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**Henderson Historical
Society and Robert
Taylor Elementary
School**

John Simmons

Oral History of John Simmons

conducted by students of

Robert Taylor Elementary School

with

Fredric Watson

for the

Henderson Historical Society

in cooperation with

Dr. Janet Dobry, Principal

and

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John Simmons: What was I like? I was a curious individual, young man, tried to stay out of trouble, cared a lot about others, my friends and those that [were] perhaps younger than me. But we loved our – we were kids that loved our mini-bikes, loved our motorcycles and those kind of things. We would always, always have a kickball game going on or a baseball game going on in the street, always – always something happening. And in our day, you weren't in the house. You were always outside most of the time. You either, you know, you did your chores and then when you did your chores you were able to go outside and be gone all day as long as you were home before the lights came on and the street lights came on in the street. That was really the rule.

Fredric Watson: *Where's Hickory Street, what neighborhood was that?*

John Simmons: It's right here, right here in Valley View.

Fredric Watson: *Okay.*

John Simmons: Right here in Valley View. It's all the tree streets. So I walked to school every single day, every day, matter of fact, through junior high and high school till I got old enough to get my car.

Fredric Watson: *I used to deliver the Henderson Home News down in that neighborhood.*

John Simmons: Oh, did you? [laughter]

Fredric Watson: *It was such a light newspaper, we had to put a rock in it.*

John Simmons: It was two pages. [laughter]

Interviewer: *I want to hear about your experiences with living in Henderson. First, tell me how your family came to live in Henderson.*

John Simmons: Oh, that's a great question. My mother came here in 1938 with her father from Garden City, Kansas. They came here because of his allergies and figured it would be better here in a dryer climate. My grandfather was a photographer as well and was the photographer for the first police department of Basic [Magnesium], Incorporated. And he would, you know, do photography for crime scenes and those kinds of things for the police. And then they had property at Bonanza and Nellis. They sold that. He died, passed away. My grandmother bought a house on Gold Street from those proceeds. Then they sold the property and then my mom became a resident of Henderson. Or back then, it was Basic [Magnesium], Incorporated, back in nineteen-forty-something. I don't know the exact year. And then my mother, my dad, I can't recall where, but they met and that would have been in 1956, '55, '56, and he was out from the Navy. He was in the Navy and fought in the Korean War and then went to work, came here and went to work at the plants as an electrician for the Basic [Magnesium], Incorporated back then. And then we were born in '57.

Interviewer: *And what did Henderson first look like when you were here?*

John Simmons: Oh, it looked like – it was – I want to say it was beautiful to me, but if you go back and you look at the pictures back then, you know, it was kind of desolate in a way. You know, it would maybe look like if I was to maybe put something on it, maybe when you, kind of when you, on your way to [Victorville], on your way to California, maybe it looked a little bit like Baker, California, you know? Right? Kind of that desert look. It was kind of just desolate, but you knew you were in a city that had something special about it. But it was beautiful to us because, you know, we had our little parks that we would go to and, you know, we always had

something to do, whether it would be catching snakes, lizards, those kind of things are, you know, anyways. That was a good question, though.

Interviewer: *And what was your – can you describe your home and your neighborhood?*

John Simmons: Yeah, this is something that is very interesting. Our home was probably, I want to say, 1600 square feet maybe, had one, two, three bedrooms. At that time there were seven of us in the family. But it was a lovely little home. Since my dad was by this time working for the Desert Inn Golf Course, our yard always looked very nice, you know. But to describe our house was more to describe the neighborhood, because at one point in time in our lives as we were all growing up there were over 130 – there was 130-31 kids on our street.

Fredric Watson: *Just on Hickory Street.*

John Simmons: On Hickory Street, yeah. If you went and you counted all the kids, or the families. Just count, you know – I'm sorry – 130-something total families, probably around a hundred kids, something like that. But if you go through and you count all the families, there were families of nine, seven, you know, five, every single house had a large family. And so, when I talked about being able to play out on the street and have a game, at any given time there would be twenty kids out there. We'd be playing football, baseball, tag, you know, the kickball, and we'd always have to go ask some parents if they'd please move their cars off the street so we wouldn't break their windows. [laughter] And we also broke some windows of houses too. [laughter]

Interviewer: *And if you were ever to go to Las Vegas, how did you travel there?*

John Simmons: We would travel – we would go up Lake Mead, take a right on Boulder Highway, and down Boulder Highway all the way. The popular places at the time was off of

Charleston, Boulder – Fremont – Boulder Highway, Fremont, Boulder Highway and Charleston. And that's where everybody went for – if you wanted to have some – kind of get away for a nice place, would consider nice. But my favorite place always, we were able to do anything and everything right here in our own downtown off of Water Street. We were able to buy our clothes, we were able to buy our shoes, we would be able to do shopping with the market, we'd have a movie theater, we had barber shops, we had Rexall Drugs. That was very popular, where you could get a milk shake, a malt, hamburgers, things like that, or bowling, you know. That was just close by to us up here, that old bowling alley. That's really the core, and the pool, the pool we had there next to the rec center that's there, still there today. But that was, to us, you know, instead of going down to Las Vegas and go there on Boulder Highway, Henderson downtown was really what we liked.

Fredric Watson: *When you say the bowling alley, are you talking about the old one that was right there by the drug store? Do you remember the, oh, the Piester family that owned that? If you were, you know, the Victory Theater would be here –*

John Simmons: Right.

Fredric Watson: *And then you'd come down from the Victory Theater –*

John Simmons: Okay.

Fredric Watson: *Right? It was like a corner doorway as I recall that went into the drug store.*

John Simmons: Oh, yes!

Fredric Watson: *And then if you turned left at –*

John Simmons: Yes!

Fredric Watson: *– the very end of that building there was a –*

John Simmons: You know –

Fredric Watson: *I think Doc Gould [Dr. Earl Gould] did train boxers in there later, too.*

John Simmons: Oh, he may have, but I do remember that, too, about the boxing thing now that you say that, but I'd forgotten about that bowling alley and it wasn't very many lanes was it? It was –

Fredric Watson: *No, one or two.*

John Simmons: Yeah, it was like a real small – but the bowling alley that I'm talking about is the old one here that's still there today, which was, you know, now they've condensed it down to just a few lanes, but before it was awfully big. But, I'd forgotten about that, Rick, about that old alley, bowling alley there.

Fredric Watson: *Yeah, we were interviewing Jeanette [Anderson] last night and she was telling us about that. I think her brother set pins.*

John Simmons: Is that right?

Fredric Watson: *Yeah, and those –*

John Simmons: You did them by hand then.

Fredric Watson: *Oh, everything, yeah. It was an interesting story.*

John Simmons: Oh, wow.

Fredric Watson: *Yep.*

Interviewer: *Were the movie theaters different from they are today?*

John Simmons: Yes, because the movie theater back then was just really just one big movie theater. It was a large movie theater we had, but it was only one. It didn't have like, today, you can go to all different movie theaters in one place and then watch different movies in a day.

There it was really, really – I mean, if there was a popular movie, you know, it would be at different times of the day you could watch it, but it was – gosh I want to think it probably held, that theater might have held what, 200 maybe? You know, at least.

Fredric Watson: *It would be crowded.*

John Simmons: Yeah, and what was neat about the movie theater in Henderson was not only were there movies there, but they would hold certain events there, like back in the day when movies – they'd have intermission, and they would have like a coin contest up on the – there was a stage up there, and they would have like maybe a singing contest or they would have a, you know, maybe just different types of contests that they would have. It was a lot of fun. They'd bring the lights on and then you'd watch this for the intermission; then you'd go back to the movie, you know. Besides the fact, that's, you know, of course everybody always had to have a girlfriend or boyfriend, you know.

Interviewer: *Yeah.*

Fredric Watson: *It was a great place to meet people.*

John Simmons: It was a great place to meet people, yes, it was, yeah.

Interviewer: *And which schools did you attend and when?*

John Simmons: Okay, 1961, let's see, '62, I attended kindergarten at C. T. Sewell and then my first grade year was here with Mrs. Klanderud. Mrs. Klanderud was our first grade teacher and then – so that would have been 1963 and then '67, I think, was my last year of fifth grade, no, sixth grade, because we went to sixth grade here. And then, so that would have been, what, '67, somewhere right in there. And then, of course, then on to junior high school. So now, that was Rob – or Park Village was our school at that time when I started first grade, and then we

went to our junior high school which was the – yeah, on Water Street was our junior high school.

Fredric Watson: *The Townsite School right where all the government buildings are now basically.*

John Simmons: Where the City Hall and all that sits today is where our junior high school was. Okay? And then Basic High School is where Burkholder is today. Yeah.

Fredric Watson: *Do you know who the principal was here at Park Village? Taylor School was called Park Village when it first opened, and then they named it after the man who was the first principal here, but he was also prominent in city government and things like that.*

John Simmons: Well, one thing that a lot of people don't know or some don't know about – you, Rick, would, and there's others that know as well – but he was really, aspired to be a professional golfer. He was basically a pro is what he was and he would always be in the nice golfing attire. He always had a nice sweater on with his tie or whatever, but he always looked really – always dressed very well and he always had his golfing shoes with him and he always had his golf bag with him. But Robert Taylor was our principal when I came here. There was never a – I never knew of another principal during my time here. Something about him that I remembered so well, that he was a man of – he was a patriot. He loved the United States of America. He loved that. And there was always a ceremony every year, we would always go out in front of the school and the flag would be burned and a new flag would be raised. And, I feel ashamed that I can't tell you what that event – why that happened – I mean that event, right now I can't tell you that, but every year, every student, every teacher, every faculty would come out and there would be that event. And then that, like I said, what it reminds me of – I'm

looking over at that picture and seeing that flag, it reminds me of him because he was a very patriotic man. That's what I remember about him so much. Yeah.

Fredric Watson: *He was my P. E. teacher when I was in fourth grade. He was teaching us.*

John Simmons: Was he really?

Fredric Watson: *Yeah.*

John Simmons: Wow!

Fredric Watson: *That was at the old Townsite School.*

John Simmons: Oh, wow.

Fredric Watson: *They had the high school and the elementary school all on the same grounds.*

And he was teaching us how to high jump one day and I just could not get it. I could not get off the ground, and he needed to get on to the next kid, so finally he just grabbed me by the seat of the pants and threw me over the bar. [laughter]

John Simmons: [laughter]

Fredric Watson: *He said, "You did it." He was a good man.*

John Simmons: Yeah, he was a great guy. Well, you know, even his front yard of his house – he lived over there off of Major Street – it was a putting green. That was his front yard, so, yeah.

Interviewer: *Has the school changed?*

John Simmons: Well it changed in the way of the aesthetics look, you know. It's new, but has the school changed? No. I don't believe it has. I think it has – I think there's a lot more attention to the school because of its tenure, how old it is. You know, how long it's been here. I think there is a sense from the community that, you know, C. T. Sewell and Park Village, or Robert Taylor Elementary School is the little darlings of elementary schools in the entire valley because

they've been here so long. The institutional knowledge of what's happened out of this school and the success of people who have come out of this school, is remarkable. There are many, many students that went on from junior high school to high school that are now lawyers, doctors, very entrepreneurial type adults now that are in business or have careers that came from here. And one thing that a lot of people don't know, and I will share this with you – are any of you familiar with – you may be just too young for all this, but do you remember a show called *Cheers*? Remember it at all? Do your parents ever talk about it? Okay. Well, it was a sitcom from the late '70s through the '80s, and they were called – and Rick knows this – would be the Charles brothers [Editor's note: Glen and Les Charles are award winning television comedy writers and producers who also worked on *Frasier*, *Taxi*, and *M.A.S.H.*, among other notable productions.] They are the creators of the show and the Charles brothers' mother was a school teacher here, Mrs. Charles.

Fredric Watson: *Oh, I'd forgotten that.*

John Simmons: Yes, Mrs. Charles was a wonderful lady, wonderful. What I loved about her is she always wore Coppertone lotion, always. And all of us kids, man, just loved being around her to smell the Coppertone lotion. [laughter]

Fredric Watson: *That's a smell you won't forget.*

John Simmons: Just don't forget it. Yeah. You know, there are certain – you know how you have teachers that wear a certain perfume or cologne that might be on a teacher, of a man, you will never forget that teacher, never. I mean, I can remember teachers that, you know, just had that perfume on them and that, you know, you just don't forget it. Anyways, go ahead.

Interviewer: *What did children do for fun at the school?*

John Simmons: Ah, there was one – I’m going to tell you something – there was really this really cool game. A teacher by the name of Mr. Blazzard, he created what we call a hockey box. He created a game, it was called a hockey box, and it was a box about the size of this table, about this wide, and it had a divider in the middle and it had the two holes at the bottom. And you played with hockey sticks and he made a hockey puck out of wood and he would team you up with someone and you had to play hockey and take that puck through the hole and then at the other end was another hole to get it out of the box. And Mr. Blazzard made this and it was the funnest thing. It was made out of very thick plywood and I’ll never forget, everybody would get excited because when you’re in his class and you went out to recess, everybody would run, the guys mostly, the boys mostly, would be – because it took some strength to really play this game and then he would pair up girls too, but playing hockey box was so much fun. The other thing was, we would have so much fun – back in our day, we never had – we didn’t have asphalt or we didn’t have grass to be playing on; it was dirt. Okay? And then it wasn’t till, oh, I don’t know, I think even when I left it was still dirt. But we would play – the biggest thing was kickball, you know, kickball game – and everybody got involved – big rubber – those big red rubber balls that you’d play kickball with. But, that was a lot of fun. And mainly, just, you know, the swings. You know, back in those days we had teeter-totters, you know. And, of course, I think they outlaw them now, I don’t think you can even have them anymore, but I remember lots of kids getting hurt on teeter-totters, lots of kids. Yeah, it was dangerous, actually, it was dangerous. But that’s the fun we had, you know. Yeah.

Interviewer: *Was there danger living here in any way?*

John Simmons: No, no. Matter of fact it was the opposite end I felt, never a danger, no. You never worried. No, in our day, you never worried about walking home from school, walking to school. You know, we never, we never worried about that kind of thing. But no, I've never felt ever endangered. You know, the only time you ever felt is if maybe you had maybe a bully at school that maybe wanted to take and challenge you in a fight or something like that, but other than that, you know, and the best thing to do with that was just try to avoid it. You know, you always tried to avoid those kinds of confrontations in some way, but that was really the only danger. You know, we never worried about somebody bringing a gun to school or a knife to school or anything like that. No, never felt that way.

Interviewer: *What about in the desert, when you guys went to go play out in the desert, did you guys get scared of that? Was it dangerous?*

John Simmons: No, we would hike out to the mountains out here, you know, that you see out there where the "B" is now, we would hike out there all the time. We'd leave – on the weekends we'd ask our parents if we could leave at four o'clock in the morning, so we'd hike during the – it would be dark, and we'd go up there in the mountains and then we'd hike back, and, you know, like I said before, we were always interested in trying to catch a snake or catch a lizard or a big scorpion and bring it home and scare Mom and the sisters and everybody, you know. We'd do those kinds of things. But those were fun. I do remember this. Whenever we – there was a lot of us boys that – from here to our house it was all desert. Okay, all desert. And in between the houses, they've taken them out now, but in between the development, there were crosswalks that went down to every single street clear down to Grove and it stopped at Grove. So you're able to walk through the development and these were really neat crosswalks.

They were, I want to call them a – it was kind of an alley – but they had a dip in them, in every one of them, so if you had your bike or your skateboard, first of all you had to get through the desert and then what we would do is we always had to have our favorite trail, so my Mom would want to kill me at times because I would come home and we would shuffle our feet and somebody would – like five of us would be in a row – and we would shuffle our feet to make a trail from where the end of the crosswalk was up to the school, and that was our trail, and that trail we walked every day. So we'd make that every year, but we'd wear out our shoes, and our Mom's would want to kill us because they'd have to buy us new shoes and she knew exactly what we did. We'd come home and there's rocks all over our shoes, they're all scuffed up and – but that was just a popular thing back in those days if you can imagine. The most popular thing for us in school here were marbles. We played marbles and we had what they call *steelies*. If you had steelies, which was basically steel round balls – they were steel – you were popular if you had those, very popular. And you were really popular if you had certain marbles that were, that you just, you didn't see, and you would trade them. I remember I would come to school, I had like a little tool box, it was about this wide and about that deep, handle on it, full of marbles and steelies and I would come out here and you would challenge your friends to play in marbles and, you know, sometimes you lose, sometimes you win. And then you had the big ones too. And then what you did is you elevated, you got be able – if you hit them, then you got to elevate to the big one, you know, and then sometimes you'd lose the big one too, so, but marbles were very, very popular in our day, yeah.

Interviewer: *And if you were to get sick, where and how did you get health care?*

John Simmons: First of all what I remember most, and I had some problems when I was a young boy here at school, with ears, a problem with ears and my hearing. And there was a lady here, a nurse by the name of Mrs. Butler. I will never, ever forget her. She was the nicest nurse of the school. But if I ever had a problem, I would never tell my mom and dad. What I would do is that I always wanted to see Mrs. Butler because she was so good to me and kind to me and would help me, make me feel better, you know, with my ears and whatever it was. If I really needed to go to the doctor, then, of course, I don't remember who our family doctor was at the time, but Rose de Lima Hospital was our hospital. But, you know, I remember many times having to come in here and see the nurse and Mrs. Butler was it. She was awesome.

Fredric Watson: *I'm hoping to get her daughters, Denell and Margie [Margaret] to come and do an interview.*

John Simmons: Yeah.

Fredric Watson: *Their dad was a miner and came down here to work at the plants.*

John Simmons: Is that right?

Fredric Watson: *I hope they'll have some good stories to tell.*

John Simmons: Oh yeah, she, yeah, she would have – they would, yeah. And what's amazing about them is they look just like her.

Fredric Watson: *Really?*

John Simmons: Yeah, oh yeah, yeah. She was a very kind, kind, kind woman, yes.

Interviewer: *Did you know her daughters?*

John Simmons: No, I did not. I did not know her daughters. Their daughters were older than I am. But I recently met them, I met them for the first time last year, believe it or not. I did not know that that was their mother, their mother was Mrs. Butler. I didn't know it.

Interviewer: *And have you seen Mrs. Butler since you left school?*

John Simmons: No, Mrs. Butler – when I left school, I didn't see her after that. I may have, I just don't remember, but I don't remember when she passed away. It was years ago, I believe, but yeah. What's that?

Fredric Watson: *I was just going to say I think so too.*

John Simmons: Yeah, I think it's been years ago. As a matter of fact, I wouldn't even have known if she passed away. For some reason, I just don't remember her passing away. But I do know that she did pass away.

Interviewer: *And what changes in Henderson have you observed?*

John Simmons: So many changes, so many. I worked for Henderson for thirty-two years so, you know, the changes I've seen from the population of where we were back then of, what, 10,000 in our day, to 260,000 people here now. Fortunately, and I can say this, is that I've had a big part of changing or shaping our city because, you know, as a construction manager, I've built just about every rec center here, the City Hall, there's the police department, you know, many police stations and those things that I've been involved with, parks. But the changes are just magnitude here. I mean to go – you know, if you think about in our day there was one park and that was Morrell Park. You know, that was where we played our baseball games; that is where, you know, if you wanted to play football, you basically went over to the high school or the junior high school to get on the football field. But it was a – if people could just relate to what

we had back then and what we have today is a phenomenal thing. That's the only way I can describe it, where we're at today.

Interviewer: *And what did you enjoy most about having to live in Henderson?*

John Simmons: The small town, the feel of knowing everybody. And it's funny, you know, even today I feel like I know still a lot of people and to be born and raised in a city like this was knowing everyone. That was neat because, you know what, even if you had parents at home, you had parents everywhere else because they would – if you did something wrong in this town, your parents knew about it, you know. Now it might be a little different, but the small town feel is what was really nice. And I still feel that today, to be honest with you. Yeah.

Interviewer: *Is there anything else you would like to share with me?*

John Simmons: Uh, just that I would want to share with all of you that this school is very, very special. And I for one and my family, my sister and my brother, we're all dedicated and committed to this school. We can talk about our junior high school – we can talk about our junior high and high school. But everything starts with elementary. And I will always come back to this school to give back, which we have, and to support a man that really touched a lot of lives, and that was Robert Taylor. He touched so many lives and, you know, when you go through elementary school, you always remember your elementary teachers, always. But I just want to thank you for inviting me here to do this because it's, it is special to me as well, so I want to thank you for that.

Fredric Watson: *I had a couple of questions that I wanted to ask. There's a rumor that Tanya Tucker was a student at Basic High School. You remember, you know, is she a country singer?*

John Simmons: That rumor is true and her and I dated in high school.

Fredric Watson: *Is that right?*

John Simmons: That's correct, yeah. That's true.

Fredric Watson: *See, the school district is trying to have a list of people like the Charles brothers, and just people who have done special things, you know, away from Henderson.*

John Simmons: Yes, I have Tanya's cell number and if you guys want to be able to contact her, Rick, you can. She would probably just give you something, maybe a quote over the phone or, you know, maybe if she's in town, she comes into town for concerts, maybe you guys can make it to where she can come out and you could interview her as a – you know, it would be something – she would probably want to do that. She lived on Navajo Street. I could point out the trailer where she lived at. But her and I were actually for a short period of time boyfriend and girlfriend. I could tell you I was dating – when Tanya – if you don't mind, I'll share this – when Tanya and I were dating, she cut the song on record – was "Delta Dawn." That took her career into a whole other – and then I never saw much of her after that. But one day I was dating Monica, and I was at – well, Monica worked at a – my wife today – worked at a gas station and I went over there to do some homework with her while she was tending this gas station and Tanya came up – Tanya was fifteen, so I was sixteen. Tanya came up driving in a station wagon car, found out where I was at and got out of the car and asked me if I would go to Las Vegas with her to go to an Elvis concert because she was going backstage to see him.

Interviewer: *Wow.*

John Simmons: And I turned her down.

Fredric Watson: *[laughter] That's royalty.*

John Simmons: I turned her down. That was in nineteen, I want to say '73, '73, somewhere right in there, so, yeah, and, but I've remained friends with Tanya to this day.

Fredric Watson: *That's neat.*

John Simmons: Yeah, as a matter of fact, Rick, she was going to – we were going to – I had it all set, she was going to do a big concert for me here at the Pavilion for my campaign, but it ended up that I didn't want to spend the money that was going to have to take care of – couldn't afford to take care of the band. She was going to do it for free, but I had to take care of the band and everything, and it just didn't work out, but it was ready to go. We were going to do that. But Tanya Tucker is a – she loved Henderson. She loved it.

Fredric Watson: *Did you ever work for the County Roads Department?*

John Simmons: I did.

Fredric Watson: *Did you really?*

John Simmons: I did.

Fredric Watson: *I'm curious about your recollections of that.*

John Simmons: Yeah, I'll tell you – this is a true story. Monica, my wife then, worked part-time, summertime, I think one year or two years at Clark County in the summertime as a, you know, doing clerical work and she worked and knew of the Monahan family, George Monahan family. After I graduated from high school, I knew of George Monahan. He didn't know me. I knew of his son Greg, but I knew they lived on Church Street. And one day on a Saturday I told my wife – I told Monica, at the time, I said, "You know, I think I'm going to go over and ask him if there's an opportunity for work at Clark County and working for the government." And I did. I went over on a Saturday and it was like eleven o'clock in the morning or something, and I knocked on

his door. In front of his – in his driveway was a county vehicle that he drove and he answered the door. He says, “Can I help you?” And I said, “Yeah, hi, sir, my name is John Simmons,” and I said, “I’d like to introduce myself to you,” and I said, “I’m looking for an opportunity to go to work for you, Clark County.” And he was taken aback by that and I – he asked me to come in on Monday and apply for a position there. I did. It was actually for the CETA, it was called the CETA, C-E-T-A. I don’t remember what the acronym meant, but it was a government program and I applied on Monday, and the next following Monday I was working for Clark County. What’s special about that is that I was a very hard worker and George Monahan took me under his wing, basically is what he did, and every time a position came up that had to do, because then I knew I wanted to be full time all the time with Clark County, I actually went out and worked on the Muddy River in Laughlin. There was an older gentleman that was my boss. I became a grade checker, you know, someone that would be able to check elevations so that when somebody’s excavating you can tell them how deep or how high they need to go whenever they’re excavating. So I was at the Muddy River up in Laughlin and Mr. Monahan come up and saw that we were doing such a fine job of what he wanted us to do for the road maintenance, that he called me up out from the ditch area and said I have a position inside the office I’d like you to apply for. And I did and then the rest is history. So George Monahan, quite frankly, is responsible for my career. He really is responsible for my career. I love that man. He was the nicest man that – and every single person, everyone that ever worked around him, knew him, never had anything bad to say about him. They adored the guy.

Fredric Watson: *He was County Engineer probably at that time, wasn’t he?*

John Simmons: He was a County Manager at one time.

Fredric Watson: *Oh, really?*

John Simmons: Yes, he was. I believe he was the first County Manager and then he became the Public Works Director of Clark County.

Fredric Watson: *Yeah.*

John Simmons: So, but I'm pretty sure of that, Rick.

Fredric Watson: *See, he and Les Schwartz – Les Schwartz lived down in that Church Street area too, and he was the accountant for the County Roads Department.*

John Simmons: Oh, is that right?

Fredric Watson: *Les got a whole bunch of us jobs, summer jobs –*

John Simmons: Right.

Fredric Watson: *– when we were in college.*

John Simmons: Yeah, it was good stuff.

Fredric Watson: *Oh yeah, hard, hot work, but it was just a good experience.*

John Simmons: Yes, it reminded you of which direction you wanted to go in life. [laughter]

Fredric Watson: *That is exactly right.*

John Simmons: And Lou LaPorta might be able to verify that, but I believe George Monahan was the first County Manager.

Fredric Watson: *Yeah, good. These are good stories. These are really going to add to –*

John Simmons: Yeah.

Fredric Watson: *– just add to our collection.*

John Simmons: Well, gosh, I – thank you guys so much. Yeah.

Interviewer: *Thank you.*

John Simmons: Very, very proud to be here, and you should be proud that you're a student of this school.