

Henderson Libraries

Henderson Oral History Project

**Judith Hamblin,
Part 1**

Judith Hamblin, part I

Interviewer: We are interviewing Judith Hamblin. Welcome! Um, well let's start from the beginning. Um, let's start with your parents...your parents' names?

Judith: My parents' names were Robert, Robert Byron Hamblin and Elgin Arvena Hamblin. She never went by Elgin other than within the family. She went by Peggy. Everybody in town knew her as Peggy. And that came from the fact that she and her sister learned to dance by singing songs to each other and they sang "Peggy O'Neil". And so she was called...Aunt May would call her sister Peggy. "C'mon, Peggy, it's time to practice" and that type of thing. So, and they moved here from...actually they came down about six weeks before I was born. Uh, from Reno and they had come from California up to Reno. And from, before that my parents...uh, my Dad worked in Kansas. He worked in the mines...uh, what are they, coal mines I believe, lead mines, lead mines, that's what they were, and he harvested wheat and that type of thing. But they grew up in, down in southeast Kansas. And they only came to California in '39. Then they went to Reno in early... late 1940, and they came down here in May of '41 and I was born in June.

Interviewer: And you were born in...?

Judith: Las Vegas.

Interviewer: Las Vegas.

Judith: At the old Clark County Hosp...Clark County Hospital which is of course now UMC.

Interviewer: Oh.

Judith: And I see that they're about to tear down the last of those remaining buildings.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Judith: It was an old pink and white building set out in the desert away from everything. There was nothing out there except the hospital. And it was a county hospital and they paid seven dollars for me. (Laugh)

Interviewer: (Laughing) Seven whole dollars?

Judith: That's what, that's what the doctor and the hospital bill came to...was seven dollars.

Interviewer: And, um, you have siblings?

Judith: I have a sister, Roberta, and she was born in Kansas. She's ten years older than I am, and my brother, Ronald, who lives now in Denver. Roberta lives in Boise and they were both born in Kansas and they came West with them of course. Actually Mother came west and told Daddy if he didn't come and get out of the mines that he'd kill himself, which was probably true. And, uh, and so she came west and she said if you want, if you want a life with us you're gonna have to come out to California. So she went to her family who had moved out to California several years earlier, early in the '30s. And so Daddy followed her shortly. (Chuckle) He got the message.

Interviewer: (Chuckle). And so he went to Reno.

Judith: Right.

Interviewer: And then how did he end up in Henderson?

Judith: Um, they knew that there were jobs down here. They knew that they were getting...that they were beginning to build the plant. THE plant...and of course that is not an agricultural term for the oldies. It means THE plant...and, uh, and so he came down to work on...as general construction. At first he worked for a man named Oscar Logan, and, uh, Oscar Logan was the one that had the contract to build the first school down in Searchlight. And the summer that I was born Daddy...when, um, the first time he really took me out quote on a trip, on an automobile trip, Daddy had gotten a, a load of blackboards that he was to take to use at the school in Searchlight because he would drive back and forth. And, uh, he took the load of blackboards and the family and they went down to the...to Searchlight, dropped off the blackboards, and went on down to the river and had a picnic, a family picnic and came home. That was my first real trip in an automobile. And, uh, and what was really unique, was that was in 1941. When I started teaching in 1972 I went down to Searchlight as a permanent sub and the blackboards with my father's initials on the side of them were still hanging...in the one-room school house. That was before the Harry Reid Elementary was built and it was the original old schoolhouse up on the hill. And his initials "R.H." and the date were still on the, on the edge of the blackboard.

Interviewer: So he continued with construction?

Judith: He continued with construction and then it wasn't long after that that when the plant itself opened, um, then Mother and Daddy both got jobs at the plant. Dad was a mill, millwright and Mama was the little bomb maker. (Chuckle) I don't know how else to explain it, but she had, but she would take...when the ingots of magnesium and manganese would come off of the, off of the belt and so forth, they had great big huge asbestos gloves and they would pick up the ingot. And that's what this wonderful picture is that I have of her is, uh, picking up the ingot. And then they put them on the, on the flat on the tow motor and then she drove the tow motor and put it wherever they stored them...down in cell J or whichever one it was. And, uh, but that's what they did is these women would...and, of course, magnesium is not heavy even when it's great big and they would lift these hot ingots off and put them on the, on the platform.

Interviewer: So how old were you when your mother started working?

Judith: Um, maybe two...or less. And my sister took care of me during the day.

Interviewer: Your sister...

Judith: And then when school started and, uh, Roberta went...originally because the school had not opened yet...so I must have been younger than that. Um, I think the schools opened in, in October of '43 and that was the original compound where City Hall is now and it goes from Atlantic to Basic and Water Street to Lead. And that entire block was the school, was the school. We had the elementary school, the junior high and the high school. Of course in those days, there again elementary was, uh, K-8 and then high school was 9-12. But two wings on one side, the gym in the middle and then the

elementary schools were on the other side. And there was a green fence that was, oh, yea high, maybe two feet high, and it was made out of railroad ties from the railroad that ran, you know, between Vegas and the Dam. And, uh, it was made out of railroad ties and they had painted it green. And, uh, later on when we came, became what...in 1954 I think it was, we consolidated with the school district and as a county school district into Clark County. Before that we were Duck Creek School District, we were Railroad Pass School District, we were the Henderson School District and finally then it consolidated into Clark County School District. And I believe it was 1954 and the first thing they did was take down that fence and put up, put up chain link fence and locked us out. And you see that was very traumatic for everybody in Henderson. I mean that was a county move.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm.

Judith: But it was very dramatic for everybody because up until that time that was our entire entertainment center. Uh, when school wasn't in session because of the sidewalks at school that's where you went roller skating. Uh, we could play on the swings up there. There were no parks in Henderson at all and it was the only place to play is where they had the swings and the slides and so forth "up on the hill" as we called it. And, uh, and that was the first thing that the school district did and I was mad at them then and I, I think I'm still mad at them (laughing).

Interviewer: (Laugh)

Judith: This long later and I taught for them for thirty years so...but that was the first thing that angered us as citizens of Henderson is the fact that they closed our school and our, and our community center off. They had everybody except the Catholics and by then they had the...the Catholics...the government donated the, the land where St. Peters is built. And they donate, donated the land which is now the community, uh, senior citizen center, uh, there off of Wyoming and Texas area. And, uh, that was the Community Church. And they built that, the government actually built both of the buildings. And, uh, and all the other churches, the Baptist and the Presbyterians and the Mormons and everybody else had church and they just took turns all day Sunday having church at the school. And if you had a long, a large congregation you had, you were privileged to have it in the, in the auditorium, in the gym/auditorium. And if you had a very small congregation, uh, as some of the churches were rather small and so forth, then you got a large classroom. And they had pianos that they would move from one room to the other whether it was for music class during the week or for church services on Sunday. Everything met at the church. You either met at the church or you met at, at the theater.

Interviewer: Oh, the theater, too.

Judith: Oh, yeah. And there again, that's where we had our Christmas programs, in the, at the old Henderson theater, the Victory Theater it was called.

Interviewer: The Victory Theater.

Judith: Mm-hmm. And, uh, Mr. Van Wagenen, uh, can't think of his first name...Earl, I think. We always called him Van. But I think his first name was Earl. Uh, you know, he would open it up for anything. If you had a large meeting that you wanted a, a citizens' type meeting, or anything, uh, they would have that at the theater because that was the one place...especially if they had to coordinate, and speaking of coordinate, that was...our original city government was called a Coordinating Council. And representatives from various entities, the, the religious factions within the chu...or within the

community, the political factions, the PTA, uh, the school officials, um, the plant officials, the quote government officials that we had, um, which were far and few between...uh, all of them met in a week, in a weekly council meeting. And they coordinated who got to use the gym, who got to use Victory theater, who got to use which classrooms, uh, any, any problems within the community and all the blowing papers and what we were going to do about that...and the blackouts, which we still have them and that type of thing. And they would meet...and my mother was on the Coordinating Council. I don't remember who she...I think she represented the PTA if I remember right. But she was one of them. Ida Belle Riggins who later became one of our mayors was one of them and, um, just the leaders within the community. Doctor French, of course, who became the first mayor.

Interviewer: Right.

Judith: And Bill Byrne, the businessmen were represented. Pratt Prince who later became a councilman. The Princes lived just across the street from us. Um, one of the sisters, I remember after they built the hospital, one of the sisters was on the council. Uh, the doctors were represented and so forth. So it was really a town council and that's exactly what they did is they simply coordinated what they were doing.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Judith: You know, far better than we do now with our quote modern communications (chuckle). They all sat down across the table from each other with their little papers and mapped it out and that was it, you know. If you're going, if you're going to have the, the school Christmas program in part of the gym, well, we had to make sure that that coordinated with the sports schedule so that you weren't playing basketball and doing Christmas practices at the same time and that. And it was very, very effective.

Interviewer: Wow. I didn't know that. Um, when you, um, moved to town, where did you, where did you live?

Judith: When we first moved here we lived at 39...let me think...we lived at 39 Water and the way that the men were allotted their houses was they had a large pin board of the city, of the city map down at the plant. And the men stood and threw darts and wherever your dart landed, whichever house it was, when that house was finished you got to move in.

Interviewer: Oh (laughing).

Judith: And it didn't matter if you were one of the, the gentlemen from the companies you know, that went together that made up Basic Magnesium. And of course, most of them lived in Vegas anyhow. Uh, some of them moved out here after the houses were available but most of them stayed in Vegas. And, um, but it didn't matter if you were a foreman or a, a common laborer or what...whenever your dart on your house and they put it down on the paper, when it was done you got to move in. So we moved into the fourth house that was completed...and it was at 39 Water. And later Hershel Trumbo who started Henderson Telephone Company moved into that house. But we only lived there a very, very short time, and the people next door to us was a family named Pease, and they left and went back to the Midwest wherever they were from. It seems like it was Oklahoma. But they left shortly after that and moved back to Oklahoma and so we got to move next door which was a three bedroom house. We originally were in a two bedroom. But I learned to walk in the two bedroom house because

when we moved, I can...very young...I had a good memory then...don't ask me what I had for breakfast. (Chuckle) I, um, I learned to walk and because there was no...the window, our bedroom window was here and the house faced this way. The door faced this way from 39 over to 35 and I would walk out off of the little step and hand things to my sister in the window across, across the quote yard. Uh, actually it was a driveway and a ditch. Uh (chuckle).

Interviewer: (Laugh)

Judith: But there was nothing there but I would go and hand her little things through the window so I could help move. And so we, we were in the house there on 35...actually we moved here on May the fourth, 1942 and that was the end of '39. And I think it was like the end of August or, or, uh, no it would have been maybe '43, maybe just before school started that we actually moved into 35 Water. And we stayed there until I was nineteen when my parents sold the house and I moved to Mallory Street, which has its own history itself (chuckle). And, uh, we moved down on Mallory and I've been there ever since. So, and when we moved in Water Street was not paved. They had a construction fence because they were building the houses from Victory to Pacific and from Water to Boulder Highway all of those ways and so forth. Uh, they did that and the cut-off was at Water Street and they were at the same time laying the water line that went all the way down from the, the reservoir on the corner of Ocean, which is appropriate, Ocean and Water, and it came down and went to the plant. And they were still laying that water line when we moved in and so there was no Water Street. It was just a ditch without, with piping under it. They hadn't even built up yet.

Interviewer: Oh. Do you remember the tent cities at all?

Judith: Yes. Yes, I can remember the tents over on, where Victory Village became.

Interviewer: Is that where they were?

Judith: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm. They were on the corner like, like from, uh, where Walmart and so forth is now.

Interviewer: And later became Victory Village then?

Judith: And that became...yes, the government cleared those out – after they got them into homes – they cleared those out and the government came along and built the apartments and you had Victory Village on one side and then a little bit further down and behind what is, uh, behind Albertson's and down that way where a trailer park and so forth is now was Carver Park. And Carver Park was our answer to segregation because most of the Blacks lived there, the colored people. And if they were lucky enough to get into Henderson, uh, many of them came from Westside and, of course, that was the segregated area when I was little was Westside over on F Street and E Street and so forth. And they came out and they would live in Carver Park. Now, uh, uh, the Caucasian families also lived in Carver Park. It just depended on...but the Black families were definitely segregated into, into Carver Park.

Interviewer: Um, were...

Judith: The best kids I went to school with were in there.

Interviewer: Yeah. Were the schools segregated?

Judith: No.

Interviewer: No.

Judith: No, not at all. Uh, I had...I went to, I went to a private kindergarten because they didn't have...well, we still don't have mandatory kindergarten in this state so, uh, but when I started to school, several, several of the parents got together and hired a teacher and we met at the Carver Park Recreation Center and...for a private kindergarten and then we went from there into, into the school system itself. And a lot of old families represented in there...the Princes and Jack Ivory was in my class and Kirby Trumbo and all of us...so, it was fun. I remember graham cracker and recess. (Chuckle) I remember playing tether ball. (Laugh)

Interviewer: (Laugh)

Judith: And I remember she sang to us. She had a beautiful voice. Her name was Miss Nichols and I don't know where they hired her from but she had a beautiful voice. And she used to sing songs to us and, uh, and, uh, she would sing-song-y when she read to us. She would stop and break into a little song about something that was going on in the story.

Interviewer: Um, did like Carver Park and Victory Village, did they have, um, the communal...the little community itself? Did they have social...?

Judith: Yes. Each one of them had a community center and, uh, the one in Victory Village is where we first started having our teenage dances because that was...after they built that and again they were still coordinating the use of the gym and everything, they weren't going to turn a whole bunch of teenagers loose in a gym when they could use it for other things. You know, for quote grown-up things and all, and so it was a long time before we got to use the gym per se...um, for those kinds of...but, but the first teenage dances or...when my brother and sister, both being older than I, you know, seven and ten years older than I, if they went to a teenage party, quote and unquote, uh, it was usually at the Victory Village Community Center. And, uh, and they had a really nice dance floor. I remember it was that red concrete. And I just, I just thought red concrete was wonderful. But we also had community activities down here in front of the plant. Uh, the government had put in Quonset huts and, uh, and then when the Quonset after the...well, not even after the war was done...but they built...oh, I know, they built concrete to set the Quonset huts on and they didn't get as many Quonset huts as they built concrete slabs for. And so they would go and they would string the lights connected to something in the plant, uh, one of the poles and so forth, and they would string lights around and set up chairs and so forth and we'd have dances out in the open right there in front of, in front of the plant. And that's where the adults came for their entertainment. Uh, and the kids came too. I mean there wasn't, you know, everybody came to it as, as children and all. They...the kids would run around and cause havoc and, and, and the adults would dance. Sometimes they'd have a local, whoever were the musicians in the group that had instruments, you know, would play or they would play records, uh, whatever it took to entertain them. And they would string the lights up and they put the chairs around the edges.

Interviewer: Did they do anything specific for holidays?

Judith: Uh, almost everything was connected to Vegas because, of course, that's where the shopping was. Um, I learned at a very tender unfortunate age because by then mother had left the

plant and went to work...daddy still worked at the plant but mom left the plant and worked at Sears in Las Vegas on the corner of Sixth and Fremont, uh, right across from the El Cortez. And I used to, before I was old enough to start to school and my sister needed to go to school, my brother and sister needed to go to school, I had an aunt who lived in Las Vegas. And I would ride to work with my mother in the morning, on Monday mornings and she'd send Ron and Roberta to school. I would get in the car and go with her because they, they shared rides and so forth then. The bus service was not the best. But they would share rides and carpool and we would go to Vegas and that's where I learned to read. I wasn't old enough to go to school yet but that's where I learned to read because I'd read all of the, all of the road signs as we'd go down the street. You know everybody else in the world was learning to read "See Dick Run" and Judy was learning to read "Gamble, Casino, Slot Machine" (chuckle) and those were my first quote stories that I put together. I would, I would put little words like that together into a story instead of "See Dick Run, See Jane Hop" or whatever, whatever the rest of the kids in the world were learning. And so, we would ride in and mother would cross the street over on the corner of Sixth and Fremont in front of the El Cortez and would put me on the bus. I was three. She would put me on the bus and set me right behind the bus driver of the city buses in Las Vegas. And, uh, she would send me and she'd say, "Now my sister will meet you" at whatever corner it was. She lived over in the Biltmore area, and, um, and so she would, uh, put me on the bus and I'd ride the bus very prim and proper and behaved very well. And I would get over there and my Aunt May would be waiting for me and I'd get off of the bus and I would stay, I would stay the week with her and usually mother stayed with me...would come over after work and stay with me on Wednesday night so I wouldn't get homesick. And then we would come home, uh, Uncle Pete and Aunt May would bring me back to mother on Friday evening. And, uh, when we came...when Mom came home from work I would get to come home from my vacation. (Chuckle) That's what it was called.

Interviewer: (Laughing)

Judith: My vacation, and, uh, and, uh, I would come home then for the weekend and be with my brother and sister and mom and dad.

Interviewer: Wow, three years old...you were so young.

Judith: So, three, yes. Would you even imagine nowadays putting a three-year-old on the bus by themselves?

Interviewer: No.

Judith: And everybody rode the buses because again, cars were very scarce here then. And the gas, and the gas was still rationed. See, I was three in '44 so the war wasn't even over.

Interviewer: So, um...

Judith: But I had my ration coupon books and I still have those.

Interviewer: Oh, you do?

Judith: Oh, yes.

Interviewer: So how...?

Judith: I got extra sugar for me.

Interviewer: (Laugh)

Judith: Extra sugar and extra milk.

Interviewer: So do you, do you remember things that went on because of the war? Did they...?

Judith: I can remember, I can remember when the war was over. And again, I was very young. But when the war was over all the whistles at the plant went off. All of the emergency equipment in this town set their sirens off and so forth at once. And I remember we went out and we would...we'd take a...of course then we had aluminum wash tubs that we would use a lot, and we'd go out and beat on it with a, with a spoon and I can remember when that happened. For one thing it frightened me at first, the noise obviously and me being small. But, uh, my dad, whenever there was an emergency at the plant the whistles would blow and everybody in town knew that something was going on. They would have a spill or whatever and my, uh, my dad had been burned rather severely with phosphorus and, uh, and he bore the scars on his face the rest of his life. And he lived 'til, to be seventy-four you know, but he had phosphorus burns on his face and they had to take him to Vegas. And I remember when that happened and all the bells and whistles went off and, of course, that meant that...later I knew that daddy was hurt and so when the war was over and all the bells and whistles go off I was very frightened at first. And mama assured me that everything was okay.

Interviewer: Did they have blackouts?

Judith: Yes. Yes, you always had to pull the, the, uh, window shades down and you tacked them, tacked them up to the, tacked them closed, behind the curtains. And the houses were painted different colors. Were you aware of that?

Interviewer: Oh, no.

Judith: Oh, yes. When the houses were first built, um, one of the things that they did because, of course, they made flat roofs on everything and, and they were temporary. They were supposed to be tor, torn down at the end of the war. I mean this was a very temporary town. Now they did some permanent things to it that kind of boggles your mind but being government work it doesn't really. Example: every brand new house in Henderson got a glass or a metal, um, mailbox right by your door, by your front door. We didn't have sidewalks. We barely had paved streets. And we didn't have home delivery for another almost twenty years. But when they built it they would send four men out. One would take it out of the box; one would hold it up; another one would put the screws in; and the other one supervised. (Laugh)

Interviewer: (Laugh)

Judith: And they would all get in their little trucks and they'd go to the next house and they'd do it again. I can remember when the mailboxes went on. And there again, it was nearly twenty years before we had home delivery. And, of course, the original post office, the original post office was at the, um, at the gate of the plant. And the men would pick up their mail off and on, going off and on shift and usually off shift. And, uh, so they would check in going in and then when they came out because they

had, they always checked their lunch boxes and so forth. I don't know which part of those chemicals or pieces of metal they thought they were going to steal but, uh, they always checked their lunch boxes and while they did that the men would go in and pick up their mail. And our post office box was 472. And that is still, in 2005 that is still my post office box. I've been through four post offices in this town. But we've maintained the same number. And, of course, now when we moved into the one that's now on Boulder Highway, that's when they put the 90 in front of it and so it's 90472. But we've had 472 since 1941 or 1942, when we moved here.

Interviewer: Wow.

Judith: So when anybody asks me, "Is this your current address?" and I said, "Oh, yes." (Laugh)

Interviewer: (Laugh)

Judith: And I said and I could outdo most of you. (Laugh)

Interviewer: And so what were you saying that each of the houses were painted a different color?

Judith: Yes. Each was painted a different color. One side would be yellow; one side would be green; one side would be brown. Um, or as mother called it, manure muckle dun. Uh, I remember that phrase. And, uh, they painted them different colors so if the Japanese ever got to...on their way to Hoover Dam, which, of course, was our big thing then, Nellis was not much of an airfield at that time, um, but if they ever got that far inland and they were flying up high, the roofs would be flat and the colors would make it blend in with the... Now I don't know what they did to the plant because it would be obvious and that's what they were going to bomb if they were going to bomb anything. But the houses were safe. But, uh, it wasn't until after the war was over that they came along and repainted the houses. And, uh, and again the government did that. And every house in Henderson was white and you had a choice of green or brown trim. We were economizing or something. I'm not sure what. (Chuckle)

Interviewer: (Laugh)

Judith: We had brown (chuckle) for a long time. But they'd come along every year and paint it until they sold them then to, uh, what was the name of that company...Galbreath, Galbreath Company bought all of the houses in Henderson and then they eventually sold them to us as occupants.

Interviewer: Okay.

Judith: But it was interesting to walk up the street because, you know, none of the houses looked...actually all of the houses looked alike and that was very confusing for a lot of...you'd come home just a little bit tipsy and, and all the driveways looked alike (chuckle). You know the guys would be...hit one of the bars down along, um, in Pittman area and so forth, the Victory Bar and so forth. But they'd come up Boulder Highway and come into the, into Henderson complex at all, and let's face it, all of the houses looked alike. They all had flat roofs. They all had the same carports. The houses all faced virtually the same direction. Uh, very few of them faced the street. They all faced sideways on the, on the lot. Um, all the streets looked alike. You'd, you'd get in, into the Ways and it's a good thing they named them. And if you could remem...if you weren't drunk enough to not remember you were okay. You'd know which side of Water Street you were on. You realized that they're divided between Boulder Highway and Water Street and Victory Road which was the end then. Victory Road and Ocean,

everything is a state and on the other side from Water Street to Basic Road everything was named after a metal, all the Ways and everything. And they always said that the man that drew up Henderson was crazy. Frankly it's my home and I like it. (Chuckle)

Interviewer: (Laugh) Um, Pittman! What was the Pittman area like?

Judith: Uh, my friends now would die if they heard me say this but back in those days it was considered scum. (Laugh) It was. The people who didn't qualify for a home or didn't qualify for an apartment either in Victory Village or Carver Park and so forth, uh, would build shacks in Pittman. Uh, that's where the (quote) the seedy life was because that's the only place that they had bars and so forth. They didn't have bars up here in Henderson. The downtown Henderson was limited to, um, Prime Meats, which was the grocery store. And then coming down the side from that was, uh, uh, Desert Wear, which was our...and a, and a dime store. Desert Wear was a clothing store and, uh, there was a dime store, in fact, I can remember. And, uh, and then you turned the corner and you went upstairs. That's where you made the house payments after we bought the house. And there was Julie Byrne's, Julie and Bill Byrne's little grocery store and the Tasty Tavern which is where we hung out as kids. If you didn't have a car you went to Tasty Tavern. If you had a car you went to Blue Angel in Las Vegas. Uh, and, uh, then the barber shops and so forth were alongside. Victory Theater, we had the uh...let's see, Victory Theater, and then the grocery...uh, the drugstore, MacBeath's Drugstore and then as you went down there was another barber shop and the, and the bowling alley. And, uh, and that was virtually downtown. The, the block that now takes up the Eldorado and the Rainbow and so forth, let's see they both passed the Atomic Street but of course Atomic Street wasn't there then. Atlantic to whatever the name of the street is between the Rainbow and the bank. You see we didn't keep track of names of streets. But that and from Water Street over to, um, Atomic or Boyer, whatever that street is, that entire block had nothing on it, nothing on it except the Sheriff's Department. And it was in a house...it was in an office probably about twice the size of this room. And it sat right in the middle of that entire block. It had a telephone pole outside. It had one cord inside for the electricity and another one for the telephone because he had a telephone. And the only telephone in town at that point was on the, on the telephone pole outside of the Sheriff's office. So if you wanted to call your family back East or anyplace else that's where you went and you stood in line.

Interviewer: Oh, really!

Judith: Oh, yeah.

Interviewer: And there was...and they would charge you for it?

Judith: Uh, I don't remember what the charges were. It wasn't a pay phone per se because we didn't have pay phones. I don't know where the charges came from then. I really don't remember that but I know that it was the only telephone in town and if there was an emergency for anybody in town...example: my Dad's mother passed away in Kansas and the, the Sheriff who was Aubrey Pagan, the Constable really was Aubrey Pagan, and he came down to the house with the wire because that was the only wire service we had in town. And he would come down and he came down to the house with the wire. And they would come and tell you that it was (quote) a death message. Well, that could have meant a relative, it could have meant a son or a daughter. Well, not necessarily a daughter back then but, uh, a son in the service. You know, that type of thing. But, uh, but they would bring you (quote) a death message or any, any telegrams. And telegrams were hand-delivered throughout the town. But that was the only place that had the teletype. Otherwise you had to go clear to Vegas for it. You

couldn't send wires here but you could receive them here. And to send a wire you had to go in to Western Union in Las Vegas up on Third Street.

Interviewer: Oh my goodness.

Judith: Yes. And later as we travelled back and forth to California we would drive through, uh, Death Valley a lot. My parents...grandparents lived on the edge of Death Valley and so forth. We, because they didn't have phones, we didn't have phones, you would telegram back, "Arrived safely" and send it back to them to let them know that we got back to Las Vegas without a problem.

Interviewer: Huh.

Judith: (Chuckle)

Interviewer: Um...

Judith: Now of course you can pick it up and text message. (Chuckle)

Interviewer: (Laugh)

Judith: Text them and say "I'm here!"

Interviewer: Jim Thorpe lived in Pittman.

Judith: Yes.

Interviewer: Do you...

Judith: I vaguely remember that, yes.

Interviewer: Do you, have you ever heard of a Jim Thorpe plant?

Judith: No.

Interviewer: I just read something about a Jim Thorpe plant and I was wondering...

Judith: As in vegetation plant?

Interviewer: Well, they didn't know if it was...I assumed you...it produced something, it made something. But I don't know what.

Judith: I don't know. That doesn't, that doesn't ring a bell with me at all. Sorry.

Interviewer: Um, they...did you do most of your shopping in Vegas?

Judith: Yes, yes. Um, we did. Again, um, the government owned the grocery store here until, until it was sold out to Prime Meats. And Prime Meats was located on the corner of Fifteenth and Fremont which was the edge of town. That was the edge of town. You went from Fifteenth and

Fremont clear to where Charleston comes out on, onto Boulder Highway. You know where it crosses there?

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Judith: And that was the old Bank Club, the Saddle Club and so forth and there was absolutely nothing in between except sagebrush when I was little. And, but Prime Meats was the one that bought it out and that was really our first commercial grocery store here. But, uh, uh, if you did any major shopping, I mean as far as clothes and so forth, you went to Sears and Penney's which later was catty-corner from Sears there. El Cortez was on one side and Penney's was on the other and Sears was on this corner and White Cross Drugs was on the other side.

Interviewer: I think I remember that too.

Judith: And my cousin lived right down the street.

Interviewer: So, your school years...when you were growing up in high school you, um...what was the hot thing to do? You said you hung out at...?

Judith: At the Tasty Tavern?

Interviewer: Yeah.

Judith: Oh yeah. Hung out at the Tasty Tavern; worked as an usher, or the candy bar girl at, uh, the theater. We had one drive-in. (Chuckle) And, uh, there were not a lot of jobs. Let's put it that way. There were not a lot of jobs. Uh, when my brother and sister were in school now, there were even less jobs. I mean, Ron set up pins at the bowling alley. And, uh, and that was a pretty good job you know. Or he played pool and so forth. There was not a lot to do in Henderson. And, uh, in fact, one of the, one of the oldies, my friend, Louise Prince Jourdan, we were talking about that the other day about, on the phone about how resourceful we were and the things that we did as children to entertain ourselves. The kids would not think of nowadays. One thing we listened to the radio a lot. Uh, and so you reenacted Gangbusters or you reenacted, uh, uh, Sparky, which was a kids program then. Um, you reenacted any of the, of the shows. Hallmark Hall of Fame when they'd have the Sacajawea and so forth. So you reenacted everything. I mean you'd hear it on the radio Sunday night and by Tuesday you were ready to put on a play with it, you know. We talked about how we would, uh, we would draw. we'd get a coloring book and, uh, we'd put it, all the pictures together and we'd make up stories and so forth. And then you'd roll it, you'd put it in a, in a box and make a theater out of it. And then you turned it on the end like that and rolled all the papers across the box. You could get the story. And we'd charge each other for it. It'd cost you a penny to come see our show. Uh, but we'd give you free cookies. We were good at making cookies. Um, and we had lots of water. We didn't have a lot of pop but we had a lot of water. And, uh, although everybody else in town drank a lot of pop. And that's another thing that you would do. If you needed money to go to the show as a child, you would simply go up behind the pool hall, uh, uh, bowling alley, and you would collect the beer bottles, or the pop bottles and so forth, and take them over to Julie's and get your two cents for them and so forth. And if you were real lucky you could find five and that way you would have ten cents. And if you found the big bottle those were worth three cents and so you'd get enough to pay eleven cents to go to the show.

Interviewer: Is that how much it cost to get in?

Judith: That's how much it cost.

Interviewer: Oh, wow.

Judith: And it went up to fifteen cents I want you to know when you were twelve years old. And we were not happy about that (chuckle). You had to shuffle more for bottles. So...but, yeah, but we did so much to entertain ourselves then. I mean you played with the paper dolls; you listened to the music; you, uh, you played games. Uh, parents would call you...again, remember that you have no fences and you're out in the alley. Every mom that had a back door could figure out where their kids were, you know, because all you had to do was look down the alley. You had to be IN somebody's house to be covered (quote and unquote) so that mom couldn't see you. Uh, and if you were in there you weren't doing anything wrong. You were sitting on the floor playing jacks or paper dolls or whatever, you know...and, uh, but we would talk about that and we talked about staying out late and how they would come to the door and call you. And it was so funny because they all did it. It didn't matter what part of the country that mother came from. And of course, we were such an eclectic group. I mean they came from the Northeast; they came from the South; they came from the West. You know, uh, mothers, it didn't matter where they were, knew how to sound on the back porch and yell for their kids. And, of course, as children will be wont to test people, particularly mom, uh, it depended on which name you answered to. You know, my mother would go out and she'd yell "Judy" and then I didn't go home and she would come back out on the back porch and then she'd yell it much louder, "JUDY". And then I'd think, naw, I don't have to go home yet, and then she'd get to "JUDITH" and I thought I'd better start putting the balls away. Then she'd get to "JUDITH LENORA" and I thought I may be in trouble!

Interviewer: (Laugh)

Judith: And when it got to "JUDITH LENORA HAMBLIN" I knew I was going to get a whipping. If I didn't make it between Lenora and Hamblin I was going to get smacked. But, uh, every mother in the neighborhood would do the same thing. You know, you'd come out "Louise" and go through the same thing. And when you got to the last name you were in trouble when you got home. But there again, we, we were very good at entertaining ourselves. And then as we grew up we would entertain ourselves at somebody's house instead of out in the alley. Instead of playing in the alley and playing ball or dodge ball...oh boy, did we get good at dodge ball...or kick the can or olley-olley oxen free, you know, or hide and go seek or whatever. And hide and go seek in this town was NOT easy to do. You had nothing to hide behind except somebody else's house. And so, consequently, going to look for somebody it...especially where we were on Water Street...you have to remember that you've got a very long alley this way and then you have a whole alley that goes this way clear over to Boulder Highway because all of the Ways would come down. And then you had the alleys between the Ways and the next street up or down. And so you could hide behind a lot of houses and playing hide and go seek could be, you know, a half a mile adventure. Uh, and, and because, unless somebody had a car parked, you know, there was nothing to hide behind. All the bushes were little. And trust me, you didn't go behind trees. I didn't learn to climb a tree until I was twelve years old when the bush was high enough. You know, um, and, uh, and those stupid oleander bushes, they, they never did get to the point where you could try to climb them. But, uh, it took a long time for those, for all of those brand new elm trees to get high enough that you could, even a little kid could climb up in them. Now we hung things from them. We'd decorate them. We put Easter eggs up in them. We'd draw Easter eggs and stuff and we'd hang them in the trees outside. If that didn't work we'd hang shamrocks or we'd hang valentines from the tree. I mean

we used the trees for everything. A lot of people used them for the end of their clothesline, you know. Or, if you really had a big washing, if you had a clothesline going, and you had a really big washing, then you just strung another line from your pole over to the tree and, and got another line. That was when you were doing, uh, blankets and that type of thing in the spring. So yeah, so they were helpful but we had to wait a long time before they became helpful.

Interviewer: Did you have, um, air conditioning in the ...?

Judith: AIR CONDITIONING?! (Laughing) Bite your tongue! I didn't have air conditioning until like, what, in the...when did we put air conditioning around our house, from the swamp cooler to air conditioning? Probably in the early 70's.

Interviewer: But did the...

Judith: But we all had swamp coolers.

Interviewer: When they built them, they had the swamp coolers...

Judith: Oh, yeah, when they built them they had swamp coolers and there isn't a kid in this town that couldn't shinny up a ladder and change the pads on the swamp coolers. I mean everybody did. Now I, I thought I did it because my dad, uh, had really bad hips and so forth, which was part of his disability later. But, uh, kids in those days did things because it was fun and you learned something out of it and so all of us could go up and oil the motor, you know. Take out the old pads and put in the new ones. Clean out the bottom of the pan. Uh, put a little silver whatever, aluminum paint kind of stuff on it, you know. Whatever needed to be done. All of us, girls, boys, didn't matter. Uh, the few times that it snowed, we got up there and snow...and shoveled the snow off so the roof wouldn't cave in. And the snow, when was that, '47 or '48, the big one? Uh, we had...yeah, I remember getting up there. I was seven years old. You know, we made a snowman in the back yard and then we didn't have enough for one in the front yard so we went up and got all the snow off the roof and put it down in the front yard and made another snowman. And I stepped in my sister's steps all the way up to school. And I kept saying, "You're taking too long a stride." (Laughing)

Interviewer: (Laugh)

Judith: Because here's these little legs trying to get into hers because again she was...I was in the third grade when she graduated so, you know, these little legs were trying to go in hers and "you're taking..." And then my brother, my brother's 6'7" and a half foot...uh, he was on the football team and the basketball team and everything, you know. And of course there was no way that I could make five steps in between his so Roberta at least was a little more helpful about that. But, uh, yeah, and, and you know in this town because everybody knew everybody, uh, it was very difficult to get lost. Now the ones that were tipsy could get lost but the kids couldn't. Uh, and I can remember as a very small child, uh, before I started to school, I lived six houses down from the library. The library was on the corner of Water and Pacific and Mrs. Malcolm [the librarian] lived in two houses further up Water Street. And so I was mad at my brother and sister for some unknown reason. I was such an easy-going child I can't imagine that, but somehow I stormed out the front door and I told them I was going to run away from home. And I had my little, uh, bandanna. I think I had a peanut butter sandwich in it and I was going to run away from home. So I went trudging up Water Street. Unbeknownst to me my sister went out the back door and followed me but would stay behind the houses so that I couldn't see her in between. And

I got up to the corner of Water...I'd gone a full six houses now mind you...and I got up to the corner and there was a big flat rock there and I sat down. The flat rock, the library and the light pole were the only things there, and I sat down on the rock and I looked around for quite a while and then I cried. Mrs. Malcolm came along and she said, "Judy, what's the matter?" And I said, "I want to run away from home." And she said, "Well, what's the matter?" I said, "I can't cross the street and I can't get lost because I know where I am." (Chuckle)

Interviewer: (Chuckle)

Judith: And so that was kind of what happened in Henderson. Kids didn't get lost. You always knew where you were. And you knew every other kid in town and every, every adult knew you and so it didn't...nobody was a stranger. You know, and it didn't matter if they lived clear up on Nebraska Street or over on Basic Street or anything, if they'd come along and see you and you were not where you were supposed to be; example: in school; and so forth, you'd better have a very good reason as to why you were not in school. I mean, if they stopped and asked you, you'd throw up right then or you know they're not ready to be convinced and so don't try to lie about it because it always caught up with you then. Every, every parent talked to every other parent. There was nothing sacred among the kids. And so I guess we had to be good and creative as to what we did simply because we knew we'd get caught if we did something else. But it was fun.

Interviewer: Yeah, it sounded like it was a wonderful place to grow up.

Judith: It was.

Interviewer: So you grew up and graduated and...

Judith: I graduated in '59. Uh, they moved into the new high school which is now Burkholder Junior High which is now closed and they're ready to tear down. Uh as we do so much in this state. Um, but my sister graduated in the class of '49, uh, and there were thirty-nine students. Uh, my brother graduated in the class of '52 and it was the next year, they were just building the new high school and so Burkholder or Basic, the second Basic, was opened in '54 and, uh, and that was the year before I was a freshman. No, that was my freshman year. '54-'55 was my freshman year. I think. And uh, uh, then I graduated in '59. And then I left home that fall and went to nursing school in Colorado, and various and sundry things from there.

Interviewer: You went to nursing school and came back and taught it... (Chuckle)

Judith: You want to hear that? (Chuckle) I went to nursing school in Denver, Colorado and this is a kid who had never grown up around snow and ice and didn't know how to walk in it very well, and I went in September, had this wonderful roommate from Cheyenne. She's still my dear friend. Um, and mom and dad no more than got back over the pass and headed home than we had the first really big snowstorm, cracked all the trees and everything, you know, it was really heavy, wet snow storm and all, and I think that was the foreboding of things to come, believe me. Uh, because by January, uh, or February of that year I had gone to some friends' house and it had snowed and melted and iced and the whole thing. I went up on the steps and then I came back when we were getting ready to go on the street and I slipped and fell and broke my back, so that put a real abrupt stop to my nursing career at that point. I went back to it later but at that point, and, uh, and then I, uh, took, I went back to school. I worked in Denver for a short while at Gates Medical, at Gates Tire Company, but in their medical

division and, uh, then I went on an LDS mission and came back from that and worked here for the Cal-Pacific, which was the only place to get your electricity in Henderson and, or gas. And then I went back to school, back to college and went out to BYU. Then I came home and started teaching.

Interviewer: Um, do you remember when the City of Henderson became incorporated?

Judith: Oh, yes.

Interviewer: The big hoopla?

Judith: The big hoopla with that...and the first mayor and so forth. Dr. French was the first mayor and he was our family physician...uh, even if he did live in Boulder City at the time. (Laugh)

Interviewer: (Laugh)

Judith: He lived here and then he moved to Boulder City...uh, but, uh...or the other way around. But, yes, I remember that. And I remember when they started Industrial Days. I was in the bands in junior high and high school and so I was in the Industrial Day parades all the time and how proud we were of, of who we were. And whenever I traveled, you know, uh, my parents would always take me home, (quote "home") to Kansas, which was their home. It wasn't mine, uh, but they would take me back home on vacations and so forth. And I NEVER said that I was from Las Vegas. I ALWAYS said I was from Henderson. I was always very proud of being from Henderson. I would talk about things that we did in Las Vegas, I mean, you know, what other kid goes to see major stars on the Strip for the price of a Coca-Cola, you know. And, uh, and, you know, people that, that we saw that were so much a part of our lives...um, when we built the Youth Center originally, uh, who was it?...Sophie Tucker, yeah, Sophie Tucker's the one that came out and did a benefit and so forth for us here. I believe she came as Sophie. And that's where we bought the bricks to help build it and so forth. Everybody paid, paid their hard-earned money, money and so forth, to buy the bricks to build that Youth Center. And it was very much a part of us. Those were, those were good times. Um, we all worked together to do things for the community. We, at the same time, because Vegas being what it was and not so spread out as it is now and you didn't have to go to the Strip or any of the Strip malls and so forth, to shop, the stars would come downtown. So it was not unusual to walk downtown. If you went up on Fremont Street to, um, I can't think of the name of the barbeque place that we used to go to but they had all the spits out in front so you could see from the sidewalk. That was fun. Uh, but you'd go up there to eat, you'd walk in and you'd see Roy Rogers and Dale Evans and Gabby Hayes, and you would see Gene Autry come through town. You would see Jerry Lewis and Dean Martin. You would see, uh, Diana Whatserface, uh, the one that was in their movie about Las Vegas. We would go swimming at the hotels, you know. We'd simply go trottin' through in our, (chuckle) in our suits and think that we were hot stuff, you know. And we'd go out and swim in their pools. There were no city pools until they built Doolin[?] Center. And uh, and so, uh, the only place you could...unless you were one of them, one of the well-to-do in Vegas or you had connections to a well-to-do, you had no place else to swim except the lake. And, uh, it was easier to take a bus to Vegas and out on the Strip and go swimming at the Desert Inn than it was to get mom or dad or somebody during a working day to take you to Lake Mead to swim. And so we made our own choices.

Interviewer: (Laugh)

Judith: And so consequently you would walk through any of the Strip hotels though the old goodies, the El Dora...the El Rancho and the...what are the ones they've torn down? The El Rancho and the Thunderbird and, uh, the Sahara and, uh, the Desert Inn and, and of course, the Last Frontier, which is now the Stardust and so forth, but, uh, we would...we'd simply go in and have our suits on under our, our peddle-pushers and shor...or either shorts or peddle-pushers and a blouse and we'd take 'em off right there by the pool and we'd get in and swim. And said, yes, our parents are hotel guests here. And, uh, that's where we swam. But when you swam, you swam with Jerry Lewis and Dean Martin and they gave all...everybody'd be out there cracking up and having fun things and so forth, yeah. Helldorado Days of course was very much a community thing. And that was the one thing out here that we participated in in Vegas. And they, at that time see, they had four parades.

Interviewer: Four?

Judith: Four...they had, they had the Old Timers' Parade, they had the Children's Parade, and the Beauty, I guess they had three parades...yeah, Friday, Saturday and Sunday because one day they'd have the Children's Parade, and that's where every little kid in Clark County and beyond would come and march in the parade. You were in the band or you were in a dancing group or you were a whatever. You know, I was a butterfly one year, a beautiful butterfly. And, uh, that was before I learned to play the clarinet unfortunately. Uh, and then the Old Timers' Parade and that's when Gabby Hayes and all the, you know, Tom Mix and all of them would be here. And, there again, they were very friendly to everybody. Um, and then they would have the Beauty Parade and those were the ones the hotels would contribute to so much. And you'd have all the big huge floats and we were as good as the Rose Bowl Parade except tissue paper didn't wilt.

Interviewer: (Laugh)

Judith: (Laugh) ...as the roses would. So, uh, but yeah, everybody looked forward to Helldorado because that was the big thing, looking forward to Industrial Days in the spring. Having the carnival in the spring and in October was a fun thing and it was just...we had so many things to entertain ourselves. And we were...and we just enjoyed being kids. And unfortunately kids don't have that opportunity much anymore. And with good reason...I mean we have, we have reasons to fear those out there that would want our children to do the wrong things. And I can't, I can't imagine...and there again, I used to take the train...and when I was eight and nine, I would take the train down to Barstow. My, my aunt would come and pick me up and take me over to, to Death Valley to see my grandparents and I'd stay, you know, a couple three weeks with my cousins and we'd come back to Barstow, they'd put me on a train and send me to Vegas. Why, you wouldn't think of doing that nowadays. I mean, you'd hardly let a nine year old out of your sight, much less let a three year old, putting them on a bus to go to the, to the aunt's house, you know.

Interviewer: That's right.

Judith: So, times have changed. And, and I'm not sure I like the way they did. But there's a lot that I miss here in the Valley, a lot of things that have, that have changed so much now that it's not, it's not the Valley that I grew up in, obviously.

Interviewer: Yes, it's changed. What are...does any big, momentous occasion stand out in your mind that happened? I know...

Judith: Oh, my.

Interviewer: I know President Kennedy came to town one time.

Judith: I don't think I was home then. I think I was in South America or I was working in LA. I saw him in LA. In fact that's...in fact I think that's true. I was in LA at the time working at a bank, uh, and he stopped here and then he went to Los Angeles and I saw him in the big parade there. Mom and dad saw him here. I saw him in, um...hmm...I loved the programs that Mrs. Burkholder put on. That was our chance to, to shine. We sang "Hallelujah Chorus" every year at Christmastime and she'd have us, you know, she'd have us...everybody that grew up in Henderson had the 36 by 36 pointed white thing to make us angels. I mean everybody did. That was, you had those and you had diapers when you were small. I mean it was, it was the same effect. Uh, but uh, and then she did the Maypole thing. I don't know if you remember her da...okay, up on the, on the football field and so forth in the springtime she always had Maypoles set up and everybody would do different things. That was when I was the butterfly, and so I was a butterfly then, we did that first and then I used the same costume to be the butterfly in the, in the Helldorado Parade. But, um, and she would have us do the Maypole and we sang and we danced and we had a good time. And then those were wonderful programs. Uh, at, uh, at Halloween...you had asked about...this triggered it, I guess...you had asked about holidays earlier. Um, Halloween, all the kids in town...everybody from the little tiny ones up to, um, oh say twelve, thirteen, fourteen maybe, usually twelve, about that age, because older children then did not trick or treat like they do now. But I, my concept is if you are old enough to earn a check at Wendy's or whatever don't come to my house for treats. (Chuckle) But anyhow...

Interviewer: (Chuckle)

Judith: You can buy your own, don't come to me. Um, but back in those days we always had a parade and everybody would show off their costume and you'd walk clear around the football field and then they'd choose out the ones that were pretty good in that section and so forth and all the cute ones and then you did it by age groups and by, you know, Barbie dolls. Well, we weren't Barbie dolls then but Toni dolls. We had Toni dolls that had permanents. Yes, every little girl has a Toni doll with an iron. Uh, but we would, uh, whatever we were dressed up as we would have costume awards and so forth. There again Coordinating Council did that one too, you know, to get the kids together. Everybody went to the football games, everybody went. You would watch Vegas High School come out with their ninety-two players and circle around the field two or three times and then Basic would come out with their fourteen players and they'd send eleven out in that if you've got three or four of them hurt in one game you just played with what you had left and Vegas would, you know, send in three new teams.

Interviewer: (Laugh)

Judith: So, uh, see there was only Basic and Vegas and Boulder City then. It wasn't until I got into high school that they opened Rancho the year I was a freshman. So their first four-year class graduated the same year I did in '59 and, uh, Gorman opened during that time. So we were still relatively small and when we were in high school they would come out. Everybody had an assembly, a traveling assembly that you'd put together and you would take it to the various schools. Uh, each one had their own band or orchestra or whatever. We certainly weren't as sophisticated as an orchestra but we were a good band. And you would take and do assemblies at the different schools and so forth. That was a lot of fun. Uh, you got to know everybody. Uh, you didn't have, you didn't have four thousand teenagers in the entire county to get to know each other and now we have four thousand in a

school. You know, so it makes a big difference and it's difficult to, to recognize that. But we would go to every school, I mean you went to Vegas High maybe two, three times a year with different types of assemblies. Uh, and, uh, and likewise they would come out to us. Um, I can remember when Wayne Newton went to Vegas High School and he would come out and sing and we'd all "AAHHH." (Chuckle)

Interviewer: (Laugh)

Judith: We'd all aaah. He was very cute. He didn't have to play ball. (Laugh)

Interviewer: (Laugh)

Judith: He didn't have to play football or basketball or anything else. He just...just open your mouth and sing, and it was all right. Uh, and he was just a kid. I mean, tada, you know. But, uh, another one from Vegas High that I remember was, uh, Carmen Requivoli who later became an opera star. She sang with the Met. She sang in San Francisco and so forth. She had a gorgeous voice. She even did, uh, at one time she even did the opening act for Red Skelton, I remember out on the Strip to get her practiced into that type of thing. Uh, about the same time as Anna Maria Alberghetti came along, and uh, and they were almost in competition with each other at least here in the Valley. But, uh, Carmen went on to do wonderful things. And, uh, you know we all knew each other. We grew up... uh, Harry Reid was in my, uh, let's see...he graduated two years before I did and his wife, Landra, graduated the year before I did. Uh, so the politicians were common people. We dated Richard Bryan and Bob Miller and you know, former governors and so forth. Uh, I taught with Sawyer's daughter, Governor Sawyer's daughter. Uh, everybody was close, uh, and we're beginning to lose that. We're beginning to lose that. But back then everybody knew everybody, um, and it didn't matter if you were a big wheel out on the Strip or in the gaming commission or in city and county government or whatever. Everybody knew everybody. And, uh, and it was a very good feeling. It was a very good feeling. I don't...you know I think that now if I would want to move to some small town in Arizona or Utah or wherever and so forth and I'm not sure that I'd want to do that now. But as a child growing up in that era it was fantastic because you had a sense of worth. I mean everybody told you how well you did at anything. It didn't matter if it was a dance recital or a piano recital or you know...and Mrs. Burkholder taught music for a thousand years, you know. Uh, and it didn't matter what you did. Everybody knew your talents and your abilities and they praised you for them and we just don't do that anymore. We don't do it with the kids that we have in the classrooms hardly. But, uh, everybody knew then and all the, all the little school plays, people would, you know, that weren't involved in school at all, executives from the plant would come up and watch a first-grade play simply because it was something to do. You know, and, and I remember that. And I remember how, how it made me feel as being the little black kitty cat in the second grade or in the first grade. That was Mrs. Clements' class, or Harriet Treem as we know her now. I mentioned this to somebody the other day. We were discussing where a particular school was in Las Vegas and I said, and who was your school named for and he told me. And I said, "You know, I've been around here so long that: a) I don't know where all the new schools are but I know the people that they're named for. You know, Harriet Treem Elementary School, she was my first grade teacher. John Beatty Elementary School, he was my speech teacher; he was my drama teacher; he was my English teacher; he was my mentor when I became an English teacher. In fact I came to the faculty of Basic, he had passed away in May, and I came out and taught permanently the next twenty-one years in September at Basic. And I did things in the classroom that John Beatty taught me in high school because that was the way I learned, and, uh, but you know, Estes McDoniel and so forth, you go through the list of schools and everybody knew everybody. Berkley Bunker is the guy that I was talking about to the principal of that

school and, I said, oh yeah, I knew Berkley well, you know. I mean he was the local mortician. Everybody knew him. (Laugh)

Interviewer: (Laugh)

Judith: That was before Palm and Bunker was the only one around. You know, and so that's the feeling we had in Henderson when I was growing up and it was so much fun. And it's so prized and so much a part of my life now, you know, those memories. Unfortunately, when, when the oldies like me begin to die off and so forth, those memories are shot. So this is good. (Laugh)

Interviewer: Yes, yes.