the ranch. That was always fun because there would be certain days at school the kids could bring the horses in from the ranch and we get to ride.

Karen Schank: Oh.

Barbara Taylor: So.

Karen Schank: They'd share their horses?

Barbara Taylor: Yeah.

Karen Schank: Oh.

Barbara Taylor: So it was fun. It was a good atmosphere. A good childhood. I enjoyed it.

Karen Schank: Tell me about moving to Las Vegas?

Barbara Taylor: That was a disaster. Actually I wasn't a very—a was pretty head strong because I learned to play the saxophone at the time. I was a street sax so it was C-Sax so it looked like a clarinet but it was a saxophone because my uncle had it and he gave it to me. So I learned to play it when I was 6 and

Barbara Taylor

played in the band—oh that's the other thing we had. Our little school had a band and we'd march in the parade in Reno and...but...

Karen Schank: Tell me about the band.

Barbara Taylor: Yeah. That was fun. My sister, my younger sister was the majorette and I played the—I say the saxophone and it was just wonderful. Just almost everybody was in it and being...

Karen Schank: As a community?

Barbara Taylor: ...yeah. It was grade school. It was a kids' band.

Karen Schank: Oh kids band.

Barbara Taylor: Yeah. It was a kid band and we had our little uniforms and it was fun. We'd go to Reno and play, you know, march in the parades and that was good. So I decided that I'd punish my family for taking me to Las Vegas and never touched the saxophone again and I didn't, which was really cut off your nose to spite your face but anyway. My dad was a pianist...self-taught. His sister went—actually was a fantastic pianist. She was sent to the big music school in San Francisco for college but...so he was musical. He wouldn't play the piano and cut his own records yet—the 78s, the wax. He could have it sitting there and it would cut the records and he played it and then take the little thing and wipe off the wax as it came. So we enjoyed music and the family.

Karen Schank: Explain the wax.

Barbara Taylor: Well I guess as it cut the wax the record the wax—as you cut it, it would roll up the part that was being cut so he had a little brush and everyone's like brush the wax off so that it wouldn't get—and hoped he'd get record.

Karen Schank: Oh yeah. The black—I only know the black ones so.

Barbara Taylor: It was big black record but it was wax. So when he cut it, it would cut through the wax and make the sound.

Karen Schank: Incredible.

Barbara Taylor: Incredible.

Karen Schank: Wow. Okay. Super. Who was your band teacher?

Barbara Taylor: I don't remember names. That's my problem.

Karen Schank: Oh. Okay.

Barbara Taylor: My names are bad.

Barbara Taylor

Karen Schank: No problem. But he was a teacher at the school?

Barbara Taylor: Yes at the school.

Karen Schank: Oh. Okay. All right we're back to Las Vegas.

Barbara Taylor: Okay.

Karen Schank: You didn't...

Barbara Taylor: So when we moved we moved to the Biltmore Addition in 1943, I was 10.

Karen Schank: Okay.

Barbara Taylor: The biggest blow was—I think the reason I resented it the most is cause you got your skis when you were 10 and I waited. It seemed like I was never going to be 10 years old to get my skis, which I got in March. We moved in June. I never got to use my skis. Had to give them away. I think that was what was really a low. We moved to Biltmore Addition. My aunt and uncle lived there and he was in the Navy up in Farragut or some place so we stayed with my aunt who had three children younger than we were. Her oldest girl was the same as age as my youngest sister so, they went down from there. It was during the War and it was pretty hectic. That was pretty wild time. There was a man named Eddie Pizinger P-I-Z-I-N-G-E-R that had a car lot and his family—he lived across the street with Marie, his daughter, who was the same age as my youngest sister and their oldest and...it was just a wild time. There was a lot of drinking and serviceman all over the place and...I was older than—I was only 10 but I never was really 10. They left me in charge of ten kids all the time.

Karen Schank: Hm.

Barbara Taylor: I never really had, once I got to Minden—once I got to Las Vegas childhood was over with. We learned to swim at the Biltmore Hotel, which was part of that little sub-division. The sub-division is still there, the hotel's gone. That's where we used to walk down to the old ranch because you could just go down the street and you go right through the desert right over to the pool, across 5th Street, which was just a street. Nothing like what it is now. It wasn't a busy thoroughfare or anything. So that summer, cause we got there in June, that summer we were there every day much to the dismay of my poor hair. I had hair that went clear down to my waist or longer and they braided it and then mom didn't know a lot about hair and so she wouldn't unbraided it and it was really heavy and thick but by the time I'd spent a whole summer in that chlorine I didn't have much hair left so...

Karen Schank: Oh.

Barbara Taylor

Barbara Taylor: ...we cut it. I'd take the kids that were old enough and sometimes it would be so hot that the asphalt would come up between your toes, you know walking. Oh man. Las Vegas was hot but you know. We slept outside.

Karen Schank: Oh.

Barbara Taylor: As soon as we got there they already started it. The way it went was as soon as school was out you got to sleep outside till school started cause all we had were swamp coolers. We just loved it because it was so beautiful to look at the sky and we didn't have all those lights. So you could stars, now you can't see stars in Las Vegas but...so it was kind of fun. It was more lonely for me because the friends that I had I'd left and...basically all I did when I started out there was baby-sit. Take care of the brother—sisters not brothers so...but I had no brothers but the sisters and the nephews and nieces and everybody and so I made some friends in school. They didn't live by us so. Then we moved to Huntridge but my aunt still lived there.

Karen Schank: Uh-huh.

Barbara Taylor: Now after that and actually before that from the age of 6 only that one year did I stay in Las Vegas for the summer. My grandmother and grandfather, my mother's mother and dad, lived in Ely and they—when I was, lived in Minden they would take me to the bus station up in Reno and I would go over on the bus, when I was 6 years old...

Karen Schank: Cool.

Barbara Taylor: ...to Ely and stay with them all summer. I did that until I was 12 except for the—1943 when we went to Las Vegas and spent that summer at the Old Ranch swimming pool every day. Every day.

Karen Schank: Now you lived with your aunt...

Barbara Taylor: Yeah.

Karen Schank: ...at Biltmore? So your cousins and everybody...[00:16:28 cross talking]

Barbara Taylor: We were all there yeah.

Karen Schank: Okay.

Barbara Taylor: Yeah so we all slept outside and there was a neighbor next door that had a daughter my age and then this girl across the street and then it was a boy across the street. So it was just little huddle of...of people.

Karen Schank: Sleeping outside.

Barbara Taylor: Sleeping outside.

Barbara Taylor

Karen Schank: Wow.

Barbara Taylor: My grandma made us all kinds of quilts. We...

Karen Schank: Yeah.

Barbara Taylor: ...I mean there was no...there was no fear in Las Vegas then. You walked anywhere. I mean we had no fear of anything. You never locked your doors. You left your keys in your car. I mean it was that kind of atmosphere.

Karen Schank: Uh-huh.

Barbara Taylor: There was only probably 30,000 there...1943.

Karen Schank: Yeah.

Barbara Taylor: Then the influx came because of Henderson...

Karen Schank: Yeah.

Barbara Taylor: ...because of the plants out there that did this chemicals stuff, they needed in the war so.

Karen Schank: You moved there during the war.

Barbara Taylor: Yeah.

Karen Schank: What...

Barbara Taylor: 1943.

Karen Schank: What do you remember about the war or...

Barbara Taylor: Mostly—really the only thing was rationing and having Air Force everywhere.

Karen Schank: Oh.

Barbara Taylor: So there were all the people on that street drank a lot and they were always bringing the servicemen home including my aunt, everybody brought the serviceman home from Nellis and so there was that but...as far as...

Karen Schank: Was that to feed them?

Barbara Taylor: ...really, really getting into it, I wasn't—cause of the rationing I didn't have anything to do.

Karen Schank: Oh.

Barbara Taylor

Barbara Taylor: You know. My mother took care of that and we'd have—we had to keep our windows dark and stuff like that you know.

Karen Schank: Oh.

Barbara Taylor: You'd have to—they'd have those--what do you call them...

Karen Schank: Black out drapes.

Barbara Taylor: ...black out...black out...in case we would ever have to do it, you'd have to do that and then but really as a child I was not aware of the war that much. I didn't have anybody in the war. My dad was right on the cusp of the age and had three children and because of he was an accountant they said okay, we're not going take you in the service but you're going to go out and work in Henderson at the Stauffer Chemical as their accountant.

Karen Schank: What year was that?

Barbara Taylor: When we moved there.

Karen Schank: Oh in 43.

Barbara Taylor: So that's what he had to do but then he did all the—we never saw him because—there were no accountants in Las Vegas except for my dad and Don Ashworth and between the two of them they kept books for all the little companies and everything on the side. So.

Karen Schank: Now was he actually drafted? Was there a letter said this is...

Barbara Taylor: No, I don't know how it worked. All I know is that...I don't know how it worked but he had to stay there so I—I never seen any document. This is what they told us and so I don't know how it worked. I know that he didn't get drafted and that he had to work at Henderson.

Karen Schank: Did he sleep in Henderson?

Barbara Taylor: No, no, no. He'd just get back and forth.

Karen Schank: Back and forth.

Barbara Taylor: Yeah my mother, actually, she had to go out and teach. Finally it got so bad they had brought all these people in and it was like a tent city and all these high school kids. My mother always just taught grade school but they said hey—she didn't even have her license renewed but they said look, go. After that happened she got her license renewed and she taught for 30 years in West side.

Karen Schank: Oh.

Barbara Taylor

- Barbara Taylor: She taught the Black children in West Side for 30 years after the war.
- Karen Schank: Oh. At—what school was that?
- Barbara Taylor: West Side Elementary huh.
- Karen Schank: Elementary school?
- Barbara Taylor: She'd take the kids in the 4th grade that were coming in on the dam and stuff like that. Big tall kids in the 4th grade that said they were in the 4th grade, couldn't read or write.
- Karen Schank: Huh.
- Barbara Taylor: They were just shoving them through. That's how they did it. So they'd give them to her in the 4th grade and she'd keep them through the 5th grade and they were ready for the 6th grade by that time. They loved her. Absolutely adored my mother. She and I both belonged to the NAACP.
- Karen Schank: Wow.
- Barbara Taylor: Yeah. Yeah.
- Karen Schank: Now you mentioned she was drafted the same as your...
- Barbara Taylor: Well yeah they...
- Karen Schank: ...father?
- Barbara Taylor: ...they just came to her and said you know you've got to come and teach and so she did.
- Karen Schank: Okay.
- Barbara Taylor: They knew everybody that had—had a teaching degree or whatever because she graduated from the University of Nevada so...
- Karen Schank: So was it more come and teach for us—it wasn't really a draft right?
- Barbara Taylor: I don't think it was a draft.
- Karen Schank: It was just kind of a...
- Barbara Taylor: They needed her. I don't know how—just put the force on her you know. We have to and it was double sessions. It was crazy.
- Karen Schank: What does that mean? Double sessions.

Barbara Taylor

Barbara Taylor: They meet at morning and at night, in the afternoon. They had that many kids out there.

Karen Schank: Wow.

Barbara Taylor: You ought to read that history, Henderson. It was wild.

Karen Schank: Wow. Yeah.

Barbara Taylor: Yeah it was. It was crazy. Now I lived in Henderson, down, down. I lived in Henderson after I got married...in Victory Village.

Karen Schank: Oh did you.

Barbara Taylor: Which was another experience.

Karen Schank: Well tell me about Victory Village in...

Barbara Taylor: Uh, Victory Village was interesting. I don't know. I guess they built it because of all those people. I'm not sure because a lot people were working on Boulder Dam lived there but basically it was just...cinder block, four units in a crack on one side, sidewalk, four units on the other side and it just up and up. You had kerosene stoves, which you lit the kerosene and cranked the thing up and down to get how hot you wanted it. No washer. No dryer. No nothing. It was...

Karen Schank: Wow.

Barbara Taylor: ...really stark but we could afford it. We had—when I got married—I was only 16 when I got married cause that's when I got out of high school. I skipped that grade and then I took high school in 3 1/2 years so...I got married in February then I was 17...in March so...and we moved to...Los Angeles. My husband had been in the war. He was a local boy, Robert, his sister was my best friend and so...we moved out to Los Angeles. I was pregnant with my oldest son and when we came back for Christmas, cause I was working down there and he was working and going to school and when we came back for...Christmas he realized this wasn't going to work. There's no way we could live down there. We were making government \$52.50 a week and we just couldn't do it without my salary. I was going to have this baby so he had been in the Navy, the Army, in the Air Force. He was in the Army when they took part of 9,000 out of the Army and made them Air Force. He was one of the 9,000 so anyway. He had a lot of points, which when you're going to go to work on a military base, if there's a position, if you've got points you know...

Karen Schank: Yeah.

Barbara Taylor: ...so he got a job in Nellis over that holiday and we moved to Victory Village. So that was in 1951 and so I was living in—no 1950 we moved there

Barbara Taylor

that Christmas. When I had my boy Phil [PH], I had him there and...I got pictures of my husband washing the diapers out, boiling them on the stove, washing them on our washboard.

Karen Schank: In the sink.

Barbara Taylor: I had \$35.00 in the savings account. I went to Sears Roebuck—I'm not doing this. I went Sears Roebuck and got one of those ringer washers. Bought it on time. It was the first thing we did on time. Later we got a home in Henderson. It was just too much for us. That's probably what broke our marriage up it was just—when they built the homes there, there was nothing—and my father-in-law thought he was doing a wonderful thing for us, put the down payment on the house but it was square concrete house. Nothing. No floors. No nothing. Walls. That's it and we had so many payments with the washer, dryer, stove, refrigerator, furniture, I mean...that it just about tore us up and I had to [inaudible] I went to work at Arrowhead Freight Lines in North Las Vegas. Of course he was at the Air Base and...that was about the end of it. We did get married again after a year after being divorced a year. We got married again. Had two more children and finally decided we were best friends but we just couldn't stay married. We spent the rest of our life that way. Best friends. We realized that not necessarily can best friends be married. So it was an interesting, interesting...I remember my son said to me once, why are we living like this. You and dad are such good friends and then he had to live with him once and he called me up and he said okay. [inaudible] two years. We were so different but anyway. So that's how I ended up in Henderson and...but not that long. Living in Victory Village was...was a challenge.

Karen Schank: Where did you move to once you moved out of Victory Village?

Barbara Taylor: Once I moved out I moved into Las Vegas on 25th Street, way down before there was anything in Las Vegas. These people that I knew had a little, a little cottage and I took the two kids that I had then and moved down there and I was working for the freight company.

Karen Schank: Oh.

Barbara Taylor: So I didn't have any education see. I went—I got married when I got out of high school but I learned and was able to support them and then I went to work for...

Karen Schank: What did you do for the freight company?

Barbara Taylor: I was an accountant...

Karen Schank: Accountant...

Barbara Taylor: Bookkeeper.

Barbara Taylor

Karen Schank: Cool.

Barbara Taylor: Something I said I would never do so I wouldn't take the classes in high school. Anyway that's how you do it. Was a secretary, bookkeeper and then I went to work for TWA.

Karen Schank: Oh.

Barbara Taylor: I worked for them for several years.

Karen Schank: As an accountant? [00:27:21 overtalking]

Barbara Taylor: No. As a res agent, reservations agent.

Karen Schank: Oh.

Barbara Taylor: They had their building and Las Vegas was right across the street from the side street from the Sahara Hotel, Foxy's, there was a restaurant called Foxy's and we were right beside them.

Karen Schank: Mm.

Barbara Taylor: It was interesting because you checked—all your reservations were made on the phone and you hand wrote them on a recipe card with their name and all their flights and then when the flight would leave if they had continuing—like if they were going to Chicago and then New York you got on the teletype and typed the rest of their information onto the teletype and that would go to the next station and they'd take that teletype off and they'd make another card for them.

Karen Schank: Oh.

Barbara Taylor: So that's what we did. That's how we handled it. It was very hectic because that was the time of the atom bomb going off. So they would set a time that the bomb was going to go off and all these people would come from all over the world and then the wind wouldn't be right...and we decided so many of us, not me thank goodness but my sister and lots of people I know got cancer. They didn't care if whether the wind was blowing in Las Vegas they just didn't want it blowing to California. Anyway, they'd have to change their reservations cause they couldn't get out. They couldn't leave so then we'd have to take all those people and change all their reservations everyday. The crazy thing was because I worked for TWA that made be a big shot and so I got this little badge and got to go to the top of Angels Peak...brought out in there and watched the bomb go off.

Karen Schank: Oh.

Barbara Taylor: What a stupid thing to do. So far I haven't had any bad things but my sisters thyroid, she got thyroid cancer and I've been totally involved with the Las

Barbara Taylor

Vegas High School, our graduating class, which was less than 200 and we've had these reunions all over the place. Almost everybody that's died has died of cancer.

Karen Schank: Mm.

Barbara Taylor: It's really sad. It's really, really sad. My aunt...that lived in Ely and they actually—it was so bad up through there that when my nephew died—my cousin died, it was because it was an already settled lawsuit they automatically each got money because he died of cancer. So...the people in Nevada and parts of Utah suffered for the atom bomb a lot.

Karen Schank: Mm.

Barbara Taylor: In fact I remember, I was working for Arrowhead Freight Company when that first bomb went off. Holy cow. You could hear it coming like a wave. Vroom, vroom and then when it hit, when the wave hit...it knocked—they didn't realize—see how didn't they know...

Karen Schank: Yeah.

Barbara Taylor: ...it took the window, I remember it took the window out of...Woolworth's—because of Nevada being so hot the stores couldn't have just the glass window with their display and then the store because of the heat so they'd have the window and then, it was enclosed with doors so the heat couldn't get into the building. Well because of that, because that whatever and it just burst out all the windows, Woolworth's, Penney's all of...my grandmother, it took the—like it tried to shove the door out of the thing so her casement on her door—cost them a lot of money. I mean there was a ton, a ton, a ton of people with damage. But then we thought it was funny because then they'd tell when it was going to go off and you were to open doors and stuff so when the air—when it came through it could get out.

Karen Schank: Like a vacuum...

Barbara Taylor: We had no idea what it was doing to us.

Karen Schank: Mm-hmm.

Barbara Taylor: You know. It was just life.

Karen Schank: Where was the Woolworth's and the Penney store?

Barbara Taylor: On Fremont Street.

Karen Schank: Fremont Street?

Barbara Taylor: Yeah. Woolworth's was on the corner of...5th and Fremont.

Barbara Taylor

- Karen Schank: And 5th became Las Vegas Boulevard is that right?
- Barbara Taylor: Yeah.
- Karen Schank: Okay.
- Barbara Taylor: Yeah, yeah.
- Karen Schank: Okay.
- Barbara Taylor: Yeah.
- Karen Schank: Wow.
- Barbara Taylor: Yeah I worked there when I got into high school. Actually I worked at Spouses and then I worked there. I started working when I was 13 because...I was very shy and coming into Las Vegas, they had two grade schools, one on 5th street and one in Huntridge. We had moved to Huntridge and...I just didn't feel good about being a year younger so I lied. I told them I was a year older and everything I did. My social security, everything I did I lied. I drove a year early. I did everything a year early cause I couldn't stand the thought of being a year younger than everybody.
- Karen Schank: Mm-hmm.
- Barbara Taylor: I finally changed that when I was about 23. I thought bah, probably ought to. Then for a long time people would ask me when were you born and I'd go in 1933 and I know they thought I was lying because I couldn't remember am I supposed to say 32 or 33? That was—so I did everything. So I worked early.
- Karen Schank: Oh.
- Barbara Taylor: You weren't supposed to go work till you were 14 and I started working at Spouses when I was 13.
- Karen Schank: Uh-huh. What did you do for them?
- Barbara Taylor: Just work selling, stocking
- Karen Schank: Mm-hmm.
- Barbara Taylor: ...and at Woolworth's I did everything. Did the windows, selling, did everything.
- Karen Schank: Tell me about the Huntridge. Living in the Huntridge Village or...
- Barbara Taylor: Huntridge area?
- Karen Schank: ...area yeah.

Barbara Taylor

- Barbara Taylor: That was fun. I didn't go to school with those kids. See I went—I went to Huntridge and then for just a period we had to move back into my aunts house and so for half a year we went to 5th Street and then we got another—the house that we lived in then, my folks lived in for a long time right by the Huntridge Sears right there on Francis within that interim period... was just terrible. Her name was Ruby Thomas. She was a principal at the... Huntridge and she said that you couldn't wear lipstick. I didn't wear lipstick but I just thought you know what you have no right to tell me I can't lipstick. Hello. This is what looks cool. So I didn't like her. So when we went 5th Street than everybody came back. I didn't come back. I asked Kayo Kanusent [PH] who was having trouble with his eyesight, and I said Mr. Kanusent I will come in every morning early and read your mail to you if you'll let me stay at 5th Street. So I walked across the desert everyday... from my house all across the desert to 5th Street school, because there was nothing there but desert.
- Karen Schank: How far is that?
- Barbara Taylor: Well see walk in a straight line it wasn't that far but the school was on 7th and... a couple blocks off of Freemont...
- Karen Schank: Oh.
- Barbara Taylor: ...and the Huntridge Sears was clear down on...
- Karen Schank: Charleston...
- Barbara Taylor: Charleston...so. If you had to walk...
- Karen Schank: Yeah.
- Barbara Taylor: ...but I'd strut across the desert, I mean winter, summers, you know. I loved it and I was in the first section all the time. I had good friends.
- Karen Schank: What's the first section?
- Barbara Taylor: Well, in the—grade school they had you by sections. There were five sections in each grade and my grades were good so I was in the first section. Her name was Miss Dilworth [PH] and in doing research on my dad her dad taught my dad in the school in Virginia City.
- Karen Schank: Oh.
- Barbara Taylor: I thought that was interesting.
- Interviewee: That is.

Barbara Taylor

Barbara Taylor: The thing that I liked about Las Vegas, just because it's the way I am, when we lived in Minden there was Indians. I never saw the color of anybody's skin. I never thought about.

Karen Schank: Huh-huh.

Barbara Taylor: Never dawned on me that anybody was different cause we were raised that way. So I had Mexican boyfriends and Japanese boyfriend you know, it didn't—it was ridiculous.

Karen Schank: Hm-hmm.

Barbara Taylor: As I got older and realized that the people making the big difference out of it, it irritated me. Quite a bit.

Karen Schank: Uh-huh.

Barbara Taylor: I joined the NAACP with my mom and I have a picture of Bill and I before we were married and Hank Greenspun and Wendell Waite, we were the only four White people in the parade when Martin Luther King died. When he died they had a mock funeral at the same time all over the United States in a Black church and then we marched from West Side all the way up down Freemont Street. In the picture you can see me looking up because they had rifleman on the roofs of the—on Freemont Street.

Karen Schank: This was in the 60's right?

Barbara Taylor: Bill was their mayor then.

Karen Schank: Oh.

Barbara Taylor: It really bothered me. One of things—way back when I was working with the freight company I had a woman and husband that ran it, her name was Lorraine Wells, and we just became really good friends even though she was, I guess 10 years older than I was, our friendship lasted wayward of Maui and until she died...her—she liked Nat King Cole. She had known him in California as a singer in a little bar, not as a singer, they didn't sing at first. He just had the...group that played. One of the first songs he ever sang was Sweet Lorraine. So it was going to be her birthday and he was at the Rancho, El Rancho Hotel so I called up there to talk—to see—to talk to him and he said yeah, but you'll have to meet me in the bar because I'm not allowed anywhere else. So when I met with him I found out he had to live in a trailer in the parking lot.

Karen Schank: Of El Rancho?

Barbara Taylor: He was good enough to sing for them but he wasn't good enough to be in the hotel.

Barbara Taylor

- Karen Schank: Oh.
- Barbara Taylor: That made me so mad but he was really fun to meet and he just—at that point the floor where you ate and the dining—and the floor was all one, you know there was no stage or anything and so he really did it good. She was so excited. He such a nice man. He was really a wonderful man. I never got over that. It irritated me so bad I just wanted to take them on.
- Karen Schank: You'd mentioned the Fort. The swimming there...
- Barbara Taylor: Yes.
- Karen Schank: ...did you know anything about the horse track that was at the Old Fort or at the old ranch? Horse racing.
- Barbara Taylor: Well yeah. My aunt had a horse and they raced but...see in I don't know. I'm foggy as to whether they raced there or up at Cashman Field, what was just up the hill and did the rodeos there. So that's what I don't know.
- Karen Schank: I know the ranch had a horse race—a horse track. I didn't know about...
- Barbara Taylor: See right up the street...
- Karen Schank: ...the Cashman.
- Barbara Taylor: ...they called it Cashman Field but I see I don't know how long they called Cashman Field.
- Karen Schank: Mm-hmm.
- Barbara Taylor: When they'd have the rodeos there was—Bonanza didn't go through...so that was all like desert up above, you know up to about 2nd Street or whatever and...that's where they kept—they set up the corrals for the...bears, oh my God, the bulls.
- Karen Schank: Uh-huh.
- Barbara Taylor: I remember my nephew who was—I mean my cousin who was probably 2 or 3, got off and they found him sitting with his feet to the inside of that fence where all the bull had to do was hit the fence and he'd been right now in the...but that's where they kept the livestock. Livestock that's what I was trying to say. Then the rodeos were down and I don't even know if they called Cashman Field then..
- Karen Schank: Uh-huh.
- Barbara Taylor: ...but they could have because Cashman was Cadillac dealer and had a lot of money and I'm sure sponsored, you know what I'm saying...

Barbara Taylor

Karen Schank: Uh-huh.

Barbara Taylor: ...set it all up.

Interviewee: Was that the cowboy...

Barbara Taylor: That was El Dorado time.

Karen Schank: Okay.

Barbara Taylor: We never missed...

Karen Schank: ...missed...

Barbara Taylor: ...we never missed El Dorado. That's where they had the village and the rides and all that cause there wasn't anything there.

Karen Schank: They had a horse race during that period?

Barbara Taylor: I think so.

Karen Schank: Uh-huh.

Barbara Taylor: I only went to the rodeos but my aunt was racing a—had a horse she was racing...

Karen Schank: Oh.

Barbara Taylor: ...so...

Karen Schank: Okay.

Barbara Taylor: I didn't—I was never aware there was a fort. I was not a member of the Mormon Church then. Now...my mother was. We actually are Pioneer Stock, I'm on the other side.

Karen Schank: Mm-hmm.

Barbara Taylor: But my mother went to The University of Nevada instead of BYU where my grandmother had gone and met my dad there and he was Catholic. Although not really going. My grandmother, you know it was the grandmothers that were the strong, she was a devout Catholic. Beautiful woman and...they wanted to get married by the priest so they had to sign us over. They don't do that anymore.

Karen Schank: Oh.

Barbara Taylor: But in order for my mother to get married by a priest she had to take lessons and sign over the fact that the children would be raised Catholic.

Barbara Taylor

Karen Schank: Mm.

Barbara Taylor: So the three of us were raised Catholic. I think I was—my sister joined—my youngest sister joined in high school. My next sister, the one just younger than me...actually all her friends were LDS except one and she just never joined until after I did. Well I think I was 23. [00:42:21 overtalking] couple of kids.

Karen Schank: A Mormon Church, that was your...

Barbara Taylor: Yeah.

Karen Schank: Okay.

Barbara Taylor: So from then on we're all LDS now.

Karen Schank: Oh.

Barbara Taylor: But the basic religion of my father's family was Catholic.

Karen Schank: What did they think of your switching?

Barbara Taylor: Everybody was gone except for the some of the cousins and stuff and...they just razed me a little bit. But it was good for me.

Karen Schank: Okay. Lets see...the old Fort, the Doby building did you ever...

Barbara Taylor: See I never knew...

Karen Schank: Never knew...

Barbara Taylor: I knew it was there...

Karen Schank: Never saw it. Okay.

Barbara Taylor: ...but see I never knew any of the history of it...and I feel bad that I didn't know that because man, all we were doing is swimming in that great swimming pool. That was a neat swimming pool.

Karen Schank: But did you see that old...

Barbara Taylor: Oh yeah it was there. Yeah.

Karen Schank: Okay. Did you know that people lived in it?

Barbara Taylor: No. I had no...

Karen Schank: Did you know anybody...

Barbara Taylor

- Barbara Taylor: I don't know, wait a minute. People did live in that but I can't remember who they were. Do you know who they were?
- Karen Schank: The Brockbanks [PH] lived...
- Barbara Taylor: See now I know that name.
- Karen Schank: Do you?
- Barbara Taylor: Oh yeah sure because you know since I joined the church and was in Las Vegas I know all those names now. I just wasn't aware of who was living in it cause it didn't matter. There was always people there.
- Karen Schank: Right.
- Barbara Taylor: You know the pool wasn't just there.
- Karen Schank: Uh-huh.
- Barbara Taylor: So it must have been the people that were living in the house that kind of oversaw the...pool.
- Karen Schank: Right.
- Barbara Taylor: ...and kept us...
- Karen Schank: The Nelsons, I think Nelson...
- Barbara Taylor: Probably there's Nelsons too.
- Karen Schank: ...a young couple. A young couple and then an older man and woman.
- Barbara Taylor: I know there was always people at the—in charge.
- Karen Schank: Uh-huh.
- Barbara Taylor: So the probably lived there.
- Karen Schank: Did you know about the cabins that were there?
- Barbara Taylor: Nuh-uh.
- Karen Schank: Okay. Could you kind of describe the pool area and...
- Barbara Taylor: It was just—it wasn't a big pool.
- Karen Schank: Uh-huh.

Barbara Taylor

- Barbara Taylor: You know at the time I thought it was because I didn't even know how to swim, are you kidding. In Las Vegas—in Minden the only place you went was Lake 00:44:27] a lake and it was freezing cold. So my first experience of a pool was the little teeny weenie pool at the Biltmore Hotel. So this was a nice pool. It seemed to me that it had a diving board that we used jump off of. I think it did. I'm sure it did. It was a regular pool you know.
- Karen Schank: Uh-huh.
- Barbara Taylor: You know concrete around it. Fence around it. We thought we were—it was cool man. This is a real pool. It was fun because it was so hot in Las Vegas and I loved the water. I always loved the water. I just spent my life in that pool. I learned to swim very well just not being taught it just...my own version of swimming and that's how we all learned. We didn't have lessons.
- Karen Schank: Mm.
- Barbara Taylor: So we all just dog paddled and next thing you know we were swimming and that's how we swam. So a good lot of my family learned how to swim in the Old Ranch.
- Karen Schank: Let see.
- Barbara Taylor: Dad?
- Unidentified Male: What.
- Barbara Taylor: I'm sorry. He can't...never mind.
- Unidentified Male: What do you want?
- Barbara Taylor: I'll come in a minute.
- Karen Schank: You mentioned your fat...you mentioned your father working at the Henderson plant.
- Barbara Taylor: Yeah Stauffer Chemical.
- Karen Schank: Yes. You mentioned he worked long hours and your mother worked long hours. Were you responsible for the children when...
- Barbara Taylor: Yeah like then...
- Karen Schank: Like a babysitter or...
- Barbara Taylor: Well, we never—no...see when we moved I was 10 my sister—the youngest was 5 and so...I'd come home from school cause I didn't start working until I was 13. So we pretty well knew what we had to do and we did it.

Barbara Taylor

- Karen Schank: Uh-huh.
- Barbara Taylor: But that's the way it was. You didn't worry about anybody really getting into trouble much because everybody knew what they were supposed to do. The neighbors...the houses were small. Your neighbors were right there. McCall's lived across the street and...of course we were at my aunt's house, Biltmore, there was all kinds of people there.
- Karen Schank: Uh-huh.
- Barbara Taylor: My aunt was always home. She never worked.
- Karen Schank: Oh.
- Barbara Taylor: So...
- Karen Schank: So your aunt was support...
- Barbara Taylor: Yeah, we didn't have a babysitter.
- Karen Schank: Okay. How long did your father work for Stauffer?
- Barbara Taylor: Until the war was over and then he just—like he—he kept books for the review journal and all—just kept books all over town. Then he went to work...funny cause by this time he's getting older, he went to work in one of clubs as a dealer but...not dealing cards he did...race book...
- Karen Schank: Oh.
- Barbara Taylor: ...whatever that is. Anyway...he was very good with figures.
- Karen Schank: Mm-hmm...
- Barbara Taylor: So. He had to figure odds and stuff there anyway he did that for years.
- Karen Schank: Oh okay. So his employment like cause...
- Barbara Taylor: Yeah...
- Karen Schank: 45?
- Barbara Taylor: Probably 45, 46.
- Karen Schank: Okay.
- Barbara Taylor: When they pulled out of there.
- Karen Schank: Ok okay and did he ever talk to you about the plant or...

Barbara Taylor

Barbara Taylor: Couldn't...

Karen Schank: ...what he did or...

Barbara Taylor: Couldn't.

Karen Schank: Oh okay. It was secrets. It was secrets?

Barbara Taylor: Well yeah it was—it was something to do with the war effort and so...

Karen Schank: So they were told not to...

Barbara Taylor: Yeah, they never—yeah they didn't talk about it.

Karen Schank: Was he ever concerned about his safety working at the plant.

Barbara Taylor: No. Nuh-uh.

Karen Schank: Okay. So did they own their own car?

Barbara Taylor: Oh yeah.

Karen Schank: And so did they obtain gasoline stamps is that...

Barbara Taylor: Yeah that's how...cause he had...

Karen Schank: ...so they gave him extra...

Barbara Taylor: ...out there yeah cause he had to drive out there and so did mother.

Karen Schank: Let's see. You'd mentioned that your first husband, or his family had property near the University Medical Center.

Barbara Taylor: No it wasn't University Medical Center. It was Clark County Hospital on Charleston.

Karen Schank: Clark County. Okay.

Barbara Taylor: Right across the street. Had two acres.

Karen Schank: And a...

Barbara Taylor: Ranch style house and horses and...she was quite a horse lady. She had a...a Palomino that was—well they called him Klondike because it looked like gold. She was always head of the parade and she actually was one of the Marshall's of the Rose Bowl parade one year with him. She had silver trappings and belonged to all the horse groups and...

Karen Schank: What was her name?

Barbara Taylor

Barbara Taylor: Her name was Eva.

Karen Schank: Eva?

Barbara Taylor: Eva Roberts.

Karen Schank: Oh. Okay. Was it a farm? The...

Barbara Taylor: No.

Karen Schank: ...property?

Barbara Taylor: No it was just the front acre was the house. It was a big long ranch type thing and then he back was just the corrals for the horses.

Karen Schank: Where did they get their water from on that property.

Barbara Taylor: I'm not sure. I never—I don't know whether it was county water or not.

Karen Schank: What year was it that they had that home?

Barbara Taylor: Oh gosh they were in that house ever since I knew them so...I don't know when they got there but they were there by the time I knew Katherine, which was in high school which would have been...if I graduated in 50, 46.

Karen Schank: 46 okay. When did they sell it?

Barbara Taylor: I think they sold it while we were on Maui and moved up on a—and moved up to a home, anyway I can't remember. Oh my goodness she took the horse with her. So I'm not sure what year. Tommy died, my father-in-law died, lets see they moved before Tommy died...I was trying to remember where I went to see, maybe not. Nope, Eva must of sold the house. Yeah. Okay they were still in the house...when...57, 59 so it was in the 60's sometime they must have sold the house. I was trying to remember when she sold it.

Karen Schank: Okay.

Barbara Taylor: I'm foggy on when she sold it.

Karen Schank: That's when they made into Medical Center there?

Barbara Taylor: No it's across the street from the hospital. And I don't know what's there.

Karen Schank: Oh okay.

Barbara Taylor: There's a big office building or something there.

Karen Schank: Oh okay. Sorry just...

Barbara Taylor

Barbara Taylor: Killed her. Just killed her. She couldn't even drive down the street. She had to go...for years...she just went to _____[00:52:06] or something, killed her to lose that house—have to sell that house.

Karen Schank: _____[00:52:12]

Barbara Taylor: That she couldn't take care of it.

Karen Schank: So what was...

Barbara Taylor: Yeah. Go ahead.

Karen Schank: What was Las Vegas like in the 60's and late 60's.

Barbara Taylor: The late 60's...

Karen Schank: Was there segregation? You mentioned a little bit about...

Barbara Taylor: Yeah it...

Karen Schank: The hotel...

Barbara Taylor: ...my kids yeah...my kids were seeing it in school. My son graduated from Rancho in 1969 and it was horrible. He was a straight A student. Had never had anything but an A and we had no money. I was divorced for seven years actually and so I was raising these kids alone. He didn't know he was ever going to go school or anything. He knew he had to get the grades and...it was when they were having the riots.

Karen Schank: Tell me about that.

Barbara Taylor: The school...they brought these guys in from L.A. and it was like having seminary...these Black Panther guys were taking these Black kids out of West Side and taking them to these—teaching them how to...cause riots and stuff in the schools and Phil never had any prejudice but that year he said you know mom, I've never been prejudice but I feel like killing every one of them. He was the Student Body President so he kept having to leave class to—you know—if they keep me from getting a scholarship I'm really going to be quite upset with this. My daughter on the other hand, oh my goodness...she was bad cause there was fights all the time and it was bad.

Karen Schank: Mm at Rancho?

Barbara Taylor: Yeah.

Karen Schank: The school?

Barbara Taylor

- Barbara Taylor: Oh yeah it was a discontent. The whole time it was a discontent. It was because they let these people—they brought these people in from L.A. to cause a discontent.
- Karen Schank: Oh.
- Barbara Taylor: They were older.
- Karen Schank: Uh-huh.
- Barbara Taylor: They weren't young kids. They were older. They vamped up these kids into...so the 60's wasn't good. I don't—it wasn't good anywhere. I had a hard time raising my daughter in that environment. Oh, cause she drove me crazy. The second child, the one that was born in 53...it was just a turmoil of...of course with me my problem was I worked two full time jobs and raised those four kids.
- Karen Schank: Wow. How did you do that?
- Barbara Taylor: Oh yeah. I didn't sleep.
- Karen Schank: Oh.
- Barbara Taylor: That's how I did it. I worked...
- Karen Schank: What was your day like? Tell me about...
- Barbara Taylor: My day?
- Karen Schank: ...how it would work.
- Barbara Taylor: I would get up in the morning with the kids and...they had early morning seminary...
- Karen Schank: So this was like 5 or...
- Barbara Taylor: Yeah...
- Karen Schank: 5:30...
- Barbara Taylor: ...yeah 5 or 6.
- Karen Schank: Uh-huh.
- Barbara Taylor: One thing that was interesting that it was a blessing I never had to tell my kids to do their homework. I never realized what a blessing that was. Cause it just never happened. They did their homework. They were good students. Of course the two little ones but Phil [PH] and Cheryl were the ones—Phil [PH] was always the Student Body President or the Class President or

Barbara Taylor

whatever...and Cheryl gave me problems because of the friends she chose. Her schoolwork was fine but she was brilliant, bored more than anything and she just chose not as good of friends as I would of like her to have had. We worked it out and I just well—I was working for Bill then, I was his secretary...

Karen Schank: Oh.

Barbara Taylor: ...at City Hall. I just said you know you got two choices. One of them is you just come to the office and I'll teach you how to be a bookkeeper. So that's what she did and so...boat or will.

Karen Schank: Yeah.

Barbara Taylor: Everybody turned out great. They're wonderful kids. They've all just done wonderful. You know when you're going through it you going oh. One night a week I stayed up all night making payroll.

Karen Schank: For you...

Barbara Taylor: For a construction company.

Karen Schank: Mm. What was the construction company?

Barbara Taylor: It was a steel company. Bill Steel Company.

Karen Schank: Bill Steel Company.

Barbara Taylor: That was the steel company.

Karen Schank: Okay.

Barbara Taylor: I started working at Taylor Construction—Taylor Steel Company which was his brothers and he was kind of a partner with him and then Bill got a chance to start his own on Losee Road. He bought the property on Losee Road and...

Karen Schank: This is Bill Taylor your husband?

Barbara Taylor: M-hmm.

Karen Schank: Okay.

Barbara Taylor: So I...

Karen Schank: Losee Road did you—were you aware of the McCall Ranch?

Barbara Taylor: Mm-hmm.

Karen Schank: Tell me about that.

Barbara Taylor

- Barbara Taylor: Well I wasn't aware except that I knew it was there. Oh yeah.
- Karen Schank: Okay.
- Barbara Taylor: My dad played golf...where was that golf was that on McCall Ranch? He played golf out there somewhere...
- Karen Schank: Oh.
- Barbara Taylor: ...all the time.
- Karen Schank: Okay.
- Barbara Taylor: In Las Vegas but we owned...I worked so hard you know you're working two full time jobs...
- Karen Schank: Uh-huh.
- Barbara Taylor: ...and trying to take care of the kids. I worked so hard that those seven years were like a blah. Like a blur.
- Karen Schank: Oh.
- Barbara Taylor: In my life. So I...I couldn't be active and I went to church. I joined the church...when I was pregnant with my third child. After Ted and I got married again. See that didn't make the second marriage any better. But anyway...so I—just church and work. That's all I did. I didn't have an opportunity to get in the community, work in the school or anything like I would have wanted to do that I—I did before when we came here. The racial thing was really bad. I just remember it just being terrible. I worried for the kids. I worried for my kids. I think I worried more for Cheryl than anybody because she was so ornery. She'd take—she'd take someone on you know.
- Karen Schank: Mm-hmm.
- Barbara Taylor: I was so worried that she'd hurt because they weren't fooling around. They had knives and stuff you know.
- Karen Schank: Right.
- Barbara Taylor: And uh...
- Karen Schank: If a riot happened was there a school policy?
- Barbara Taylor: Well, yeah that was problem. They'd shut the school down and all this and of course Phil [PH] would get taken out of class and he had to try to get the groups together and talk to them and...

Barbara Taylor

- Karen Schank: Oh he was the mediator?
- Barbara Taylor: ...yeah he was—cause of the peer thing...
- Karen Schank: Uh-huh.
- Barbara Taylor: ...at the time there was only Las Vegas High School El Rancho. See when I went to school there was only Las Vegas High School and two grade schools. That's it. Then they started Rancho ---then after—later...maybe before Phil [PH] got out...there was...the one up...to the...
- Karen Schank: Western?
- Barbara Taylor: Western, not Western maybe it was Western.
- Karen Schank: Was it? On Bonanza?
- Barbara Taylor: I think so...
- Karen Schank: [00:59:41 overtaking]
- Barbara Taylor: ...I think it was Western. It was up in that area. I can't remember—cause then they started coming in and I can't remember who was first, who was second but I think it might have Western.
- Karen Schank: Okay.
- Barbara Taylor: It might have been the other school that started after Rancho.
- Karen Schank: Oh.
- Barbara Taylor: I think that had gotten started before Phil [PH] got out in 69. We all lived through it. Still I love Las Vegas. Then after we went away to Hawaii for 15 years and came back it was no—it just wasn't at all—I mean it was so different.
- Karen Schank: What year did you go away to Hawaii?
- Barbara Taylor: Bill and I got married in 68 and we moved to Maui in 69 and took the two youngest kids with us.
- Karen Schank: Oh.
- Barbara Taylor: My youngest, his were grown and we were there 15 years.
- Karen Schank: Oh.
- Barbara Taylor: In that 15 years my daughter Cheryl, who was the second child, who I had some trouble with, she came over and so...my two girls are both still in

Barbara Taylor

Hawaii married to local boys, wonderful men, wonderful women, great kids. Her daughter just graduated from...Michelle's daughter graduated from BYU.

Karen Schank: Hawaii?

Barbara Taylor: No here.

Karen Schank: Oh.

Barbara Taylor: She came here...

Karen Schank: Oh.

Barbara Taylor: ...and lived with grandma and graduated from BYU.

Karen Schank: She lived with their—with you? Oh.

Barbara Taylor: Uh-huh.

Karen Schank: How was that?

Barbara Taylor: That was great.

Karen Schank: _____[01:01:11]

Barbara Taylor: I'm going go back in April. I try to go every year. I missed last year but...to go over there but—and my boy Wyman [PH] came out of that system. It's a terrible school system. It's the 48th worst school system in the United States.

Karen Schank: Hawaii?

Barbara Taylor: Hawaii.

Karen Schank: Oh. This is new.

Barbara Taylor: No, no, no. We did. That's the reason we moved. We had Billy and we just said we're not doing this we just can't. So we moved here, shut the door on our construction company, which was doing great. Daddy was old enough we just said, took _____[01:01:45] when he was a freshman. Been in this house since 1984.

Karen Schank: Oh.

Barbara Taylor: 85. 84 we _____[01:01:53] across the street building the house. So..but Nevada it's interesting I didn't realized how deep my roots are until I watched the Boise Nevada football game the other day. I was up in Boise and they were just wanting Boise to win so bad and I—but you know what when

Barbara Taylor

Nevada won, inside of me I was so happy. You know my folks graduated from that university and I was just so happy...

Karen Schank: Uh-huh.

Barbara Taylor: ...I was just so happy I almost cried. I had to go in the other room because I was so happy they won. So then I knew I'll never get rid of Nevada it's in my roots. It's in my blood.

Karen Schank: Mm-hmm.

Barbara Taylor: I love Nevada. I got a chance to go back. I met a girlfriend over there in Reno last May, May I think it was in a...I guess it was in Carson City we stayed while she was doing something else with a wedding or something, I got to drive up to Virginia City myself. I drove up and it was fun. It was fun. I drove down to Minden and of course it's bigger now and...

Karen Schank: Mm-hmm.

Barbara Taylor: ...but...

Karen Schank: Wow. Tell me about your husband being Mayor of Las Vegas.

Barbara Taylor: Oh, North Las Vegas.

Karen Schank: North Las Vegas and the years

Barbara Taylor: Okay. Bill was the Mayor of North Las Vegas from 1961 to 1969. When he took over as mayor he didn't know anything about it. He didn't know—I always told him he didn't know a gutter from a drainpipe. They had come to him, some of the people in the church and said you have got to run for mayor. This guy's killing us. I mean the mayor before him used to carry a gun and put it on the...

Karen Schank: Who was he? What's his name?

Barbara Taylor: What was his name? Oh my goodness. Harkey [PH], Hartkey [PH].

Karen Schank: Harkey [PH]

Barbara Taylor: Harkey [PH].

Karen Schank: Yeah.

Barbara Taylor: Was it Harkey [PH], anyway...everybody got together and he ran and tromped the guy. Then he ran another term and did it again. He built—he for nothing got the land that—that building is sitting on and when he...

Karen Schank: Which building?

Barbara Taylor

Barbara Taylor: City Hall. The new City Hall. The City Hall was a little tiny thing on the corner on Lake Mead. It had a courtroom. Bill had an office. Attorney was right here and that was it. The courtroom was the—when they weren't going to court they were going to council meetings.

Karen Schank: Oh.

Barbara Taylor: Yeah it was just...and so anyway all kind of idea—I don't know how to tell it worked but anyway because of his—the way Bill was. He was able to get the man who owned the property and remind him of something he had told him years before and when a developer thought he had the land...Bill got the land for the city and then resold it to the developer on a stipulation that City Hall will get that land and that the road that was dividing them be curved with these big planters and olive trees in them and...

Karen Schank: Oh.

Barbara Taylor: ...and then he hired a city manager who was just the world. He was really something else. There's all kinds of government money out there and if you don't apply for it you don't get it.

Karen Schank: Oh.

Barbara Taylor: So he just applied. Sometimes he was the only in Nevada that ever applied for it so he got it all. The library was built with money. Lady Bird Johnson was in and she believed in beautify America. So a lot of the stuff we got was because she allowed, everybody's state got it but nobody applied for it. So we got it and the olive trees went in and...I mean just the two of them together. So he was in office for 8 years.

Karen Schank: Mm-hmm.

Barbara Taylor: In that 8 years they put streets, sidewalks, curbs, and gutters in every single solitary area of North Las Vegas by assessment district.

Karen Schank: What is that assessment district?

Barbara Taylor: They took—you take an area...

Karen Schank: Uh-huh.

Barbara Taylor: ...and then you have these hearings and you assess them, what it costs just what it cost in front of their house...

Karen Schank: Oh and that's how they got it done. Each of them. Wow.

Barbara Taylor: All it did was up the taxes a little bit for everybody. Now the only ones that really screamed and hollered was the renters.

Barbara Taylor

Karen Schank: Ah.

Barbara Taylor: But he was only supposed to have a council meeting once a month. All the time he was in every week.

Karen Schank: Every week?

Barbara Taylor: Every single week.

Karen Schank: Wow.

Barbara Taylor: A great councilman.

Karen Schank: Mm-hmm.

Barbara Taylor: In fact at one point...when they got elected they were all LDS. I remember when they hired the...oh...sport...

Karen Schank: Recreation?

Barbara Taylor: ...recreation director...

Karen Schank: Uh-huh.

Barbara Taylor: ...he said please don't tell me your LDS. He said I am, he said oh no. This can't happen. But you know we never allowed—we never allowed—we never allowed flag football, what, Pop Warner football, wasn't allowed in North Las Vegas.

Karen Schank: Oh, whys that?

Barbara Taylor: This guy had gone to college and realized—they were taught all the injuries that these kids go through they don't know they have until later. There bones are so soft they cannot be doing this.

Karen Schank: Oh.

Barbara Taylor: So they couldn't play—Pop Warner—in North Las Vegas. We weren't going to be a party to those kids being hurt. They could flag football. Pop Warner they suited them up and everything you know.

Karen Schank: Hm-hmm.

Barbara Taylor: So it was...did a lot of good things. A lot of good things. He flew the flag. He bought the flags and they flew the flags...had the things put on the poles all over the city. Early in the morning he'd have the Fire Department go out with their truck and fly flags so when you woke up in the morning on Fourth of July or Labor Day or whoever, flags would be flying. Every flag you see in

Barbara Taylor

this neighborhood is over 100 he's put in himself at our expense in concrete flagpoles, flags.

Karen Schank: Wow.

Barbara Taylor: In fact he got—he got—they—they...

Karen Schank: Is that in Utah?

Barbara Taylor: Around here in our ward yeah.

Karen Schank: Oh wow.

Barbara Taylor: He got the...Provo has a Freedom Festival...

Karen Schank: Hm-hmm.

Barbara Taylor: ...and he got the Freedom Festival Award once. They honored him. Had him in the parade. All kinds of stuff.

Karen Schank: Oh.

Barbara Taylor: He's a great guy.

Karen Schank: That is.

Barbara Taylor: He's a neat guy.

Karen Schank: Sounds like it. Now the 1960's. When did the Civil Rights Movement gain recognition and things changed, it was segregation and...

Barbara Taylor: I'm not sure because I didn't...

Karen Schank: Was that during his term? I mean from 61 to...

Barbara Taylor: 61 to 69.

Karen Schank: Yeah.

Barbara Taylor: We didn't have anything to do with the school systems and really didn't have a big problem racially. We had West Side, part of West side was in our city.

Karen Schank: Uh-huh.

Barbara Taylor: The biggest thing they tried to do..well...number one because my mother...the negro people, oh can't say negro anymore, the Black people loved my mother.

Karen Schank: Hm-hmm.

Barbara Taylor

Barbara Taylor: With a last name like that they never forgot her. So when Bill was campaigning and some of us were helping him and I was helping—I told him I'll go with you to West Side and we'd knock on the door and I'd say, you know my mom, Mable _____ [01:10:13] oh, come in. So he got their vote and he put people on their boards. He didn't see—he was like I was. What is this? They're good people and things like that. Well there still was this contention see—wanted to—it was more of a Mormon thing and anything. Cause we didn't let them have the priest here.

Karen Schank: Mm.

Barbara Taylor: So this guy—nobody that ever wanted to give us trouble came to the council meeting without drinking. That's just...they couldn't do it... _____ [01:10:48] So the council meetings were always full. This guy came in and...I said I understand that your church doesn't let the Blacks hold the Priesthood. Bill said that's right. Could I ask you a question? Do you think the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is a true church? He said I sure don't. He said then what do you care? That guys was fl—and everybody started laughing and the guy—it was the end of it. That was the end of it.

Karen Schank: Yeah. Well.

Barbara Taylor: You know what do you care if you don't believe it's true?

Karen Schank: Right.

Barbara Taylor: So...but as far as—by the time...see Billy was—Philip [PH] was going through it in the school system.

Karen Schank: Going through...

Barbara Taylor: You know...

Karen Schank: ...the riots...

Barbara Taylor: You know...

Karen Schank: Uh-huh...

Barbara Taylor: ...but they—it was more of a school thing. I didn't see it in the...

Karen Schank: Not in the community huh?

Barbara Taylor: ...town. No. It was more because, I don't why I guess, I don't know why because we had a lot of Blacks but they weren't—they brought these people in.

Karen Schank: Mm.

Barbara Taylor

- Barbara Taylor: Our Blacks that lived in our town were not that way.
- Karen Schank: Mm-hmm.
- Barbara Taylor: The people who were born and raised in Las Vegas were not that way.
- Karen Schank: Yeah.
- Barbara Taylor: But they brought these guys, they were Black Panthers.
- Karen Schank: Hm-hmm.
- Barbara Taylor: And they deliberately brought these men in to rab-arouse these high school kids and so it was pretty well—of course the police and Bill, they had to do that kind of thing but we never felt it city wide. We never had citywide riots where they do a store or anything. It was all in the school.
- Karen Schank: Do you remember restaurants when they changed from being segregated...
- Barbara Taylor: I don't remember...see I don't remember...
- Karen Schank: ...integrated.
- Barbara Taylor: ...I guess because I never had any money.
- Karen Schank: Oh.
- Barbara Taylor: See those were the years that I was single. I never went to a restaurant. I never had any money to go to a restaurant. So I was never aware when it happened.
- Karen Schank: Hm-hmm. You just...
- Barbara Taylor: It just happened.
- Karen Schank: Hm-hmm. Okay.
- Barbara Taylor: You know without me being aware and then...we left n 69. So right after Phil [PH] graduated we moved to Maui.
- Karen Schank: Oh.
- Barbara Taylor: I thought, listen are you kidding. You want racial prejudice, move to Maui.
- Karen Schank: Oh really.
- Barbara Taylor: If you want to know how a negro feels move to Maui.

Barbara Taylor

Karen Schank: Oh

Barbara Taylor: I was the wrong color.

Karen Schank: Uh-huh.

Barbara Taylor: They treated me and my children bad.

Karen Schank: Oh.

Barbara Taylor: Terribly. We were haoles and that's not a good word. Might as well be haole is akin to a ...**....

Karen Schank: Oh.

Barbara Taylor: They beat my kids up, I mean...

Karen Schank: What is ____ [01:13:37 whisper]

Barbara Taylor: It was hard. You had to sell yourself to everybody. It was really bad.

Karen Schank: How did you survive there 15 years?

Barbara Taylor: Barely.

Karen Schank: Oh. It didn't get better than it just...

Barbara Taylor: It was even the church, which really irritated me.

Karen Schank: Uh-huh.

Barbara Taylor: Really made me feel bad. It was even in the church.

Karen Schank: Hm-hmm.

Barbara Taylor: But you know we had to live there because we made our...how you say you make your bed you live in it. We moved and he set up a company...you just can't uproot.

Karen Schank: Hm-hmm.

Barbara Taylor: So my kids put up with it. My two kids, Cheryl and Wyman [PH] so it was my second girl...well Michelle and Wyman [PH] really, Cheryl didn't go there I'm sorry. My two youngest when they went to high school, in the four years they were over in high school they never went to the restroom once in school.

Karen Schank: Oh.

Barbara Taylor

Barbara Taylor: They wouldn't dare.

Karen Schank: They wouldn't dare? They were afraid they'd get jumped and...

Barbara Taylor: Yeah.

Karen Schank: ...and beat up?

Barbara Taylor: The thing—my son was so worried about going because he was small at the time. He was going to sign up and I told him he could and I was crying all the time. He wanted to go to Honolulu to this private school. He was so afraid to go to Baldwin. When my daughter, just told her, start going with a Hawaiian guy, Armillo [PH] and he said hey, that summer he said don't worry about it Phil [PH] your fine. He and his brothers were on the football team. I think Wyman [PH] took advantage.

[01:15:19 overtalking]

Barbara Taylor: He'd just pick them up and go...no, no, no, no, no, don't touch this boy. So Wyman [PH] would walk. He didn't learn a lot. He...one semester. One six week period he surfed half the time. They never told me he wasn't there. Got A's and B's. But he came to BYU and with the help of my sister that was over there at the time he made it through English and he's the president of Chili's restaurants.

Karen Schank: Wow. The chain? Wow.

Barbara Taylor: So it didn't hurt him.

Karen Schank: Yeah.

Barbara Taylor: You know you live through it.

Karen Schank: Yeah.

Barbara Taylor: And the kids all made out all right. Mom came out kind of scared but...

Karen Schank: I think that goes with the territory.

Barbara Taylor: That just goes with the territory. But anyway, yeah, it's been a fun life. Bill and I have had a good time together.

Karen Schank: Yeah.

Barbara Taylor: It's like he said. Hasn't been quiet. There's always something going on. Having a boy as late as we did in life was interesting. Cause I was 38, 39, bill was 50 something.

Karen Schank: Hm.

Barbara Taylor

- Barbara Taylor: Sometimes we'd go to bed at night and oh... _____ [01:16:36] We luckily had a Hawaiian family that fell in love with him from day one. From the time he was born and took care of him so I could work. I worked two full time jobs over there.
- Karen Schank: Oh wow.
- Barbara Taylor: We had ten kids, six of them on missions and in college at the same time. One of the jobs was keeping my husband's books but I worked on the outside—hold a job.
- Karen Schank: Hm-hmm.
- Barbara Taylor: So they took care of him for us. Well they finally said we're going to take care of him for nothing but we want him Friday night. I said you're kidding. They said that's the deal.
- Karen Schank: Wow.
- Barbara Taylor: They kept him every Friday night and it was nice.
- Karen Schank: Hm-hmm.
- Barbara Taylor: He lived two lives. He never talked to us about his Hawaiian life. He never talked to them about our life. But a man that we were building for told him, he said Billy, keep a journal. This is going to—you could write a book over this Billy.
- Karen Schank: Hm-hmm.
- Barbara Taylor: You keep a journal. Your parents sitting right there promise you they will never touch that journal and I never did. But he kept it.
- Karen Schank: Wow.
- Barbara Taylor: So he has his two lives...
- Karen Schank: Uh-huh.
- Barbara Taylor: That he...
- Karen Schank: How neat.
- Barbara Taylor: So we got ready to leave, they're building a house or building a room for him. I go, hello, where leaving because we're taking Billy, we're not leaving because we're leaving him here. But they're still just as close. So.
- Karen Schank: Oh how wonderful.

Barbara Taylor

Barbara Taylor: Yeah and there's a lot of good people in Hawaii. My problem was just going to the stores and being treated bad you know and stuff.

Karen Schank: Hm-hmm.

Barbara Taylor: Cause I never—I guess—well I had to go right work as soon as I got there and...you know in the hotels and that...I never treated anybody bad. Oh, it was hard. If I had—once I sold myself to them but man until I did...I was odd man out boy in those offices...

Karen Schank: Wow.

Barbara Taylor: ...you know but then finally we became friends but it was hard cause every time you were in a new situation...you had to start all over again.

Karen Schank: Wow. Now how did Billy build this chain of restaurants?

Barbara Taylor: He didn't. It's built by a corporation. They just hired him as the president.

Karen Schank: Oh and so he just runs the...

Barbara Taylor: Runs it.

Karen Schank: ...business for them.

Barbara Taylor: 1,400 restaurants.

Karen Schank: Wow.

Barbara Taylor: But he started out at Red Lobster.

Karen Schank: Uh-huh.

Barbara Taylor: Came out of BYU with an MBA.

Karen Schank: Oh did he? Uh-huh.

Barbara Taylor: Ended up at Red Lobster and just started right at the bottom and ended up vice president for three different presidents. Every time they'd change a president instead of firing, which they usually do, they usually want there...so they kept him and so he finally thought, that was about 15 years I think...

Karen Schank: Hm-hmm.

Barbara Taylor: ...so he just took him right up cause he was over, I mean he was in marketing...

Barbara Taylor

Karen Schank: Hm-hmm.

Barbara Taylor: And they just went shhh...he was all over them ads on the television and the menus and stuff. So...not Disney but what's the other...not Disney but...Universal Studios...

Karen Schank: Oh.

Barbara Taylor: ...came after him. They had like these headhunters that came after people. So they came after him and said you know we want you over here we've got a better position for you so he thought, nah, I'm pushing my luck with staying with Red Lobster. Someday there's going to be a president that going to want to...

Karen Schank: Uh-huh.

Barbara Taylor: So he went with them. He got to stay in Orlando and he was Executive Vice President of Hotel, not the hotels the restaurants and the parks, the theme parks.

Karen Schank: At Universal Studios?

Barbara Taylor: So he had 70 vice presidents under him. He had to fly around a lot because they were in Japan and I don't Spain and I don't know anyway...so they came after him from Border...Brinker's and wanted him to be the president of Maggiano's Little Italy. Now in Las Vegas you have one.

Karen Schank: Hm-hmm.

Barbara Taylor: We don't have one here. That was a great job because the guy was just retiring. He wasn't in trouble or anything.

Karen Schank: Hm-hmm.

Barbara Taylor: So he took the job. Meanwhile they were having trouble with Chili's—the same company owned Chili's and Macaroni Grill and a Mexican restaurant. Well they started having trouble with Chili's and it was just going shhhh, and...they wanted Wyman [PH] where he was but they wanted his marketing skills over here. So they said well, could you just maybe work with him and he said you know that isn't going to work. He's not going to want me telling him what to do.

Karen Schank: Hm-hmm.

Barbara Taylor: He's the President of Chili's you know. So they put him on the Corporate Board of Marketing, which would put him...

Karen Schank: Above him...

Barbara Taylor

Barbara Taylor: ...but kept him as the President of Maggiano's. He's going you know...I said are they paying you? He said yeah but mom I want to get some—my wife wonders if she's married and he never tell us any. I couldn't figure out why they were having him ring the bell in the stock market. I mean it was just...we went on the Internet and they'd made him on the corporate board. So then they just gave it up. They fired the guy at Chili's. Moved Wyman [PH] over the Chili's to try to save it.

Karen Schank: Hm-hmm.

Barbara Taylor: So he's been there, I don't know, a year.

Karen Schank: Wow.

Barbara Taylor: All the menus have changed. He's done everything.

Karen Schank: Hm-hmm.

Barbara Taylor: Couple of the mangers I've talked to said they were really, really happy they did that because [01:22:14 recording ends]