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Henderson Oral History Project

Bud Sutton

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Bud: My name is Bud Sutton. I came to Whitney, Nevada, December 21, 1941. Two weeks after Pearl Harbor. I was twelve years old at the time. My mother and father had arrived in this area in October and constructed a café on Boulder Highway in Whitney to serve the workers that were building the BMI plant. I came from New Mexico where I lived with my Grandmother for about a year. I remember coming across the dam, the war had been on for two weeks. There was a machine gun emplacement on the Arizona side. I was a Boy Scout, a first class Boy Scout at the time and very impressed with the military. My dad had been in the First World War at age sixteen and continued his interest. But there were on an LTR bus that you picked up in Kingman and came from Kingman to Las Vegas, the soldiers were, there were a jeep in front of the bus and a jeep behind, and no one could stop on the Dam. And interestingly there was a camp, an army camp there called Camp Williston on the Arizona side. Scoop Garside, who later was involved in the Review Journal, he was in the service. But Scoop wrote a column for the Review Journal. He was stationed there. His dad had been an early owner of the Review Journal as I recall. I knew Scoop from the army reserves in later years. We became good friends. He also had a printing company.

But coming across the Dam you went into Boulder City and as you came through what is now, I know as to be Railroad Pass you could see lights in the distance. Not many lights. The Railroad Pass Casino was there as big as it is today, the old one. And uh, as you went downhill there was just a two lane highway. You reached the town called Midway, Midway City. It's now Pitman. At that time it was named for Vail Pitman. It was called Midway City. There was a lot of activity. A lot of lights. People got on the bus and off the bus. And went on in to Las Vegas. Down there at the corner of Main and Fremont, it was then the Oberlin Hotel. Now it's the Las Vegas Club. That's, the bus stopped in a maybe a twelve foot wide room that sold tickets. That's where my mother met me. Now, finally I arrived in Las Vegas. You could park in Fremont Street. She took me out, back to Whitney. My mother wrote to me, as most mothers do, when I was living with my grandmother in New Mexico and told me about the wonderful valley and the snow-capped mountains. When I woke up on Monday morning of the 22nd of December, it wasn't like that at all. I remember as kids are adventurous. My suitcase was still somewhere between New Mexico and Las Vegas. And a lady there named Nellie Bunch. She was postmaster there at Whitney. And as Whitney is today, where the Accuracy Gun Shop is located, it's now East Las Vegas, that was the original post office that Nellie built and rented back to the government. But in the middle of the highway there's an apple tree and that was the side of the Bunch service station. Nellie Bunch and her husband, John, came out here from Missouri in the early '30's. And when there was just a dirt road. And a lot of bootlegging going on, she told me. And they built a gas station. In later years she was a big, big property owner. She and Florence Bond. Tropicana used to be known as Bond Road. Mrs. Bond and her husband, there, where Bond/Tropicana runs into Boulder Highway, they had a lumber yard. They sold a lot of lumber to the people. We bought lumber from them to build the restaurant, cafe. But I met Nellie Bunch and then I took off and walked over to the Whitney Mesa. There were streams out there, water deep enough to swim in. If you can imagine what it's like today when there are houses there and buildings there. All over the mesa I found padfoot paths that were well worn. Years later when I worked on a Masters in archeology there were sleeping circles there from what they called the San Diego men. There was a lot of activity here. To a twelve year old boy it was really incredibly wonderful. I suffered through the holiday and started school in Las Vegas on the Monday after New Years. Kayo Knudsen was principal of Eighth Street Grammar School. Now mind you, you had students in Whitney, or East Las Vegas, and Midway City, now Pitman. And you had a lot of the older students went to Boulder City. The younger students were transported into Las Vegas. Mr. Knudsen told my mother that they didn't have any room. I was in what you called B-7. I could either go back to 6th grade or I could go

to 8th grade, but I couldn't go to 7th grade. So I opted to 8th grade and went into B-8. They had five sections. It's where the, the school building is still there on Las Vegas Boulevard. And then I went up to 8A at the end of January. But at that time they decided they didn't want these kids from Whitney and Pitman out there. And Harvey Dondero, Athenia Dondero's husband, started what we called Duckridge School down on 25th Street, 25th and Bonanza. There was a CC camp there that had been in operation during the '30's. That's where we went to school. They built desks out of plywood. Had a wood stove there. And there were about 12 or 13 in 8th grade. 7th grade, they had all. We would come into school on a Union Pacific bus. The school lasted throughout that school year until May. Then the next year, the following year, I started Vegas High School but the students that were not in high school they were transported still to the CC camp. I stayed in Vegas High School for a semester.

Then my mother took a job working for North American Aviation in Los Angeles, in Inglewood as, in security. Before that she had sold, she got out of the restaurant business and went to work for the post office. There in Midway City or Pitman there was a post office. And there was also a grocery store. Uh, and, uh, in Whitney we had a grocery store that L. E. Netherton built. Called the Whitney Market. He was from Ransburg, California. I worked for him. Had my first job working for him in May, making ten dollars a week. People would come from up in Henderson from the temporary houses, or trailers, or wherever they lived. And they would shop either at the Whitney Market or in Pitman. You could find out around the desert, people were, the weather was pretty mild. You couldn't get air conditioners. The war was on. And, uh, people you'd find sleeping in mesquite groves. They'd go to work and come back and everything would be left. People were pretty honest. And you wouldn't bother. Kids wouldn't bother things. There in, by, right off Russell Road as you go into the super bowl there's a bridge. On the side that the utility company is located there was a town called Saint Ann. It was a tent town. And there were probably a hundred tents there that were rented to people to live. I sold newspapers down there. In Whitney we had a drugstore. We also had a doctor, a doctor named Garlington. And, uh, we also had a newspaper put out by Dick King called the Whitney News. It's incredible how people would come from all over the country and you melt here together. And, uh, coming out of the Depression, I didn't know what a depression was at 12 or 13. But at age 40 or 50 I certainly knew from my life. It's just remarkable how everyone would meld together. There was a lot of harmony. Well, my mother, she worked for the Whitney post office, she worked at the Pitman post office, or Midway post office. Went to California and then returned.

That summer I didn't work at the plant. I worked at the Las Vegas Army Air Base. You'd hitchhike into town and take a cattle car out to the base. It was a pretty good job. You had to be 16. Everybody lied about their age to get a defense job. That fall I started Basic High School as a sophomore and continued Basic High School until I graduated in May of 1946. My mother took a job at the first post office built in Henderson. Harold Baldwin was the postmaster. Julie Byrne, the wife of Bill Byrne, who later was in the Assembly and also a mayor of Henderson, she worked at the post office. She and my mother became lifelong friends. Virginia Payton, her husband, Bill, worked for Ralph Lamb and a number of sheriffs in the Clark County Sheriff's Department. She worked at the post office. Mind you there in Henderson the only way you could get mail was at general delivery or to have a post office box. And that was a meeting place for people in town.

In Henderson itself, you had a movie, the Victory Theatre. You had a drugstore that Mr. McNeff had. You had a department store that Bill Byrne later went into, but a couple of doctors of Rose de Lima hospital put money together to buy. I worked at the department store. There was a barbershop that Pratt Prince had, and another chap who has a son and grandson who are both dentists in Las Vegas today. There was a pool hall at Pikester and also a bowling alley. And we used to set pins and get paid and then

bring our girlfriends back and spend it to bowl. But it was fifteen cents a line at that time. You also had a market later built on the far side of the department store. It was a good market. Mr. Levy, whose son, Al Levy, was prominent in real estate in Vegas and whose grandson is still in Las Vegas. He had a hand in the market. And also market spot. Basic High School had maybe a hundred and ten, fifteen, twenty students at any given time. But I tell you what's remarkable to me in retrospect is the motivation that people had at the time to become educated. I don't think my dad went beyond the seventh grade. Neither did my mother. You wouldn't know it, though. She was very prominent and one of the charter members of Women Democratic Party and BPW in Henderson and was in business. I always wondered, education was very important to her.

There was a chap named George Linsmith. Brightest fellow I've ever known. I've known a lot of people. He became a cardiac, pediatric cardiologist. And his mother was very active in the Rose de Lima Auxiliary and his dad, both parents were well-educated. And I always thought that gave maybe George an edge in life so we went after education. I wound up with four degrees and worked on a fifth before I wound up. But everyone in my graduating class of 1946, at one time or another everyone served in the military. In fact, four of us left the day after graduation. I was thirty days past my seventeenth birthday to enter the service. And I went in the Navy. Went to Navy school and then I went to China with the Marines before I came back to Pearl Harbor. Then I was told five and a half years in active duty. Wound up a Lieutenant-Colonel.

Interviewer: How many were in the class?

Bud: Eight boys and eight girls. Out of the eight boys there were two attorneys, one the pediatric cardiologist, one an engineer, one a school principal, one boy stayed in the Navy, Bill Walker, Bill Lund who moved to Oregon, and Jay Prince he moved to Salt Lake. There were three girls that obtained degrees out of the eight. But the class of '45 was equally as effective. There was Don Reid, Harry, the senator's older brother, he became a metallurgist. Bill Clements got a Ph.D. Bill West went to West Point. God, it brings tears to my eyes, because these were such great people. Johnny Quintana got a degree in engineering from the University of Nevada. Jim Sarbin became a doctor just like his dad had been a doctor. He wrote to me last when he was over in the battle of Okinawa. We stayed close the years he went to Ohio State to get his degrees. Class of '47, Gene Trumbo who led Basic High School to its first state championship basketball game and was all-state. He was also student body president and valedictorian. Imagine he and his wife had a baby, they were fifteen years old. He didn't drop out of school. When I talked to Gene at a reunion, I hadn't seen him since he ran a gas station down in Los Angeles when I was in the service during the Korean War. We got together. But the baby was in his forties then and they had another child. He wound up with two Ph.D's. Boy, the motivation. What really gets me, this town was supposed to fold up. It wasn't supposed to go on. But you had such good people. I think of Mr. Al Ganvert who worked down at the Chevron Station across from Rose de Lima and Earl Turner who came back from service. And Frank Morrell. Boy, there was some real leadership there. Bill Byrne. It amazed me when I got back here and got into law practice. We opened an office out in Henderson. I became more amazed every day when I'd go out there and see what's happening. Bill Byrne happened to be mayor at the time. And it's never stopped. There was a friend of mine who passed away recently, he was the probably barroom brawler of Pitman Strip, Alex Coronas. Harry Reid, at Alex's mass, his get-together, sent a video out and told how Alex came to his rescue. Heck of a fighter. But he and I after football practice we'd hitch-hike home. He lived in Pitman. I lived in Whitney. You'd never guess who would pick us up invariably, either one night or the other. It would be Father Moran. And I was taking Latin. I learned what then, how to say whiskey in Latin. Or Mr. Gibson, whose grandson is mayor and whose son, Jim, went to Annapolis. It's so interesting. But invariably

we'd be down off of, near Boulder Highway, where you come down that road, I don't know what it's called today. It's an intersection of Boulder Highway. About that time they'd come by and we'd get a ride in. And that's how we got to and from after school. We had to get your own way up here to school every day. But people would pick you up. You'd hitchhike. The girls were able to get a carpool. The war was on and you had gas rationing.

There in Whitney there was a man that became very prominent. His name was Ellie Thurman-Slim's. Had Slim's Ice and Fuel. He delivered ice up and down Whitney and Pitman or Midway City. I worked for him for seventeen-fifty a week. And that was a great summer job. But it just, I don't go up and down Boulder Highway. There, incidentally, where Boulder Highway is intersected by Tropicana, on the southeast corner there was an Indian village the summer of '42. They brought in a group of Indians from Arizona to work on putting the four-lane highway through. You know, this was unusual. This four-lane highway that we have, two lanes going out, two lanes coming in. That was built in 1942 when the war was on so there would be fast access to and from Henderson. Big item, this magnesium during the war. But it's there. Of course, you wouldn't know that today. And the city of Las Vegas things have really, really changed. I would welcome any questions.

Interviewer: Do you have a theory about why, what caused all the motivation?

Bud: In Henderson or in my class?

Interviewer: In the classes and that group of people.

Bud: Probably most of the parents weren't educated. I'll tell you a story about Senator Reid's mother. I have a cowbell in my toolbox at home that Mrs. Reid and my mom would ring when Don and Dale and I played football. Don was a year ahead of me and Dale, the next brother, was two years below me. We developed a wonderful friendship over the years. I came home on leave from the Korean War in December of 1951. Searchlight, Nevada was a wide-open town. So my dear friend, Alex, and I went down to Searchlight. Alex Crumps. And met a lovely young lady that was tending bar. So made arrangements to date her the next night. Came back the next night but I thought I'd stop in and see Mrs. Reid. Mrs. Reid, she was a lovely red-headed lady. That's why they call Harry, the Senator, Pinky. He favors his mother. The other three boys favored their dad. When we had a football banquet everyone thought he was one of the players, he was that youthful, Mr. Reid. His name was Harry. But Mrs. Reid said, "Bud, does your mother know that you're going out tonight with a lady that tends bar?" And I just got the biggest chuckle. I'd been away to a war and I was twenty-one years old. But I often, Inez was her name, and I often, when I'd see her we'd laugh about that. She was so concerned and all. But people looked out for each other. It just, through the years when I'd run across people. Something kids don't do today. To me, Coach McDoniel, who has been mayor of Henderson, physically your most perfect specimen of manhood I've ever known. He lived at 11 Wyoming in Henderson, coach after he married. He lived next door to us. We saw him, I would see him often. When he was principal of Basic High School I came out here and gave some addresses to the assemblies. But people, you had courtesy and respect. That's something that all the arrogance and money in the world can't, you have to have that. And the parents of the kids that we knew then, it was instilled. They were very nice kids. No one got in trouble. They were very respectful. And even to this day it's Mr. Coach McDoniel or Mr. Burkholder and it would never change.

Interviewer: Well, your parents came and the town was supposed to fold up and go away. But they stayed. That's true of most of the people we're talking to. Something, very hardy stock in that group. But why do you think people did stay and wanted to stay once they got here?

Bud: They saw opportunity. My mom worked for the post office. And, uh, she remarried. There's a street in Pitman named for her. Then she went into business in Las Vegas, in the jewelry business. And then she sold that and worked for the Desert Inn for a number of years until she retired. The people came back from the war, from the service, and, boy, you wanted to make up for lost time. Remarkable. There were all these fellows who went to school. There was a lot of competition with students under the GI Bill. Look at the result. I know so many fellows in Las Vegas that were in the classes of '45, '6 and '47 and '8 that had gone in the service during World War II or the Korean War that used their GI Bill. Most of them became attorneys. One became a dentist you recall. But it was used and you just weren't going to sit back and not take your stab at it. Some went into business. Alex, when he passed away he had a multi-million dollar estate from land purchases and acquisitions and the opportunity's been there.

Interviewer: Well not only was it used but well excelled. Tell us a little bit about your career, 'cause you didn't just open a law practice.

Bud: Oh no. You work your way through law school. I went to the University of Denver and came back here. Bill Compton, who was a judge out of Henderson. His daughter, Marsha, graduated from Basic High School in 1960. She was valedictorian. Wonderful girl. He was sort of, rather, my mentor. Gave me encouragement. It was different then than today. I think you maybe have five or six thousand attorneys in the state and they're full of yellow page ads. And back then you didn't. I haven't been involved in practice for over thirty years. Life has been very good to me. I have a wife and six children: four daughters and two sons and three grandsons and one granddaughter, all very healthy, very happy. My kids have all done well. They're all educated. The oldest girl is a doctor. The next one is a housewife. She lost her husband a couple of years ago. He was one of few players that Tarkanian recruited that came out here that gave it up. He gave it up because he wanted an education. The other boys and girls have degrees in hotel administration and work for local hotels. And the one boy is in graduate school. One boy, I hope he gets the lead out and goes to medical school. But and they go on. As you get older, I'll be seventy-six next week, you realize more and more every time I mention or I go into Henderson I'm just flabbergasted. I've seen townsite houses that I, first they were involved in selling years ago for thirty-five hundred dollars sell for two hundred twenty-five thousand bucks. Now that's phenomenal and there's a shortage of them. You just, right there, it's just amazing. And it's going. You have great people up there in Henderson now.

Interviewer: Well you saw an opportunity and capitalized on it. But, um, is that why you came back? Why did you come back to Henderson...?

Bud: Well, my mother was here and I'd never thought about going anywhere else. I wanted to go in the FBI. Then I found out you had to be twenty-five years of age. And I wasn't, that was after my first year at the university in Reno. I was only nineteen so I had a long wait. And I laid out of school for a year and then the Korean War came along and I went back in service. When I came back I started University of Mexico to study archeology. Albuquerque was much too tame. After you live in Reno and Las Vegas. I hightailed back to Reno. I decided then I'd make a stab and I got accepted to law school back in Washington D.C. Took my wife and then baby back in a U-Haul trailer. While I was back there the senator, from Carengrove, I had a job with, he died. I was a Republican. But my mother was a

staunch diehard Democrat. So I came all the way back. I worked at Titanium. Worked double jobs, in Vegas days as an accountant and nights at swing shift at Titanium to make money to go back to law school. Met Carl Blake, who years later I was his attorney. But at that time I was working at a menial job, but it was a good job and very honest work. And then I went to school at Denver and I worked myself through school with the GI Bill working as a grocery checker at King super market. One of my friends in law school was Pete Dominici, who's senator from New Mexico. It's strange as you go through life how you meet friends. Some of the people that we met in the early days here are very politically attuned today. But you don't know it at the time. That's why you don't ever burn your bridges behind you because you never know when things can come up.

Interviewer: You worked up at the district court in Carson City, didn't you? Weren't you, uh, can you tell us about that?

Bud: I was in the U.S. Attorney's office down here. Under Howard Babcock. Only three of us in the state at the time, one U.S., two assistants.

Interviewer: So did you argue in the State Supreme Court there then?

Bud: Oh, a lot of times, yeah. In the Ninth Circuit I had cases I put in the United States, I haven't argued cases in the United States Supreme Court but I filed briefs there. Court of Military Appeals I have, Court of Claims. But that was all thirty years ago.

Interviewer: Well, you remember, you were a witness to some of the decisions that were made that made Henderson what it is, so what do you think was the turning point with Henderson?

Bud: Well, I'll tell you two men that I, really would be Bill Erlia and Hersch Trumbo. They bought the Henderson Telephone Company from War Assets Administration in 1948-49. You had dial tone service in your homes in Henderson. You didn't have it in Las Vegas. You still had to pick up a phone and ask for 315W or some such number. They were a long way off. Not these two fellows. And they would put on their spikes and do the work themselves. Oh, marvelous. Boy, really! Just the enterprise. You just want to wish everyone, anyone like that, you give them all the help you can, that you can. Because, they did such a valuable service. And, of course, being able to buy the plant. And getting in that realm. And being able to buy these houses. This was cheap, low-cost housing. After the war, everyone needed a house. And, uh, during the war it was wonderful to get into a Henderson house or a townsite over at Victory Village, or Carver Park or the trailer court because they had air-conditioners. You couldn't buy one in town. You'd have to make do with what you had. But air-conditioning was a big item. You were really living if you had air-conditioning. We didn't have it in Whitney. It was marvelous when we finally moved to Henderson. We moved up.

Interviewer: Well, given, um, those decisions and the good people who were here do you think it was jealousy that gave Henderson the old reputation when they called it Hooterville, being just a blue-collar town and never going to amount to anything?

Bud: I was back in Bainbridge, Maryland in a Navy school and I worked in the base library. Came across a map of the United States and here Henderson was on the map. This was 1946. I was so excited I had something to write my mom about. Cause here it was. No, you were ostracized if you were from Henderson or Basic. And now you have a laugh at everyone because you're the second largest town in the state. Oh, it, but that, maybe that was the motivation. But I have to think you had a

very active VFW group in '38 and '48. You had a very active American Legion post. Post 40, I was Post Commander and I was later department commander of the legion. You had a very active Eagles Lodge, a very active Masonic Lodge, Mount Moriah. Just a stand of people. There's a man we mentioned, Jack Sylvester's father-in-law, Jack has just passed away. His father-in-law, Mr. Sylvester, Mr. Crawford rather, Jackie's dad, his wife's dad, he was a Thirty-third Degree Mason. Boy, that's a standout. You don't have many of those. That brought a lot of, just from Mount Moriah Lodge. There was a lady that just passed away recently that was very dear. Her name was Jan Smith. Her son, John L. Smith, writes for the Journal. Knew her and her twin brother when they went to Boulder High School and I went to Basic. Her husband, Prince, worked out at the Desert Inn where my mom worked. But they were all Democrats. And as John Smith said in his column about his mom, she told me I was one of the few Republicans she would ever speak to. But this dear lady, I remember she was called for jury duty in Federal Court. The Judge Ross asked her if she knew any attorneys. And she said yes, she knew me. And I couldn't place her. But that had been fifteen years since high school. And I never forgot her after that and we just stayed in constant touch. The story about her putting a second mortgage on her house to sponsor Michael Callaghan, you remember governor? There were a lot of supporters out here. You talk about grass roots. I think that had a little bit to do with the prosperity of Henderson too, when Mike became governor. John or Jan and Prince raised their kids out here in Henderson. And people stayed on here. I know the Crums family, they're down to the third or fourth generation going to schools here. Although not Basic High School, going to Foothill. Can you imagine having all these high schools in Henderson and in just fifty years. Oh, it's amazing. It keeps going. And all the other little little schools from kindergarden to eighth grade. No, but, uh, and it just, people take an interest in the community. And I venture to say the old townsite, it's all going to be gone, it's all going to be downtown someday soon.

Interviewer: And it's still a place to call home.

Bud: It sure is. Yeah, I live in Henderson. Yeah. Yeah.

Interviewer: So you've stayed since you were twelve. Basically here except for you had to travel around.

Bud: Well I went the years in service and school. Yeah.

Interviewer: You went to Reno to college? Right?

Bud: I went there one year before and then two years after I came back from the war. And then Denver and then the University of Southern California. Then I went to the University of Virginia. Then the University of New Mexico. I used to fly over and do work at graduate school. I always wanted to become an archeologist. Found thousands and thousands of artifacts there. It's amazing what's out there. Not much any longer but what you could find.

Interviewer: Okay.

Bud: I don't know if as a librarian you might be interested that Nellie Bunch had a lending library in Whitney back in, well back when the war was going on. All through the years she built a lovely, lovely home back in what they call Bunch. They subdivided out there. The door was opening when you borrow, borrow books. I always thought the East Las Vegas Library should be named for Nellie Bunch. She didn't have any, she and John didn't have children. It's probably the closest thing she had to a son.

But those were just hardy people. Boulder City has been much the same way. It's kept its growth in check, but it's still prospered. It was supposed to, wasn't supposed to go like it was, is. Vegas has always been good.

Interviewer: Well, the two cities, Boulder City and Henderson, chose two different paths to success.

Bud: Exactly. And then here it goes.

Interviewer: Okay. Well, Bud, thank you very much.

Bud: You're welcome.

Interviewer: It was really useful and enjoyable to hear all the stories. We might ask you back to talk about some more of these people.

Bud: There's just so many interesting people really that when you've gone through life here. Listening to Mr. Blue, I represented Tom Hanley, too, the sheet metal workers. Tom was notorious. He and his son Granby were murder incorporated here. I knew I'd heard the name in the background. When I was down in San Pedro for the baby's baptism, they wanted to know what was across the bridge. I said well that's federal prison. Well, my wife knew a Tom Hanley and knew of Granby and I said that's the last time I saw Tom is over there. It's the darnedest thing. But here it is you know 'cause everybody knew each other back then as things went around. I can remember Bill Boyd who has the Boyd Group. There used to be a barbecue on Fremont Street where the attorneys would gather in the morning for coffee right across the street from El Portal Luggage. That's another great success story. And we had George Dickerson, Charlie Miles and Howard Babcock who labors on the bench and my law partner. It'd usually be the same fellows and we were talking about what housing costs. And I was making, paying \$118 a month payment looking to build, buy a house out in Desert Hills where I'd have to pay \$125. And you know as an attorney you only made money when someone paid you, you didn't have a guaranteed paycheck. And Bill Boyd was thinking about moving over off Wingert, off of, gosh, near Bruce right off of Eastern in a place where the payment would be \$230 a month. Of course his dad had a couple of casinos. But we were, \$230, that was unheard of to pay that kind of house payment. Today he's one of the wealthiest men in America. But that's the contrast with how things have changed. You don't think much of a hundred dollar bill anymore, but boy back then you sure did. You could buy a house for \$800 down I'll tell you.

Interviewer: Well I sense a great deal of pride in what has happened here in your voice and other people that were here from Henderson. It's good to know people are happy about what has happened here.

Bud: Well there's some people that like I told to Wayne, Ruth Ball, who was secretary at Basic High School, her son-in-law Hal Smith, who was on city council for years. You never hear about Mrs. Ball. She used to, she lived at, I think at 7 Nevada. She used to give ice cream socials. Homemade ice cream. And generate money for a benefit. She was one of the sweetest women you'd ever meet in your life. But no one knows she ever existed. That's unfortunate.

Interviewer: Well, we can do something about that. Is that Tina's mother? Is that Tina Smith's mother?

Bud: I, it's Hal's wife. Yeah.

Interviewer: Well, we'll be interviewing them. So those are the kind of things we want to identify to make sure...

Bud: Well she, she was, I can see that dear lady. So great. I've made it a practice over the years to, every summer, to take care of graveyards, graves of ancestors around the country. And I named one son Die after I found a grave, or I didn't find a grave. I found that the baby had only lived six weeks and was buried somewhere in the cemetery. So I put a monument there so somebody would know the guy been there. Even though he'd only lived six weeks. But it's the same way with people passing through Henderson. Boy, they should be recognized. Paul Kronus and I have talked about that. Getting names. You hate to see, they all contributed something. Just being able to go, we used to have competitions from fellows coming in in the summer jobs from Vegas to come out here to work at the plant. We'd all, we'd laugh about it but these were great summer jobs and first come, first. So we'd usually leave school about April or May, and get a job early down at the plant so we'd be sure to have a summer job to make good money. I think, it seemed to me making right around fifty dollars a week. It wasn't, it was pretty darn good money working about forty-eight hours. Just a little bit over a dollar an hour. That was nothing. They didn't put kids in any dangerous jobs. But a lot of pick up and moving. Clean up.

Interviewer: Well I'll tell you we'll get you and Paul and a few others in here and we'll start making lists of names of people we need to remember. How's that.

Bud: There's a street in Pitman called Kronus, named for his family. Rightly so. You know, the lady needs to be commended. Look at all the people here. And someday there will be questions, well how did all this all happen or start?

Interviewer: That's a phenomenal story and only you can tell it. So we greatly appreciate it.

Bud: I went on active duty.

Interviewer: Okay.

Bud: This is off the record. Just a side note. There was a boy, a very good looking young man named Harold McCoy that was in the class of '45. And he and Frank Smoke and I, the last time I saw these chaps we were hitchhiking down Boulder Highway right with the intersection by Rose de Lima coming to Vegas. Frank wound up as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Marine Corp. as a pilot. I'm down at Fort McArthur on active duty. I'm going in to get my BOP for the two weeks was to spend there. This fellow looks at me and he said, oh, I see you're from Vegas. You ever hear of Henderson. And I said well absolutely. And I looked and it was Corky McCoy. He had made the Army his career. He'd been General Westmoreland's Sergeant Major in Vietnam. He'd been through World War II, Korea and Vietnam. And here we were reunited after all these years. Strange.