

Henderson Libraries

Henderson Oral History Project

Bette Jo Peisker

Oral History of Bette Jo Peisker

conducted by

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Henderson District Public Libraries

and

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Henderson Historical Society

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Interviewer: *Today is January 30, 2014. We're at the Paseo Verde branch of the Henderson District Public Libraries in Henderson, Nevada. My name is Anne Marie Hamilton-Brehm and I'm here with Rick Watson interviewing Bette Jo Peisker as part of the Henderson Oral History Project of the Henderson Libraries. Thank you for joining us, Bette Jo.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Thank you.

Interviewer: *I'd like to start by asking about your childhood. Tell me a little about where you were born and raised and what your parents did for a living.*

Bette Jo Peisker: I was born in Lumberton, New Mexico, and I come from a family of eight children. It was three brothers and five sisters, and we came to Henderson for a better life. My father, in New Mexico, had coal mines. He sold coal to the—I forget the name of the—oh, dear—narrow gage railroad. And he sold them the coal. And then he also had a general store, and then when his contract ended with the government, and he sold his general store, we came to Henderson. And when he got here in Henderson, he was able to get a job down at BMI plant for, I guess, about a year, and then after that, he and Joe Barelou went into partnerships and they opened up the Henderson Bowling Alley or recreation center, and I think they had like ten pool tables, five bowling alleys, a bar, which Art Espinoza, my brother-in-law, worked on, and I was probably seven or eight years old and I ran the candy concession. And that's how we started life here in Henderson.

Interviewer: *I've seen pictures of that pool hall. It was pretty big!*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yes. It was a place where everyone gathered. Everyone in town was at that pool hall or bowling alley.

Interviewer: *I bet.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Because they had the bowling tournaments there. Of course, they had the bar, and they had the candy concession, and they also had like a snack bar area that they had there. So, everyone—like if you had Kieth Lopeman or—I’m trying to think of some of the old guys—[Melvin] Lindy Barry. What’s that guy that has the real estate place here in town? [Duane] Laubach? Yeah. So, it all goes back to all of those old-timers and they hung around the pool hall a lot.

Interviewer: *Were children allowed into the pool hall?*

Bette Jo Peisker: At that time, yeah, because we had the candy, but that was close to the front door, so that worked out good, and we also had pinball machines. The kids could play those and that was about—and the food, and that was about it. They couldn’t go into where the pool tables were. Obviously, the bowling alley, they could go there. Not the bar.

Interviewer: *And so, most of your education was growing up in Henderson.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yes. Basic High School.

Interviewer: *What was it like to attend Basic?*

Bette Jo Peisker: Basic High School—I started in grade school and it was the old school that we had and where now is the convention center, Henderson Convention Center, that’s where our school was, our grade school, and our high school also. It was strange for me because I came from New Mexico and you had green trees and you have seasons or a season, and here we had nothing—I thought our dad was punishing us by bringing us here because it was hot, no trees, bare mountains, and it took me a while to recover, you know, in a way, that there’s other places besides New Mexico.

Fredric Watson: *Whereabouts in New Mexico is Lumberton?*

Bette Jo Peisker: It's about fifty or a hundred miles from Pagosa Springs. It's a small community, probably still a very small community.

Fredric Watson: *Where would it be in relation to Santa Fe?*

Bette Jo Peisker: Oh, it's—Santa Fe is probably a couple hundred miles away from there, yeah. And we had a—my mom really had a rough life because you had to bring in the water. My dad would bring in water in big barrels, and then she would have to boil the water for us to drink. And we also used it, you know, for bathing and stuff like that. Obviously, no electricity. And my dad was able to get I don't know how many batteries together, and he built a shed, put the batteries in there, and we had lights for our house. We were the only ones in town that had lights.

Interviewer: *Oh, wow.*

Bette Jo Peisker: And he had a general store. In there, in those days, they did a lot of bartering. Like now, if somebody had a cow, he was a butcher, so he could slaughter the cow, and all that. He'd get a portion of that. And then, like, we had vegetables and we traded vegetables for certain things. So there was a lot of bartering going on, you know, to survive.

Fredric Watson: *That's neat. Henderson was just an interesting town because of all the different people that came here, all the different skills they had.*

Bette Jo Peisker: And everybody bonded. I mean it was good because—another thing is, living here, we used to not lock our doors, leave the doors open at night, you know. At night, I might ride in on my bicycle and I didn't have to worry. We had dirt roads and it wasn't too safe that way. But we used to pick up hitchhikers. My mom and dad would pick up hitchhikers everywhere and haul them around. We used to go out to Nellis Air force Base and pick up

soldiers on Sunday, a couple of soldiers on Sunday, bring them home and give them a home-cooked meal because most of them were away from home, you know.

Interviewer: *That's really nice.*

Bette Jo Peisker: And we had—if my mom, especially my mom, would see someone that was hungry—or you know, we called them hobos then, or a tramp or something like that—she'd bring them home and feed them. It was very—

Interviewer: *Kind.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yeah. People were not as cruel as they are today, so you could do those things.

Interviewer: *And I think Henderson, in particular, was that kind of place where people took care of each other.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yeah. Henderson was and that's what we did. Yeah, that's what my mom did. But then, I think, with growth coming on and all that, Henderson has lost its togetherness. You know, everybody just does their thing. So I don't think we will ever see what we had years ago. It would be nice.

Interviewer: *It's definitely changed a lot and very quickly.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yeah. I'm afraid so.

Interviewer: *And what was your home and neighborhood like when you first moved here?*

Bette Jo Peisker: Our neighborhood, we had—I hope I don't make a lot of noise here. [refers to papers]

Interviewer: *Oh, that's okay.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Okay. My neighborhood—I can't remember his first name, Church, on South Texas—I'm pretty sure it was on South Texas—Church, he used to be with the school district, remember?

Fredric Watson: *Ben Church.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Ben Church. He was our neighbor, about three doors up. And then we had Mrs. Brown, the teacher, that lived on Water Street, just across the alleyway there. And then we had Dr. Cameron, not the young Cameron, the senior Cameron, and we had Claire Williams, and we had Coach McDonald—lived down the street. And Mrs. Malcolm at the library, Mrs. Malcolm lived right next to us.

Interviewer: *How about that.*

Bette Jo Peisker: And Cramers, and we had Hazel and Harold Miller, Jerry Ludwig, the photographer, and we had Al Gandred and his ten children, just lived up the street from us. So, and that was just in a little bit of my neighborhood, and there were many more, but they were the closest.

Interviewer: *I think the main thing is that you knew everybody back then.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yes. We knew everyone, everyone.

Interviewer: *I've heard kids couldn't get away with anything in those days because everybody knew their parents.*

Bette Jo Peisker: If we had a penny or even a nickel and it wasn't accountable, my parents wanted to know where it came from, and you better have a good reason—either that or you stole it and you were in deep trouble. But they knew money. I mean, if you had a penny or a nickel, they wanted to know where it came from.

Interviewer: *Do you remember Carver Park at all?*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yes. I went to school at Carver Park. I walked from Texas all—because we didn't have a bus, so we'd have to walk to Carver Park and if I forgot my lunch, I'd have to come back for my lunch. I would eat my lunch and then walk back to Carver Park.

Fredric Watson: *Did you use that old underpass?*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yes. The only Boulder—yeah.

Fredric Watson: *We posted a picture of that on the Internet.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Did you? That was used a lot. We used that a lot, not only just to go to Victory Village and to Carver Park, but just to play around there, you know. But yes.

Fredric Watson: *I'll email you that picture.*

Bette Jo Peisker: I'd appreciate that. That'd be great.

Interviewer: *Did you have any friends that lived in Carver Park?*

Bette Jo Peisker: No. Not at Carver Park, no. No, most of us walked from the Townsite area over to Carver Park, but then when they did get the school bus, it was really nice. We used to get up, the gals that went to school there—we'd get up real early, they'd come to my house, and then we'd catch the bus on Water Street, and we'd catch it early so we could take a ride clear down to Pit—was then Pitman, then ride around there, pick up other kids, and then go to Carver Park.

Interviewer: *What was that school like? It was small.*

Bette Jo Peisker: You know, I don't remember a whole lot about it. I don't know why. I wasn't there, I guess, that long or something, you know.

Fredric Watson: *What years were you at the Carver Park School?*

Bette Jo Peisker: I don't know. I must have been—because when I got here, I must have been about six or seven, so I must have been about eight or nine, I would say. Now, Frankie was saying that he thought it was just a kindergarten-type school, but it couldn't have been, because I was there.

Fredric Watson: *I was there in 1946 and it was first grade through fourth grade.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Okay. So how old were you then?

Fredric Watson: *In '46, I was a first-grader.*

Bette Jo Peisker: First-grader. Okay.

Fredric Watson: *And we moved then, about 1949, about half-way through my fourth-grade year. And then I finished up at Townsite in St. Peter's.*

Bette Jo Peisker: So, I don't remember how old I was. I just remember that I hated the walk. You know?

Fredric Watson: *What year did you get to Henderson?*

Bette Jo Peisker: 1943.

Fredric Watson: *'43? That was early.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yeah. October '43.

Fredric Watson: *You could always stop at St. Peter's Church.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yeah, St. Peter's Catholic Church, Father Moran. Father Moran then—then he was Monsignor, right? Yeah.

Interviewer: *What are some of your memories of the church?*

Bette Jo Peisker: The old church was great. I remember the grotto. Of course, that came later. But everyone in the church knew each other. If you missed Mass, the next Sunday, everybody

wanted to know why you didn't show up for Mass. You better not have excuses you were having fun someplace else. And Father Moran was really, really good. Everybody liked him. He was very business-like too, a very business-type of priest. But everybody knew everyone.

Interviewer: *How did they end up making the grotto?*

Bette Jo Peisker: Some—I don't know who—what the man's name was—he volunteered to build that and he did it all. I mean, it didn't cost anybody anything. He just built it and then I think it was Father Caviglia—I don't know if it was Caviglia or Anderson, one of the priests, decided they wanted to add onto the church, and they wanted to destroy the grotto, which was beautiful. I've got pictures of that on my monitor. And they went ahead and did it. I mean that was a beautiful, beautiful grotto.

Fredric Watson: *They said they got a lot of the rock from up around Black Mountain.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Did they really? I didn't know where the rock went. That was good. It went some place. You know.

Interviewer: *So, it wasn't falling apart, they just wanted to build there?*

Bette Jo Peisker: Oh no. It was perfect. It was great. They just wanted to add onto the church. So much for a good looking grotto.

Interviewer: *You said when you came here, it was a lot hotter than where you lived in New Mexico. How did the weather affect your life in Henderson?*

Bette Jo Peisker: Well, when we first got here in October, it was already kind of cool here, and we were still running around with short sleeved blouses and stuff like that because when—I was used to real, real cold weather, and this wasn't really cold weather to us. It was almost like spring or something, so it took us a while to adjust to the climate conditions. But the thing that

was so funny is that we didn't know about Halloween, because in New Mexico, they had these outdoor commodes, and Halloween meant people went around knocking those over. That was their—

Interviewer: *Oh, no. [laughter] I never heard of that.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yeah. There was no such thing as a trick-or-treat, you know. Or they'd find a commode on top of a barn or something, you know. And when they came here, Donna Hanson—they lived kind of catty-corner from us on Oklahoma—and she came over to our house to trick-or-treat, and we didn't know what it meant, so she said, well, you know, trick—you give me candy or something good and I leave you alone or otherwise you get a trick of some type, you know. So my mom didn't know what to do, so she gave her some money, so that's how we learned about trick-or-treat. The next year, we were prepared.

Interviewer: *Did they have parties? As a child, did you attend Halloween parties that the City would put on?*

Bette Jo Peisker: No. We just went out like for candy and stuff like that, but as far as parties, we can say no.

Interviewer: *I had heard about the Henderson Coordinating Council doing something like that, like putting on Halloween parties and Christmas parties and that sort of thing. What did you do in your spare time? You said you worked at your dad's business, but you have free time and what did you do when you weren't working?*

Bette Jo Peisker: Well, let's see [looks at papers]—well, what I did was help my dad at the pool hall. In fact, he'd leave me—usually after school, I'd go there—I was probably around ten—and he would leave me at the pool hall alone, to run it, from about four to six o'clock. I was left

alone there at the pool hall and—make sure everything ran well. I knew how to count money and all that stuff. And then he'd go home and eat a little something and take a little cat nap, and then he'd come back and then I could go home or I could—sometimes I didn't make it there because I had to go to catechism or church, something like that. And then the big thing for us on the weekends was going to the dump, the Henderson Dump. Everybody went to the Henderson Dump. People would throw out things that were unbelievable. Not so much people, I shouldn't say people, the businesses did. You know, they'd construct maybe some new home or something right in the Henderson area, something like that, and you'd find a tub, a brand new tub, or a sink. So you'd see people taking stuff out to the dump, but they'd be taking more out of the dump than they'd brought, you know. Very interesting.

Fredric Watson: *Where was the dump in those days?*

Bette Jo Peisker: You know where Calico Ridge is? In that area. Or Tuscany? That area? Yeah. In fact some of my friends get upset when I say that they're sitting right next to the dump, you know, at Calico, because it's right there.

Interviewer: *But I've heard other people say that too.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yeah, and then we went fishing at Lake Mead a lot. And swimming. They used to have drag races—a dirt road out here by—where the Reserve, or—what is it—Fiesta, now? That dirt road there. They used to do a lot of drag racing out there. The kids would set up and race their cars. My brother had a little racing car. And I played softball and basketball. And we used to take a lot of hikes out to Black Mountain and we never took water. We just took off early in the morning, eight o'clock in the morning, and be gone all day, you know, clear up to

Black Mountain—the base—and we never climbed it. Then we'd come back home, sunburned, but, you know, we made it. Crazy. [laughter]

Interviewer: *[laughter] Yeah. You said you were involved in sports. Did you join any clubs?*

Bette Jo Peisker: I didn't join any clubs. I started playing golf later on, but, I mean—the only thing I was involved in at school was GAA—the Girls Athletic Association. I used to—I was the GAA president in my junior year and senior year. Usually you only get it your senior year, but I was able to get it my junior year, and I put together a lot of play days for the school, so we had people from schools from Needles, Moapa, Kingman. You know, had play day here, like on a weekend or something like that. And it was eventful and you know, a lot of prizes and stuff like that.

Interviewer: *That's a lot of work, organizing those.*

Bette Jo Peisker: There's a lot of work.

Interviewer: *A lot of phone calling.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yeah, well, we didn't have phones.

Interviewer: *Oh. Well, how did you get the word out, then? You had to write letters?*

Bette Jo Peisker: Letters. Just letters out and notify one teacher at one school and they got it all together and we'd notify each other and get it going. It was rough. In fact, for dancing, we didn't have a place to go dancing. We used to dance up at the football field. Remember that?

Fredric Watson: *I have a good—that's another picture I'll share with you. The Butler family.*

Mrs. Butler was the school nurse and she took some pictures of—

Bette Jo Peisker: The square dancing up there?

Fredric Watson: *Yes. That's what it was. They were square dancing. They poured cement slab or something there and there's just a whole bunch of people dancing.*

Bette Jo Peisker: We were happy campers doing it. We thought it was great, you know, stuff like that. We didn't have anything of luxury. We enjoyed everything—everything that we had, we really enjoyed—to get it, you know what I mean? But we got it.

Fredric Watson: *When do you remember getting your first phone?*

Bette Jo Peisker: My first phone? The first phone I used was Frankie's mom, Mae. She got one. And it was a party-line phone, like two or three people were on it, you know, and I can't remember whether the phone would ring once for them or twice for them or how it worked, but you'd pick up the phone and somebody was talking and you had to hang up. Of course, a lot of people would just stay on it. But anyhow—and then eventually, you know, you had a two-party line, then it went to one-party line. That was, I think, Trumbo had the telephone company then I think.

Fredric Watson: *That's kind of how I remember it.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yeah. And it was a luxury item to have a telephone.

Interviewer: *Where did you go shopping in those days, when you were in school?*

Bette Jo Peisker: In Henderson?

Interviewer: *Yeah.*

Bette Jo Peisker: In Henderson, shopping [refers to papers]—that's good. I'll tell you how many places we went shopping: we went shopping at Food Land Market to buy groceries and stuff like that; Van Valey's for shoes; Bill Byrne's, we used to go over there, to his little store, and get snacks; and Gunnville's for furniture and stuff; Coronet's, which were on Pacific, I think; and

then Prime Ribs—Prime Meats, came in; and LaPorta Insurance—we got the insurance from Lou LaPorta; and a couple of things we bought from McMahan’s Furniture Store; and Al Gandrud fixed our cars; Jerry Ludwig took our photos; Al worked at Nevada Hardware Store; Prince Barber Shop, my dad got his hair cut there; and Desert Rose Fabrics, or something like that; Tasty Freeze—we all stopped after school and had sundaes or root beer floats or what have you, and also at the Rexall Drug Store, McBeath’s Rexall Drug Store; and our Post Office; Ideal Appliance; and then eventually the Royal Club; the theater, the old theater; and Bob McBride, another insurance; and Cosby Music. Remember Cosby Music? Harry Latte and I learned to play the Hawaiian guitar. And then Leman and Lionel had the gas station, and Gene Bear had the Shell station. Those were the places we all went to, that I can remember right now.

Interviewer: *Did you ever go out of town to shop?*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yeah. We went to Vegas. We went to Ronzoni’s, Watch Hobos, Sears, and King’s. That’s about it on that side. Nothing in Boulder City.

Interviewer: *Nothing in Boulder?*

Bette Jo Peisker: Boulder City was not—[laughter]

Fredric Watson: *Strong rivalries.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Too much rival between Basic and Boulder.

Fredric Watson: *That’s right, there were strong rivalries in sports.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Really. Even to this day, I think it’s kind of like that now. I don’t know what it was; we just didn’t get along.

Interviewer: *Besides Lake Mead, were there places in the area that you would go for recreation?*

Bette Jo Peisker: No. That was about it, the lake—we didn't have too much other than the lake and the pool hall as a recreation, as a recreation center, you know?

Fredric Watson: *The [Victory] Theatre.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yeah. The Theatre, but then they closed the theater when the polio hit. That was bad news, then. We were really scared.

Interviewer: *When was that? Do you remember what year that was?*

Bette Jo Peisker: That was I think probably '48, '49, somewhere around there, the polio attack. Then they showed us in school pictures of what happens of what happens when you get polio, and these people were in those tanks, you know, and all that. Man, we were scared.

Interviewer: *Scary. And then, eventually, Henderson got a swimming pool. I know a lot of people in the old days, when the polio was rampant, they were afraid to let kids go to the pool. But I've heard that Henderson was really happy to get a pool.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Well, yeah. I didn't go to the pool. We'd just go out to the lake; I don't remember too much about that.

Interviewer: *Did they have swimming lessons for you at the lake?*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yeah. At the lake you mean? No.

Interviewer: *I heard that they took kids out to the lake to have swimming lessons, but maybe that was later.*

Bette Jo Peisker: It must have been later, because all of us just, you know, hopped in somebody's car and we went out to the lake and that was it.

Interviewer: *What do you remember about BMI?*

Bette Jo Peisker: I don't remember too much about BMI. For a long time, we didn't know that BMI had—Titanium Metals was there, and Stauffer. Were they there? And Stauffer, Titanium Metals—what's the one with PEPCON?

Fredric Watson: *It's—I can't remember the name.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Same chemical made there.

Fredric Watson: *Pacific Engineering, was it?*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yeah, it could have been.

Interviewer: *That's probably right, yeah.*

Bette Jo Peisker: But the only thing I remember about BMI that I liked is that they had the baseball field out there. You know, they owned all that property around it, so they would let us play softball, ladies softball, there. We really enjoyed, and they had the lights and everything for us, you know.

Interviewer: *That's really great. And you said you play golf, too, right?*

Bette Jo Peisker: I golf now, yeah. I started golfing probably about 1970. Late bloomer.

[laughter]

Interviewer: *Well, that's neat. I like golf too.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yeah, and I joined a lot of—after I hit, I think, sixty, I joined a lot of—or fifty-five, rather—the senior golf, and you know, I got to St. George, Kingman, even here—Henderson had one. And you compete against other ladies your age, you know. We brought Henderson a lot of gold medals.

Interviewer: *I bet.*

Fredric Watson: *What position did you play in basketball?*

Bette Jo Peisker: In basketball, I was a forward, in basketball, and I was a pitcher in softball.

Fredric Watson: *How's women's basketball changed?*

Bette Jo Peisker: Oh, dear. When we played basketball, it was half court. You could only run half a court and then release the ball to the person on the other side, but you couldn't go full court. You couldn't run full court. Now they run full court. That's really strange, now that we can look back.

Fredric Watson: *The old town side gym was small. It wasn't a full-size gym, as I recall.*

That half-court line was like three-quarters for each team.

Bette Jo Peisker: Yeah. That place was packed, though, when we had a basketball game, so, I mean—I think they had a lot of—I'm sure they still have a lot of school spirit, you know, whether it was basketball or baseball or football. Even the girls—they were allowing the girls senior class—every year, we participated playing football and we put on the guys' outfits. You'd pick a guy and you'd get his outfit and wear that and play football.

Fredric Watson: *Pads and helmet and—*

Bette Jo Peisker: I think I got Norm Craft's. [laughter] It was funny. Anyhow. It was just for fun.

Fredric Watson: *Do you remember when St. Peter's Church held—when they held church in the gym at the high school?*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yes. Yes. We used to go there because it was just across the street.

Fredric Watson: *Mary Sanchez wrote that in a piece that she wrote for the alumni association. I thought that was interesting.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yeah, I bet. I bet it was. You know, as you're growing up, you're really not paying attention to a lot of things that you're doing and then we try to remember all—and like it's good to talk to my nephew, Frankie, because he remembers a lot of stuff that I've kind of forgotten. But then you—he names a name and then I place it with whatever, you know. And if my brother Bill were here, I mean, he really—because he works at like the [Three] Kids Mine and he was part of HUD here in Henderson, you know—out at Las Vegas. So he kept up with almost all of Henderson, what was going on in Henderson. And of course, my brother-in-law, Art Espinoza.

Interviewer: *Before we started the interview, you were talking a little bit about the Three Kids Mine. Could you talk a little bit about it now and tell me what you remember about it.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Well, the only thing I remember about Kids Mine is just going by—going to the lake. There were a lot of cars out there, but then a couple of times I took my brother to work, and my sister, but I was never in the plant itself. The only thing I ever saw were some of the pictures that my brother showed me, you know, they were working in the lab. And a guy—I think he was the chief chemist there—he was named Carol, I think, was his first—last name. He was out of Boulder City. And that's about all I remember about that.

Interviewer: *How did they decide to work for Three Kids? How did your brother and sister decide to work for Three Kids?*

Bette Jo Peisker: I can't remember—I don't know whether Bill just came back—he'd been at the University of New Mexico—and I think when he came home, he applied out there in the lab and he got the job. And it might have been because my sister, Frances, already worked there

and told him there was a job opening or something and that's how he got his job there. But they worked up in the lab.

Interviewer: *That's neat. What—you know, you say that you don't probably recall a lot of the early politicians or public figures, but do you remember the politics of early Henderson and what were some of the issues back then?*

Bette Jo Peisker: Well, politics in Henderson then—the politician was a Henderson person. I mean, they came in the first part of the '30s or '40s or whenever Henderson started, and they knew Henderson. And then as growth came along, Henderson started bringing in people [from] outside and these people made the changes, and maybe not to our liking, but they brought their ideas from their city. And I think most of the people of the Townsite kind of objected to that. They didn't like it at all. Because we were never asked whether we liked it or didn't like it; you know, it was just done.

Fredric Watson: *But you knew one Henderson politician really well. Patty's dad.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yeah, well he fought a lot for Henderson, but he was from Henderson, basically, because he'd been all these years. But as I grew up, that's what I noticed about the politicians, was that they were people we didn't know and you'd say, well how did he—well, he came from Tucson or he came from Utah or something and moved here, he's only been here six months or something like that. And, you know, they'd elect someone because they liked him or something like that and then you're stuck with their ideas, I guess, you know. So anyhow, things were different. I thought it was good—like for me—like our chief of police was Chief Crisler and he wanted me to join the police force. I was still going to school. I was just getting out of school, but I wasn't twenty-one yet. And so a few years later, he asked me to join the police force, so I

was police reserve woman with Joy Frank and Chief Crisler. And I think I worked for twenty-five cents an hour. [laughter] Because it's a part-time job. And they needed a police woman, so if they arrested a lady or a girl or something like that, they would have a policewoman with that woman to transport her from Vegas to Henderson or whatever. It was interesting, an interesting job. I thought I'd go into police work, but I couldn't handle it. You know, when there's children involved or stuff like that, you want to adopt the kids—throw the parents out and adopt the kids.

Interviewer: *Yeah, that's hard.*

Bette Jo Peisker: You know? And you just can't do that, so I decided to get out of it, so I went to work for Art Espinoza and George Campbell at the Nevada Hardware Store. And from there, I learned quite a bit about paint. I really got interested in paint. And then I went to work for—oh, I shouldn't say that—I went to work for Dr. Miners as a receptionist for him for a few months and I didn't particularly care about being a nurse or whatever about that. And then I went back to the hardware store and then I went to work for Pittsburgh Paints, and I was there for about ten years, and then I went to work for Vegas Paints, and then I went to work for Sinclair Paints, and I was their Regional Supervisor of Nevada.

Interviewer: *Wow.*

Bette Jo Peisker: And I retired through them.

Interviewer: *How about that.*

Bette Jo Peisker: And I sold a lot, a lot of paint to all these tract homes, like Louis Homes, KB Homes, the high rises like the Monte Carlo.

Interviewer: *Wow.*

Bette Jo Peisker: I had the entire job for—remember when they had the MGM fire?

Interviewer: *Yeah.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yeah, I got all that.

Fredric Watson: *Really? Doing repair?*

Bette Jo Peisker: Because that was an unbelievable—that was an unbelievable job. And they had already started the remodel at the MGM when the fire hit. And I mean, I was shipping in big orders of wall covering coming in and we had to stop everything. We didn't know whether we were going to be stuck with all these materials or what have you, but the designing architect told me just to hang tight, everything takes time, and it's a tragedy, but we're going to have to work it out, you know. And sure enough, it took almost a year, and then everything went back and we did the job. That's probably a three-million dollar job. It was big. Sure learned a lot.

Fredric Watson: *Where was Nevada Hardware?*

Bette Jo Peisker: Nevada Hardware—you know where the Royal Club used to be? Right next door. And then you had a fabric shop on the other side that a woman, Mrs. Joyner, ran. I went to school with her daughter, Sharon Joyner.

Interviewer: *What other memorable events do you remember happening besides the MGM fire and the PEPCON [explosion]? Or you can tell me more about PEPCON if you want, but are there other memorable events?*

Bette Jo Peisker: Well, I can tell you about that, but I can tell you about—we had a flood at one time. It was really bad. It wiped out Victory Village, completely wiped out Victory Village. It came in the front door and went out the back. I mean the mud—I mean, it was a mess, an awful thing to see. And Art Espinoza and my sister were living there at the time, and so they had a lot

of cleanup to do. And then even at my house, and I'm up higher ground, it wiped out quite a few of the townsite homes, well, because we didn't have sidewalks or streets in a sense. It was just dirt roads, so the mud and everything just came piling up. It was very, very bad. And then on the PEPCON, I was out on the freeway and I heard the boom of an explosion, but when I saw the smoke off the freeway, I thought that maybe two tankers or something had collided, like on a freeway. I don't know if it was the freeway or not then. It was Pecos Road, you know. So, I thought that that's what had happened. Then I heard that second or third boom, so I thought I better go to my house to check on my mom and my sister. She was elderly. And my sister, Alice, was taking care of her. Well, I just got past where Russell Road is and all that and started going to Henderson, and they had blockings already up. They blocked off—the whole town was blocked off. You couldn't get in; you couldn't get out. But they let me through and I was able to check on my mom. She was okay and my sister was okay. And the only thing that happened to my house is the back window blew and the glass flew in through the kitchen, into the hallway, and my mom had just gone past that hallway. Otherwise, she would have been just covered with glass, but that was the only damage to the house, to the whole house. Green Valley was almost totally wiped out, the garages and the roofs and all that. It was very damaging. So many little things that happened that they talked about, like miracles, in a sense, like this lady said that usually at that time of day, she was usually sleeping and had she not gotten up for some reason, this piece of glass landed right on her bed. It would have just probably severed her head right off, you know. They had two hundred kids that were scheduled to come to the marshmallow factory that day and they canceled the day before, for I can't remember for what reason, and all those kids would have been wiped out.

Interviewer: *I've always wondered about that.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Two hundred kids would have been wiped out. That would have been terrible. And so many things—and you know, there were just minor injuries except for the one—I think one guy got killed?

Interviewer: *I think two.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Somebody said something, they said it was two, but—

Interviewer: *Yeah.*

Bette Jo Peisker: But I only heard about one. But, interesting, my sister's husband, Frances, he was working there on Sunset Road and he saw the wave from the blast coming and he dove behind a building in hopes that the building would be able to hold the blast. And it hit the building there on Sunset, and it just—like little pellets hit it, you know, just bent it all to heck. It was all aluminum siding. Very interesting.

Interviewer: *Yeah. What about less tragic or what about seasonal events.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Happier things?

Interviewer: *Yeah, happier things. Were there happier events that happened?*

Bette Jo Peisker: Well, we had Industrial Days, which I have no clue as to why they changed it to Heritage [Days] except for the lady who worked for the Chamber of Commerce here in Henderson. And I asked her why they did that, and she said that she had gone to every elderly person that had lived in Henderson since 1943, and asked them if it was okay to change it to Heritage on behalf of them, and that's not so, because I told her, "You know, everybody knows our family and no one came and asked us what we thought it should be." And I was strictly against "Heritage"—that the plants were here. Henderson was built because of the plants;

that's why everybody came here. They should go back to Industrial Days and it should be handled like Industrial Days. But we had Industrial—because when it turned to Heritage, you don't have any floats. You have a couple of bands come through, you know, nothing real fancy or good looking, you know. When we had our Industrial Days, we had floats, beautiful floats. We had bands, not only local from Vegas, Boulder, Henderson, we had them coming in from California, Utah.

Interviewer: *Wow.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yeah!

Interviewer: *That's great.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yeah! We were kind of like Helldorado in a smaller magnitude, you know, but we had—yeah, it was great. But that all fizzled out after it became Heritage.

Interviewer: *That's too bad.*

Bette Jo Peisker: That's too bad. I'd still like to get that Industrial back. I don't know how you can do it, but it sure would be nice.

Interviewer: *I don't know, I think there's a movement out there.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Well, by rights, it should be. That's why we were here, because of those plants. We built around the plants. They came first. We came second. Right? So.

Interviewer: *Well, for a long time they were the lifeblood of the community, right?*

Bette Jo Peisker: Right. Well yeah, still, still is. Well people still are working out at TIMET and Stauffer. Kerr McGee was the place I was trying to remember.

Interviewer: *What other changes in Henderson have you observed over the years? We've talked about some of them, but what do you think are the biggest changes?*

Bette Jo Peisker: I think the biggest change is that it's not together anymore, the closeness, because most of the townsite houses now, most of the kids that I grew up with—okay, their parents lived in a house, and then the parents die or leave them the house, and they already have a home, so it becomes a rental. So pretty soon, it's just basically a transit town and people just come in and live for a few months, rent, and they're gone. Nobody likes to stay in one place very long. So that's the bad part.

Interviewer: *So Henderson lost a lot of its original residents, right?*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yes.

Interviewer: *Is losing.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Because of, you know, them dying and then their children get the house or whatever and then they don't need the house because they have a home, so they either sell it to someone else or they—most of them rent it, rent the home.

Interviewer: *So generally, you don't see children coming back to live in Henderson?*

Bette Jo Peisker: No, not really.

Interviewer: *Is part of that because maybe there's less job opportunities?*

Bette Jo Peisker: Well, that could be, and it's not, I mean when you've got—I mean, like now, if they come back to Henderson now, it's not like Henderson used to be. It's just another city, you know. The total environment has changed, right?

Interviewer: *[addressing Rick Watson] Well, I think in some of your interviews with the children at the schools, they really enjoy living in Henderson, the school kids, and they're interested to learn about what the original people—*

Bette Jo Peisker: Are they really?

Interviewer: *Yeah, they are.*

Bette Jo Peisker: See, I don't have kids, so I, you know—

Interviewer: *They are, yeah.*

Bette Jo Peisker: So, yeah, that's good to hear, definitely good to hear.

Interviewer: *It is. It's good to see.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yeah.

Fredric Watson: *Did you ever have to go to the hospital? Were you ever at the old Rose de Lima?*

Bette Jo Peisker: For my tonsils. [laughter]

Fredric Watson: *Did you have your tonsils out there? So did I.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yeah, St. Rose, yeah, everybody went to St. Rose.

Fredric Watson: *How many days were you in the hospital for that?*

Bette Jo Peisker: I guess I was—well, for tonsils, I think I was in there for two days, yeah.

Interviewer: *Did they give you ice cream?*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yeah. Immediately. [laughter] That was pretty chunky, so I really enjoyed it!

Fredric Watson: *Sr. Marie Daniel?*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yeah. She was a tough boss. I'll tell you that. She ran a tight ship.

Interviewer: *Do you remember some of the other people who worked at St. Rose, the nuns?*

Bette Jo Peisker: No. Just Sr. Marie Daniel. Everybody knew her.

Fredric Watson: *She took care of my sister when she broke her leg. She spent a lot of time with the babies. Sr. Marie Daniel did, too, I remember.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Oh, really? Yeah.

Fredric Watson: *Yeah, she was interesting.*

Interviewer: *What have you enjoyed most about living in Henderson?*

Bette Jo Peisker: Just about everything. I mean, when you come here as a kid, you just grow up with the environment of Henderson. I guess friendships that you make over the years and still have some of them, that's nice. I guess Henderson, basically, is good in many, many ways. The townsite area is still the townsite area. But because of all—you know, I didn't realize like up toward Mission Hill, that we had a city up there, until I went to up there to your—sister? Does she have a home up there? Right?

Fredric Watson: *Yeah, Shelley's up there.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yeah, Shelley, yeah, I went up there. And then I took a side road and I ended up in another city, and I didn't realize that even existed up there, because I never drive up in that area, you know. Very interesting.

Interviewer: *What else would you like to share about your experience in Henderson?*

Bette Jo Peisker: I don't know if there's a whole lot to share except what I've already told you about Henderson—what we did and where we went. Well, one thing that I forgot to tell you about is about the BMI plant. Now I don't which of the plants did it, but I don't know if you remember: Henderson, especially Monday morning, for school, I'd leave my house and it was just blue, like fog, a blue fog, and it was chlorine. Well, I thought that every city had that chlorine. You know what I mean? I mean, it was potent stuff. In 1963 I had to have mitral valve surgery, and shortly after that, about three months later, the doctors at Scripps in La Jolla called me in, and they told me that when they collapsed my lung, that they found a pocket of chlorine. And they were still curious to find out where I could have gotten chlorine.

Interviewer: *Oh, my gosh.*

Bette Jo Peisker: You know? So I told them about the plants. So then it was explained why. But I had a pocket of chlorine, a little sac, in my lung.

Fredric Watson: *That is interesting. At Scripps, huh?*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yeah, Scripps in La Jolla. I volunteered for heart research there, you know, because they didn't have anything here to do open heart surgery, you know, so I had to go to— Art was there—his sister worked there and she was able to get me in, and they were able to do the surgery. And they didn't put the valve in. They thought that maybe with a repair, I could maybe survive a while and then could then find a better valve than they had because the valve did fail quite a bit. So, knock on wood, fifty years later, I'm still kicking.

Fredric Watson: *What kind? A mechanical valve or a pig valve?*

Bette Jo Peisker: No. I have my bigger valve. They just were able to go in there and open up the valve. I had rheumatic fever, and so it damaged the valve, yeah.

Fredric Watson: *How old were you when you had rheumatic fever?*

Bette Jo Peisker: Twenty-seven. Who gets rheumatic fever at twenty-seven, you know? But anyhow.

Interviewer: *Anybody could get it, I guess, if you don't treat the strep throat.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yeah. So, I volunteered for heart research. I figured if I was going to kick the bucket, maybe I could donate something, you know. San Diego Research helped me with that.

Fredric Watson: *Do you remember stories about a man they called The Hermit who lived down by the—*

Bette Jo Peisker: The swamps? Yeah, but you know, I remember a little bit about him, but I never really paid that much attention about it, you know.

Fredric Watson: *My brother and I road our bikes down there and spent some time with him. I ask everybody that question because we're trying to figure out who he was.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yeah, I don't think anybody ever knew that. Did they? Did they ever find out?

Fredric Watson: *I think he was an old miner, a prospector. He was living in the excavation there and had a cabin that he built around the front of it. That would be fun to get to the bottom of that story.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Over where Lake Las Vegas is now, where the water comes in from Vegas, you know? Well, Frankie and I and Harry and my brother, Leonard, used to—my dad would take us out there. You know, he'd park the car and we'd walk on in there and we'd roam around there, just—I don't know what we were looking for, but we used to like to go down there into those swamps, you know. [laughter]

Fredric Watson: *Well, it was because it was so much different than the desert, the rest of the desert. Once you got down close to that water, it was like a bird preserve and a wetlands.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yeah, it was neat. I really enjoyed going down there.

Fredric Watson: *Did you ever ride their horse? Didn't the Lamans have a horse?*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yeah, they had a horse there. I rode it one time and that was enough for me. No more horses. [laughter]

Interviewer: *[laughter]*

Fredric Watson: *Where did they stable it?*

Bette Jo Peisker: They stabled it right there, close to—where did they have the sludge factory? Remember the sludge factory? Was it right there behind the Titanium ponds?

Fredric Watson: *I think it was. It was down not far from Carver Park.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Down from that Pabco Road, right in that—over to the right. Yeah, yeah, they had stables. I don't know if they still have the stables. The might even still have stables. I don't know.

Fredric Watson: *I remember hiking down there. That was a neat place.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yeah, they had, I think, about eight or nine stables down there, people keeping their horses, you know. But the most fun was the dump, I'll tell you that. [laughter]

Interviewer: *[laughter]*

Fredric Watson: *[laughter] Did you find any good stuff?*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yeah. We used to find stuff, yeah.

Fredric Watson: *Me too. You know, as late as the 60s and 70s, you know, if I had like—if I had a project at school where I needed lumber, I'd go to the dump to get it because contractors would throw away good pieces of wood just to get it out of the way.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yeah, it's amazing isn't it? Well, I insulated my house—you know, plywood walls, you know, when I was in the paint business, and the contractors would throw the insulation, the pink one, you know, real thick ones and all that, just dump, you know. Well, I'd tell them just save them for me because I was storing them up in my shed, because one of these days, I might get those walls sheetrocked and I'm going to have my insulation. So, I took the plywood out myself, put the insulation in and a friend of mine that was a contractor came in and did the sheetrock and all that, so my house is well insulated.

Fredric Watson: *What year did you graduate from high school?*

Bette Jo Peisker: '54.

Fredric Watson: *'54? So you were about—well, Norm Craft would have been—*

Bette Jo Peisker: He was a couple of years younger than me.

Fredric Watson: *Yeah. He told me the story that—you were mentioning playing softball down at the old BMI field. He said that Hugh Moran—do you remember a man named Hugh Moran? Hugh Moran, I think, was a policeman or a truant office. He went to St. Peter's Church and he was real active in youth sports. Norm said that Hugh would have the trunk of his car full of baseball equipment, but he would have to go to work, so he would meet the kids down at the BMI field and leave all the equipment with them, and they just would play all day long. And then he'd come back and get the equipment at the end of the day. And then he coached them, you know, when he had time off.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yeah, it's sure different today.

Interviewer: *Do you happen to remember—I was reading in the Henderson Coordinating Council minutes from that time period when you were in high school, that they were having trouble with the teenage club and they were having, I guess, having trouble funding it, and they were having trouble with teenagers getting into trouble by being in the pool hall when they weren't supposed to and staying out past curfew. Do you remember any problems from that time?*

Bette Jo Peisker: I don't remember ever having any problem at the pool hall. You know, the only thing that we had to watch out for, my dad didn't want kids cheating on the pinball machines and stuff like that. But, that was about it. We never had, like, restrictions. I don't

remember having restrictions—or even me, myself, working in there. I worked in there. I didn't get paid, but I mean, I helped my dad, you know. And like the girls that used to bowl, the five sisters, and they would set the pins—it was before your time, too—and you would throw the ball—well, you had the pinsetters in the back and they had to be careful of those pins because they could hurt you, those pins and they'd just back up and it'd hit and then they'd have to reset them and shove them back in and those girls used to do some of that pin setting.

Interviewer: *Do you remember Jeanette Anderson? I think she was one of the pinsetters.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yeah.

Interviewer: *Yeah, we have her interview, too.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Did you? Yeah.

Fredric Watson: *She talked about the flood, probably the same flood that you were talking about.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yeah, it was awful. You know, it just wouldn't quit raining and I don't know what happened to the earth, but it just moved in, it came in like syrup. You know what I mean?

Fredric Watson: *The old underpass, on the Boulder Highway, when they would have big rainstorms, they would fill it up with mud and stuff. Finally, the City—the word I heard was the City got tired of cleaning it out, so the last time, they just finished it. [laughter]*

Bette Jo Peisker: Well, too bad—it was too bad because it was a way to get across that highway without getting killed, you know. They should open it up again.

Fredric Watson: *That would be a good archeology project.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yeah, really.

Interviewer: *How did the City take care of the flooding problem?*

Bette Jo Peisker: I don't remember if the City ever did anything. I don't know. I think people just got into it and did it themselves. I don't remember the City doing a whole lot on it.

Fredric Watson: *One of the stories I heard was that they built a series of berms up above the city.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Did they? Yeah.

Fredric Watson: *And which, you know, there would just be long, like a dyke, where they would just pile up dirt and that would redirect the water.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yeah, see, I didn't pay attention to that at all.

Fredric Watson: *Do you remember stories about kids finding blasting caps out in the desert?*

Bette Jo Peisker: No.

Fredric Watson: *When I was a kid, there were a couple of summers there were kids that got hurt with blasting caps. I just wondered.*

Bette Jo Peisker: No, well, you know, when we were talking about things that we did when we were small over here, another thing that we used to do is we watched a lot of flying saucers. You know how people talk about them? We saw them. I mean, we—you know, they used to hover over Black Mountain. Now, whether, you know, whatever—

Interviewer: *What were they doing?*

Bette Jo Peisker: But we saw the flying saucers.

Interviewer: *Wow.*

Bette Jo Peisker: I saw one right over our house there on Oklahoma and it was there just like a balloon. You know, a balloon? And within a second, it was gone.

Interviewer: *What do you think it was?*

Bette Jo Peisker: A flying saucer. That's what I think it was. What else would it—it wasn't a balloon that popped.

Fredric Watson: *Would they—did you see them at night or were they—*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yeah. You could see them at night. At night, you could see the lights at Black Mountain. But you know, it was an everyday, almost an every night type of occurrence with the flying saucers. It wasn't any big deal. We'd see them now—it was no big deal. Now—you don't see them now.

Fredric Watson: *Do you remember bomb shelters? Remember the atomic bomb shelters?*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yes, yes.

Fredric Watson: *Did you know anybody that built one?*

Bette Jo Peisker: Well, I don't know of anybody that built—I know the ones the City built, the one that is on Lake Mead, nearby Carver Park. They built one there, you know. And in fact, I went up to the City, we were having all these issues of threats and all that, and I wanted to know if it was still there, you know. And they said no, that they barricaded it. They took all the food out of it, donated it, and sealed it off. And basically, it wasn't for us. It was going to be for the politicians, basically, for them. It wasn't big enough to hold Henderson. A lot of people were told to go down to TIMET, the tunnel that they had, for safety, in case we had something happen. Another one was—I think there was one there. I think we had three of them here in Henderson. That's the one I remember, you know.

Interviewer: *Did you get to watch any of the atomic blasts?*

Bette Jo Peisker: No, but felt them all.

Interviewer: *What did it feel like?*

Bette Jo Peisker: When they dropped the first one, they didn't notify anybody they were going to do it, so we thought it was an earthquake because the windows started shattering or breaking and the house had a lot of movement and all that. Then we found out later on in the day that it had been an A-bomb, you know, out at the Test Site. And then after that when they did it, we thought it was no big deal. I know a lot of guys that were there, that saw it, you know. And of course that was kind of bad news, because of some of them got cancer, you know, so that was not a good deal. But anyhow, that was it on the A-bomb.

Interviewer: *Rick, can you think of anything else that you wanted to ask?*

Fredric Watson: Big snow.

Interviewer: *Oh. The snow! Right.*

Bette Jo Peisker: The one that we had like three feet?

Fredric Watson: *Yeah, like 1949. It stayed on the ground for a couple of weeks.*

Interviewer: *Wow.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Since New Mexico—because there, we did get a lot of snow—well, our house—you know, it started snowing, and so then my father, you know, got kind of worried, so he told my brother and I that we were going to get up on the roof, because he didn't want the roof to collapse. Now, we had almost like, I guess, like two or three feet of snow on top of that roof and we shoveled snow, I mean shoveled snow, until we got all that off there.

Fredric Watson: *See, those were all flat roofs.*

Bette Jo Peisker: The trees just collapsed. You know, they just broke. Yeah. It was quite a snowfall.

Fredric Watson: *We came up here from California, so we didn't have really warm clothes and didn't have any snow—play toys, to play in the snow, so my folks got the—and my granddad—got the crispers out of the icebox, and then we used those as sleds.*

Interviewer: *[laughter] Yeah, that's great.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Oh really? Yeah.

Fredric Watson: *And there was—one of those dykes was along Lake Mead. There was a berm and of course the snow formed on that, so it was a nice sliding hill. I wonder what condition we left those things in when we moved out of Carver Park.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yeah, I think here in Henderson, we never had—I don't even think we had stop signs. We just had street lights, no stop signs, and from Boulder Highway all the way to Vegas, you just drove right on through it: no stop signs, no lights.

Interviewer: *People came through lickety-split, didn't they?*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yeah. We could get to Vegas in ten minutes, fifteen minutes then.

Interviewer: *Wow.*

Fredric Watson: *That's faster than now.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Well, yeah. No lights. No stop signs. You could get there—you just flew. Yeah, it was great.

Fredric Watson: *There were these gigantic athel trees, salt cedars in Whitney that grew right in the middle of the—in between the—*

Bette Jo Peisker: They still have those trees there. Some of those trees are still there, you know that? Unbelievable. Well you still have one, I think, there on—by The Joker also. I think there's still one there.

Fredric Watson: *Where the Swanky Club was. Near where the Swanky Club was.*

Bette Jo Peisker: The Swanky Club.

Fredric Watson: *Did you go down there and eat dinner very often?*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yeah! We ate there quite often.

Interviewer: *I heard that place was great.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yeah, it was super good. And, you know, the health department tried to stop it because they felt—that's when the health department really did their job—they didn't think it was good to have combinations of food like that, for people to make choices like that. Yeah, they gave them kind of a hassle, not letting them open up, but they finally did. And now we have buffets. [laughter]

Interviewer: *Yeah. [laughter]*

Bette Jo Peisker: I'm glad.

Fredric Watson: *Do you remember a place called Klinger's Ranch?*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yeah. Klinger's? Yeah. And a Roy Klinger? Yeah. That was over by Railroad Pass, right? Are you talking about that one or the one up here?

Fredric Watson: *The Klinger. Yes. See the Klinger—*

Bette Jo Peisker: But he had two places. He had one going to Boulder City and then one up here off of 215, right?

Fredric Watson: *Yes. See, I didn't find out—I read in a book about his—he had like a surplus yard where he sold things that he had gathered from the Hoover Dam project. And that was up by Railroad Pass. But there was a place—it was near the railroad track, the old Boulder local. Of course, there wasn't any Green Valley in those days, but if you went out that railroad track*

toward Green Valley, somewhere around there, there was a bunch of those athel trees and like a well of some sort.

Bette Jo Peisker: Well, they had—way back then, they had—they called it the Daydream Ranch. Do you remember that?

Fredric Watson: *I do remember that.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Is that the area that you're talking about?

Fredric Watson: *Yeah, I remember that. That was farther, out in Paradise Valley. Yeah. The Klinger's Ranch would have been more—*

Bette Jo Peisker: Now, Frankie was real close to the Klingers.

Fredric Watson: *Oh, really? He'd know some of that family?*

Bette Jo Peisker: Yeah. He knows that family real well.

Fredric Watson: *Oh, we'll have to talk to him.*

Interviewer: *Yeah. We need to talk with him.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Okay, because he can tell you about those.

Interviewer: *Well, Bette Jo, it's been really nice having you here and if there's anything else you'd like to share, that would be fine.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Well, that's about it, I think we covered quite a bit of Henderson.

Interviewer: *Well, thank you for coming.*

Bette Jo Peisker: Okay.