

**Henderson Libraries**

**Henderson Historical  
Society**

**Betty Wagner Daley**

Oral History of Betty Wagner Daley

conducted by

Fredric W. Watson

with

Sue W. Forde

for the

Henderson Historical Society

April 23, 2013

**Fredric Watson:** *This is Rick Watson speaking. I'm here today to interview Betty Wagner Daley, who is an old-timer from Henderson and has many good stories to tell that will help us to remember what it was like to be a resident of Henderson in the early part of its history. Good morning, Miss Daley. Could you tell us when you first came to Henderson?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** We first came here in – the first time was 1945, and at that time we – my husband was working for – I think his name was Colonel something. Anyway –

**Fredric Watson:** *Was your husband assigned out at the air base?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** No, no, he worked right here in Henderson.

**Fredric Watson:** *All right.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** And we only stayed here a short time and then moved up to Richland, Washington, for the Hanford Project and we were up there four years. So we came back here in 1957 or '55. We moved into this house; we're still here. And it was our home then. We really fell in love with Henderson.

**Fredric Watson:** *Where did you come from in 1945 before you came to –*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** From California.

**Fredric Watson:** *All right, whereabouts in California? Whereabouts in California did you come from?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Los Angeles.

**Fredric Watson:** *All right.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** My husband worked for the plastics firm. It was something new in those days. And I had worked for the Office of War Information during the war in San Francisco and my boss decided that he was working on a radio station in Boulder City. They built it there

because they couldn't get a license to build it in Las Vegas because of the war. So it was a temporary thing, but my husband and I both were involved in that. And then when that moved, we didn't want to move to Las Vegas.

**Fredric Watson:** *So you lived in Boulder City?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** We lived in Boulder City.

**Fredric Watson:** *Oh, that's interesting.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** We moved down here to Henderson in 1955, yes, and –

**Fredric Watson:** *So you were involved and your husband was involved in the atomic energy project in Hanford, Washington?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** My husband was, yes. In fact, that – it got to him, because he died of cancer in later years from that. But we, when that job ended, he wanted to know where we wanted to go, and I said I want to go back to Nevada. That's my place. So we came back with two little children and started in our lives from there.

**Fredric Watson:** *How old were the kids when you first came here in '55?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** '55 – let's see –

**Sue Forde:** *It would have been [fifty]-nine?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Well, I think Bob was two, and so you were four. It was quite a trip.

[laughter]

**Fredric Watson:** *Now, you know, when you ask people what'd you think of Henderson, like my mother and dad, when they tell stories about Henderson, when they first arrived here, they were just horrified at how dry and barren it was. They came – they also came from California and Missouri and Iowa, and you know everything was so green there.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** That's so true. The dirt streets, and then there was just – I think there were only about 2,500 people here if I remember correctly. And at one point I worked for Lou LaPorta in his insurance business, not for very long, but for a while. And I'm trying to think wherever else I worked. I guess no place here except I had a good friend – well, Don Dawson. You might have remembered him. He was City Manager.

**Fredric Watson:** *I remember that name.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** And I knew he was a close friend of ours. They were up in Richland with us. And he called me one day and said they needed somebody to type the reports of the Police Department, would I be interested. And that was the beginning of my time with the Police Department in 1957.

**Fredric Watson:** *Where were you located? Where was the Police Department located in those days?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** It was located on Atlantic Street which is, I think, was the Fire Department.

**Fredric Watson:** *Sure.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** And also the jail for men. The jail for women was over in North Las Vegas and it was part of my job and Joy Frank, who was the policewoman at the time, to take – go with women, with the cop over to North Las Vegas to jail at night or the middle of the night or whenever. But my job was mainly typing handwritten reports for filing. But then I got to know the man that worked for the Police Department was George Chrysler, and he came out here from Minnesota to be our chief. And we had I think about eight cops, quite some difference from today. And we worked there – I must tell you about the – not only did we have cops or

police prisoners in that old building that we had our Police Department in, but we had a cook that cooked all their meals and his one desire was to cook meals for twelve cents or under. And he managed. He was called Sam.

**Fredric Watson:** *I'll be darned. That's such a small, little building. See that's all still there.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Yes, it is.

**Fredric Watson:** *There are some folks that are trying to get it identified as an historic site in the Nevada, the State of Nevada scheme of things. So that's interesting.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Yes. Well, we got to the point where we outgrew it, and so in 1964, I think it was, we moved over to Water Street, which was – I can't remember the address, but it was the new City Hall, and there was a place in there for the Police Department. So then we started to grow.

**Fredric Watson:** *About what time was that, would you say? What year?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** It was 1964.

**Fredric Watson:** *'64, okay.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** And I retired from that Police Department in 1978, so that's how long I worked there. And I didn't – I took care of the payroll. I took care of all the reports that had to go to the FBI and greeted people when they came in. For a long time, I was the only woman there, but then we hired dispatchers, and then we had three or four starting out, women dispatchers, and they made it easier for the cops on the street because they could report things and help them that way. There was some wonderful gals came in through that dispatcher.

**Fredric Watson:** *Were you involved in helping to train those – the new staff as they came on?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** No, I had nothing to do with training them, but the police officers trained them.

**Fredric Watson:** *Oh.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Because they had to know what the different terms were that they'd put over the radio and be in contact with them by radio at all times, so there was a lot more protection for the cops on the street. I think we had about six dispatchers. And that's about all I did was just work for the Police Department.

**Fredric Watson:** *You saw a tremendous change in things from 1955 to the 1970s in the technology of police work.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Yes, yes.

**Fredric Watson:** *My sister worked for the phone company and her friends – we interviewed Toni and Janette Anderson – Kathy Franklin, also. I'm thinking the telephone company and Police Department probably had to work pretty closely.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Well, I expect – I don't remember that we – I didn't have anything to do with the phone company. Although, of course, I knew about – that it was in existence, but it was kind of fun to see the street, Water Street, blossom because it was – it was not much when we started out, and little by little it has changed to – not really what it is today, but [laughter] – because it's really different today. It used to be just a little quiet street and a little store here and a little store there, and a theater which was up by the Police Department, and the – it was just a small town.

**Fredric Watson:** *When you worked in the old building on Atlantic Street, did you partake of the twelve cent lunches that the cook had there or did you guys go away somewhere else for lunch? I was curious about how good the food was.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Well, I think it was pretty basic. It was like macaroni, that sort of thing. Things he could get cheap and make a lot of.

**Fredric Watson:** *Just like the Army maybe.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Yes, [laughter] and, of course, the prisoners didn't have any choice about it. They ate or they went hungry.

**Fredric Watson:** *What are your recollections and memories of like the old Joe McBeath and Dottie McBeath's drugstore, and did you ever go down there and eat at the lunch counter? I'm trying to think of some of the other places that were there, like the Tastee Freeze across the street. Was it the Tastee Freeze that was across the street from the Victory Theater?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** I'm having a hard time hearing you, Rick.

**Fredric Watson:** *I'll have to talk up. No, I was just thinking your memories of places right around there, places to go get a cup of coffee, say, or to have lunch.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Well, I don't really remember the stores that well. I remember over on Market Street they had a nice hardware store and they also had Tally Ho, which was a women's clothing store.

**Fredric Watson:** *I remember that.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** And I think they had a grocery store there on the corner, and I can't remember what that name was, but it was where we all shopped. We didn't get out for coffee or things like that from the Police Department. They had their times off, of course, and there's a



funny saying that if we hire a new guy, come in from somewhere else, and we were so short of cops, that the Chief would say, “Here – here’s your badge. Go patrol.” [laughter]

**Fredric Watson:** *My, just that fast.*

**Sue Forde:** *No training.*

**Fredric Watson:** *Yeah, that’s interesting. That’s a good story.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** They had to have their own guns.

**Fredric Watson:** *They had to supply their own guns?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Yes.

**Fredric Watson:** *Ah, that’s interesting too.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** So really, it was just a basic police department.

**Sue Forde:** *Did they have to buy their own uniforms?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Yes. Well, they had a fund that they were given for police uniforms. At least that was later – I don’t know – but when they first started out – I can’t remember that far back. I didn’t wear a uniform until I became a policewoman in 1960, and the reason I did was because Joy Frank was the one policewoman they had when I went to work there, and she was a very special person. She was a crack shot and she could bring somebody to their knees if they were giving her a problem with a certain way she had – didn’t happen often. But I was so impressed. [laughter] And I was really taking care of a lot of her work because she had other things she had to do as a policewoman. She was authorized for that, and I was so proud when they decided I could be a policewoman. So Judge Dohrenwend was the judge that swore me in.

**Fredric Watson:** *I remember that name.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Judge Dohrenwend. And we went on from there. It was just more or less a routine job because I was in Records. Sometimes I would interview a prisoner or listen in while the prisoner was being interviewed so I could write down notes on it.

**Fredric Watson:** *I'm trying to remember what, you know, the incidents and things that happened. Of course you were here during the years when they were testing the atomic bomb.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Well, we went up to the Star Club, that's just my family and I, went up to the Star Club which is no longer there.

**Fredric Watson:** *That's in Beatty, right?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** It was across from the Railroad Pass.

**Fredric Watson:** *Oh, okay, all right.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** On the right hand side.

**Fredric Watson:** *The Star Club?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** And that's where – yeah, the Star Club. And that's where we sat and watched the atomic bomb explode at night. It was – lit up the whole sky, the whole sky. It was so remarkable.

**Fredric Watson:** *Yes.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Didn't we watch it from here?

**Sue Forde:** *Up on the roof.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Oh, I didn't remember we were on the roof.

**Fredric Watson:** *That scare you, to have the kids up on the roof? [laughter] We were more adventuresome in Henderson in those days than people are today, I think. Don't you?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Yes. I didn't have any rules particularly. [laughter] It was a fun city to live in and so many nice people, and I became the organist at St. Peter's and held that position for about seventeen years.

**Fredric Watson:** *Did you work with Mrs. Bariole? Do you remember Mrs. Bariole?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Bariole –

**Fredric Watson:** *Yeah, I'm trying to remember her first name. She was, she was a singer, used to sing sometimes at Mass.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Oh, I remember the Sullivans.

**Fredric Watson:** *Ah, okay.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** The Sullivan sisters, they were before my time. I don't know where they went, but I was – we had a Christmas party over in the old hall.

**Fredric Watson:** *St. Peter's hall.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** And they needed somebody to play Christmas music, so I volunteered since nobody else did.

**Fredric Watson:** *You played organ and piano, both probably?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Yes.

**Fredric Watson:** *All right.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** This was piano of course. So I did that and Monsignor Anderson was our pastor at the time.

**Fredric Watson:** *I remember.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** He came over to me and he said, "You're my new organist." And that's the way I was put in as organist. [laughter]

**Fredric Watson:** *I'm sure I was there when you were playing. Yeah, and there was a balcony in St. Peter's.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Yes, it was a choir loft.

**Fredric Watson:** *I don't remember being up there very often. I was an altar boy, but for some reason or another, I never got up there. That's the kind of place kids would like to check out.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Yes, yes.

**Fredric Watson:** *I guess the Sisters were pretty good at watching us.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Oh, I'm sure they were. I remember watching them down – from the – and they were strict. They had a reputation for being that way but they were just so wonderful.

**Fredric Watson:** *Sure.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** They really were.

**Fredric Watson:** *For a long time, they didn't have a place to live near the school, so they lived over at the hospital, I guess.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Oh, they did?

**Fredric Watson:** *I think some of them lived at the hospital. Later didn't they – weren't the Dominican Sisters that taught at the school – I think Father Moran got them a –*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** There was a building in back. It was like a bunch of duplexes.

**Fredric Watson:** *Part of Victory Village, maybe.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Yeah, it was a – I remember I was only in there a couple of times, but they had it pretty cozy over there. I'd forgotten they were at the hospital.

**Fredric Watson:** *I think when they first came they were there.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Of course that's where they worked when they first got here.

**Fredric Watson:** *I remember that because they used to recruit some of the kids from school to go and wash windows at the hospital and, you know that – so we would go, we would report to their apartments in the hospital there.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** [laughter] Yeah, that's –

**Fredric Watson:** *You know, I say the hospital. I don't know, maybe they had a house in that Church Street, because that's a possibility too. I can't remember. That's something I'll have to ask Mary Monahan about.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Yes.

**Fredric Watson:** *Because she lived right over by the hospital.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** The only one I remember was behind the rectory and that's the last place they lived before they disappeared on us. They had – I used to feel so sorry for them with those heavy habits they wore. They wore wool in this heat, but they didn't seem to mind. [laughter]

**Fredric Watson:** *Do you remember the names of any of the nuns that were at St. Peter's?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Yes. Sister Jane was the principal and Sister Teresa, Sister –

**Sue Forde:** *Frances.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Frances Ellis.

**Sue Forde:** *Joseph, Sister Joseph?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Oh, Joseph. I had forgotten. I'd forgotten that.

**Sue Forde:** *Second grade.*

**Fredric Watson:** *Sister Robert Joseph?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Robert Joseph – that was the one.

**Fredric Watson:** *You know, they named a school after her.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Did they?

**Fredric Watson:** *Yes, an elementary school.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** She was a sweetheart, I'll tell you. And I just don't remember any more.

Probably if I heard their names, it would strike a bell, but I don't remember. Well I do remember about their – remember that grotto –

**Fredric Watson:** *Yes.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** – that we had and [laughter] they would light up out there, the Sisters would be out there marching around, seeing that they got their places right.

**Fredric Watson:** *Yeah, they would organize them. What do you remember about Industrial Days?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Well, I had a daughter that was in the Desertaires.

**Fredric Watson:** *All right.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** For one thing. But they were – we used to just love those. They had them down there where it was Titanium Field now. And it's now a place for stores and things, so it's changed a lot. We liked Titanium – that Titanium Field. It had a lot of good sports and things down there. And then I remember the day the explosion happened, and I believe it was 1988, if I'm not mistaken.

**Fredric Watson:** *What do you remember about that?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Well, we had gone down to one of these fast food places to get a sandwich for lunch. We never did that often, but this day we did, and as I was sitting there waiting for the gentleman to get the – it wasn't John was it?

**Sue Forde:** *It was Art.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Art. Of course it was.

**Sue Forde:** *Yeah.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Well, I happened to be looking at this plant and I saw it shake and I thought, "I think that thing just blew up." And, of course, when we came home, everybody's windows were shattered and it was quite frightening.

**Fredric Watson:** *Did you know anybody that worked at PEPCON?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** No, not a soul. But then it was a miracle nobody was killed.

**Fredric Watson:** *Yeah. Did you have any damage here at your house?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Just my back – I have a back patio out here that has glass doors, and those were broken. But other people had a lot more damage than that.

**Fredric Watson:** *Yeah, my folks had some broken windows. I was clear across the Valley at an elementary school in the west side of town above Rainbow, and it just rattled the windows and the door and scared us all that distance away.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** And then Sue was reminding me, there was a time when there was some chlorine let loose and everybody was advised to get out of town. So we went downriver to Kingman or somewhere. I don't remember now where we went, but we hopped in our car and left. I don't even remember what year that was.

**Fredric Watson:** *Yeah, that would be interesting, because I remember on a couple of occasions where it would be like a cloud, you know, just like on a rainy day or something, it would be kind of cloudy.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** That's right.

**Fredric Watson:** *And that's what it was; it was chlorine.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** My mother wrote and said, "You'd better move out of there!" [laughter]

**Fredric Watson:** *Now, where did your mother live?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** She was in Colorado.

**Fredric Watson:** *Is that where you come from?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Yes.

**Fredric Watson:** *Originally?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Originally.

**Fredric Watson:** *What town?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Glenwood Springs.

**Fredric Watson:** *Glenwood Springs.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** And I lived several places in Colorado growing up.

**Fredric Watson:** *Is that where you met your husband?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** No, I met him in San Francisco.

**Fredric Watson:** *All right.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** He was in the Service.

**Fredric Watson:** *That was during the war?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** During the war, yes. I'd moved out there from Washington, D.C. [cell phone rings] [laughter] Telephone.

**Fredric Watson:** *So you had lived in Washington, D.C.?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** My father was a Forest Service person.

**Fredric Watson:** *Oh.*



**Betty Wagner Daley:** And he transferred all over the place, so we lived in quite a few places, and the last place where I graduated from high school was Washington, D.C. And I was there for seven years and started work there in the War Office.

**Fredric Watson:** *What years would that have been?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Let's see –

**Fredric Watson:** *Just right after you graduated from high school, though?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** 1938.

**Fredric Watson:** *'38. Washington must have been an interesting place.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** It was a fun place in those days, yes. And my mother, when we moved there, hopped in the car every day, put us in the back seat and away we went. We saw something that was famous in Washington. We saw it all, thanks to my mother. It was quite an experience.

**Fredric Watson:** *So she appreciated the history –*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Yes.

**Fredric Watson:** *– of the place.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** And she didn't want any of it to disappear before she had a chance to see it. So that was fun and I did enjoy Washington. There was many things to do and it was a wonderful place to be a teenager. It really was.

**Fredric Watson:** *So you were there during the war years from –*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Yes.

**Fredric Watson:** *And then toward the end of the war, you went to San Francisco?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Well, during the war.

**Fredric Watson:** *All right.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** They had an Office of War Information that I went to work for in Washington and I decided I wanted to move back out West because I was born and raised here, so I checked around and they were willing to transfer me to San Francisco. So that's why I went out there and I loved San Francisco [laughter].

**Fredric Watson:** *I can see why.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** And that's where I met my husband, and we were married there, and he was transferred in the service down to L.A. Then he was transferred back to San Francisco, so we had – first years, it was running around a lot.

**Fredric Watson:** *Where were you in 1941 when Pearl Harbor was bombed?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** I was at home in Washington.

**Fredric Watson:** *In Washington.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** We were watching the radio, in those days only radio, and it came over the radio. And we just couldn't believe it. My father said, "Well, this is the end of a part of our lives." And he was so right.

**Fredric Watson:** *That changed things in this country.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Yes. I had three brothers. One was a Marine, one was in the Air Force, and one was in the Navy. So they all three –

**Sue Forde:** *And your mother?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Oh, my mother also went in the WACS.

**Fredric Watson:** *Really? Oh, my.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Later on.

**Fredric Watson:** *Did she have to transfer to another part of the country or did she go overseas?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** No, she was – they had – as soon as we children were grown and gone, they – he got a transfer back to Hamilton, Montana, and he was just in seventh heaven. He never liked Washington, I think just the office routine that he was in. But they moved back there and so there was no place for me to go home to Washington, their home. [laughter]

**Sue Forde:** *What happened to Grandma in the WACS?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Oh yes, that's right.

**Fredric Watson:** *You have an amazing memory.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** [laughter]

**Fredric Watson:** *You know, you just have a lot to remember.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Yes. There's a lot to remember. So she went to Indiana, and my husband and I went up to Hamilton because we were waiting for the radio station to be built. We had moved to Boulder City and it took all summer long, and my husband got a job high up in the mountains watching for fires. And I kept house for my dad.

**Fredric Watson:** *And you say your husband had got a job high up in the mountains here in – like in the Spring Mountain Range, or he stayed while they were building the stations?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Oh, we both went up to Hamilton.

**Fredric Watson:** *Oh, all right.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Because there was nothing for us to do in Boulder until that was built.

**Fredric Watson:** *I see.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** So then we came back to Boulder and my daughter was born in Boulder City, and so we settled down.

**Fredric Watson:** *At the hospital up on the hill?*

**Sue Forde:** *The old one that doesn't exist anymore.*

**Fredric Watson:** *Oh, really?*

**Sue Forde:** *Yeah, they tore it down.*

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

**Betty Wagner Daley:** *There's a newer one they have; it's just a great hospital.*

**Fredric Watson:** *It overlooks that big park where they have their art fair every year? Boulder City's a neat town. See, that's why I asked. You sounded eager to get back to Henderson, but you saw that as a – could you talk some more about that? You know, why you were so happy to come back to Henderson? That's a good story for the City of Henderson to remember.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** *Yes. Well, it was kind of built on a temporary basis. We had duplexes all on a row, and we were lucky, because most of the people had to live in trailers, there was so little housing.*

**Fredric Watson:** *Now, where was that?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** *This was in north Richland, Washington.*

**Sue Forde:** *He wants to know when you were in Boulder City, what brought you back to Henderson, why you would like to come back to Henderson.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** *Oh, when we were in Boulder? Jobs. When the radio station folded, my husband was without a job, so he came looking in Henderson and found one in Titanium. I think it was Titanium. Anyway, he worked a couple of places down here. He was purchasing agent for Titanium at one point.*

**Fredric Watson:** *Where did you first live when you moved to Henderson? What part of Henderson?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Right here.

**Fredric Watson:** *Oh, you bought this? This the only house?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** This house. In fact, he bought it and didn't tell me about it until he brought me down to see it.

**Fredric Watson:** *Oh.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** It was already ours. [laughter]

**Fredric Watson:** *And there's something special about a brand new house, isn't there?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Yeah, a little – heard Felix there. [laughter] But it's been a wonderful home, and it's in a lovely neighborhood and it's not one of the new fancy places out where Henderson has grown so much. I can't believe it – still can't believe it, but this stays the same. And we have neighbors that we've known for years. I think you know Rosalie and Doug Hart.

**Fredric Watson:** *Sure.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** They live next door. So that's about the story of our existence. I lost my husband in 1977 and then I waited – I was put back to work at the Police Department after being home with him for the time I had to be. And I'm glad I did because that's when I met John. It was a happy day for me, and that's about all I can remember. Probably should remember more of Henderson, but I do remember they had that big building down there on the end of Water Street where they had dances, big parties on New Year's, I think it was. And everybody in town went to these dances and that's what made it such a nice, small, cohesive Henderson.

**Fredric Watson:** *Now, what end of Water Street was that?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** It was down right next to the highway where that big building was.

**Fredric Watson:** *Was that the old Dick Stewart [Motors]?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** It was a car place.

**Fredric Watson:** *Oh, sure. Yeah, it's been – I bought – I remember buying a car there. Was it Stewart? It was Stewart Motors.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Stewart Motors.

**Fredric Watson:** *Sure, sure and the big – and the display area would have been a great dance floor.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Yes, it was. And they brought in some musicians and it was just so much fun. And you got to know people, and, of course, it was easier to know people in those days.

**Sue Forde:** *And then you were a member of the DOES.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Oh, yes, I became a member of BPO DOES – it was the ELKS women – and was in that for four or five years.

**Fredric Watson:** *And that – the meeting place for BPOE, was that Pacific and Basic? Was that where that –*

**Sue Forde:** *It was across the highway on the other side.*

**Fredric Watson:** *Oh.*

**Sue Forde:** *Yeah, I think it's still there, isn't it?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** It is. It's not doing much; the ELKS have folded.

**Fredric Watson:** *Well, it's down by – that was, that's the building that's down by the old Carver Park.*

**Sue Forde:** *Yes.*

**Fredric Watson:** *Where Carver Park was.*

**Sue Forde:** *Yes, right.*

**Fredric Watson:** *I think that – we lived in Carver Park from '46 to '49, and I think that building was there even in those days.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** *Is that right?*

**Fredric Watson:** *Yeah, that was our first home in Henderson, was Carver Park.*

**Sue Forde:** *Where did you first live when you came to Henderson in 1945? Where did you live then?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** We lived out on Basic Road. It was just a little Townsite house, and we were there for I think about a year before he got this job up in Richland, and he moved up there and found us this place to live, and then he called me and said, “Put Sue in the car” – she was eighteen months old – “and come on up.” So I had to drive all the way up to Richland [laughter], and it didn’t bother me a bit. It would today, but at –

**Fredric Watson:** *Do you remember the route you took to get there?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** I really don’t. I was trying to think of that the other day. I must have taken Salt Lake because it was the better road in those days. We had dirt roads. [laughter]

**Fredric Watson:** *That would have been an adventure.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** We got up there and the Columbia River was flooded, so we had to go miles out of our way to get across the Columbia River.

**Fredric Watson:** *Oh, boy. Good story. So you lived on Basic Road. Well, out of your back door looking south toward Black Mountain, just think of the difference if you were at that house. I bet that house is still there.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** It is. It's been lived in. All those houses on Basic Road, in fact they've added – across the street, they didn't have any houses across the street from us. We were at 210 and we had this little church, though, across the street. That was there then, and it's improved a hundred percent, but it was a nice little neighborhood church. But that was all. It was just plain dirt. [laughter]

**Fredric Watson:** *Did your kids like to go out in the desert and play?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** They liked to, but I wasn't happy about it. Their dad liked – would take them. And since they've grown up, I've heard several tales about their going out to inspect mines.

**Fredric Watson:** *Oh, yeah.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** I about had a heart attack because those things are dangerous. You can fall in there and never be seen again.

**Fredric Watson:** *Yes, true.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** But he was very careful with them of course.

**Fredric Watson:** *Did the Police Department – during your years with the Police Department, you probably had incidents where people were injured out in the desert around those old mines. Do you remember any stories about that?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** No, I sure don't. I don't remember anything like that. There might have been, but if so, it would have come across my desk and I don't remember anything like that.



**Sue Forde:** *I don't know that there were mines around Henderson. Those were closer to Boulder City.*

**Fredric Watson:** *All right.*

**Sue Forde:** *Where we went.*

**Fredric Watson:** *Did the kids ever climb on Black Mountain?*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** *I'm sure they did. They came home fagged out. [laughter] It was a long, long hike.*

**Fredric Watson:** *Oh, yeah.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** *But we're fairly close here, so – and they used to go – what was the name of that place out there that Bob and his group used to go to? I have a son, Bob, and they'd go out there to this – oh, I'm sure it's gone now.*

**Fredric Watson:** *There were a couple of places that I'm interested in, so I'll tell you some names and see if it rings a bell. There was a – a lot of the kids used to go visit with an – I think he was an old prospector. They called him The Hermit and he lived down on Las Vegas Wash. You know, the stream that came out of there where the Stewart Ranch was and made its way all the way down toward the Colorado River. And that was one of the kind of folk stories that was told. And another was Klinger's Ranch.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** *Oh, yes, Klinger's Ranch.*

**Fredric Watson:** *See, I think Klinger's Ranch was out around where PEPCON eventually was built and then, of course, the – and had that disastrous explosion.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** *Is that down where – there's something else down there that's famous.*

**Fredric Watson:** *The Klinger family owned a gas station up at Railroad Pass too.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** That's right and when we first came to Boulder, we went past that, and it was one little teeny garage building – that was Railroad Pass. And look at it today.

**Fredric Watson:** *I read that he and his family lived in that gas station. There was a back room.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Yes, that's right. He did and that's where – I knew the name Klinger but I couldn't quite figure – that's where it was. We used to go out to Railroad Pass and dance up a storm. They had really good musicians back in there.

**Fredric Watson:** *My dad liked to go up there because they had good barbecued ribs.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Really?

**Fredric Watson:** *Yeah. My dad was from Missouri and he liked barbecued ribs.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Well, that's a far cry from the one I was thinking, was Bonnie Springs Ranch.

**Fredric Watson:** *All right, sure, I remember.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** It's fun to go out there and see the donkeys.

**Fredric Watson:** *Let's see – well, those are good stories that will, you know, that'll bring back a lot of memories for people that see this video.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Well, I hope so.

**Fredric Watson:** *I think we'll call it good for today, and then if you're up for it, maybe sometime down the road, I'll come back. You be thinking about stories maybe that you forgot about and that you'd like to tell.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Okay.

**Fredric Watson:** *But this'll be great. Well thank you very much.*

**Betty Wagner Daley:** Well, it's been such a pleasure meeting you, Rick.

**Fredric Watson:** *Well, thank you.*