

Henderson Libraries

Henderson Oral History Project

Rebecca M. Jacobs

Oral History of Rebecca M. Jacobs

conducted by

Anne Marie Hamilton-Brehm

March 27, 2014

Interviewer: *Today is March 27, 2014. We are at the Paseo Verde Branch of Henderson District Public Libraries in Henderson, Nevada. My name is Anne Marie Hamilton-Brehm and I'm interviewing Becky Jacobs as part of the Henderson Oral History Project of Henderson Libraries. Thank you for joining me, Becky.*

Becky Jacobs: You're welcome.

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

Becky Jacobs: I was born in Rochester, New Hampshire, April 9, 1954. My father was in the military and we lived in Rochester for about three years. From that point on, we were transferred to Morocco and we lived in Morocco for three years.

Interviewer: *What was that like? Do you remember?*

Becky Jacobs: You know, there's little things that I remember, but being of that age, you don't remember a lot. I can remember there were camel drives. I can remember—shortly after we moved there, I got lost. I was not ready to go play with the next door neighbor and my brother went and my mom got me ready and sent me next door and I couldn't remember where the house was. They had to call the police and they finally found me just wandering the streets.

Interviewer: *Did the houses look the same there?*

Becky Jacobs: I don't even recall. I have no idea.

Interviewer: *Lucky they found you.*

Becky Jacobs: Yeah.

Interviewer: *Did you ever get to ride a camel?*

Becky Jacobs: No. I never did. When the camel ride—or herd—went through that we were going to, I was sick with the chicken pox. So everybody at the front, my brothers and sisters, went and I stayed home.

Interviewer: *That's too bad. So how did you end up moving to Henderson?*

Becky Jacobs: My dad was transferred to Nellis Air Force Base and we came out here in July of 1960. At that point in time, there was no housing on the base. They couldn't find any place to stay in town, so we lived on Mount Charleston for a month, camping out in a tent. It was my parents and four kids.

Interviewer: *That sounds like fun, I guess.*

Becky Jacobs: You know, as kids you don't know any different. You just do and then towards the end of the time that we were up there, I think the weather was getting into that Monsoon season that we have and the ranger, or whoever up there, felt sorry for us and he got us in a cabin or some type of building where we had better shelter until they found a home. My parents finally found a home in Henderson. That was the first place that they found available that would suit for their family.

Interviewer: *It's hard to believe that they moved army personnel here and then they had to camp out.*

Becky Jacobs: Yeah, well this was Air Force. But it was an adventure.

Interviewer: *Yeah, interesting. All right, so you moved to Henderson. And how old were you when you came to Henderson?*

Becky Jacobs: Six years old. I'd actually—I'd gone to kindergarten in—it was Nouasseur Air Force Base.

[Editor's note: Following the destabilization of French government in Morocco and Moroccan independence in 1956, the government of Mohammed V insisted that the US Air Force pull out of Morocco after American intervention in Lebanon in 1958. The United States agreed to leave as of December 1959, and was fully out of Nouasseur Air Base, now known as Mohammed V International

Airport, by August 15, 1963.] I went to kindergarten there, and then once we came to Henderson, I started—my brother and I—started first grade, he was in second, and we went to St. Peter’s School.

Interviewer: *Okay. What was St. Peter’s like?*

Becky Jacobs: You know, it was small class sizes then. We all wore uniforms and it was pretty much—seemed like you had the same group of kids for quite a few years with interspersed with a new one here, a new one there. It was, you know, it was fun. We always walked to school and we lived a good mile away from school, and you walked summer, winter, or anytime it was hot, or we rode our bikes. And the nuns—for the most part you had—the nuns were your instructors. And it was just like any other school: you had the reading, you had P.E., and you didn’t have school lunches at that point in time. Once a month, the parents would all get together and we would have a hot dog day. And for a quarter, you could buy a hot dog, milk, and chips. And that was like the highlight of our life was, “We get to have a hot dog!” [laughter]

Interviewer: *[laughter] Otherwise, you had to bring bag lunches.*

Becky Jacobs: Oh, yes, and riding your bikes, you’d always crash, and at that time, you had the glass thermoses. And of course, the first time you fall, your thermos broke so you could not have your beverage for lunch because it was all glass inside.

Interviewer: *Did you have the metal lunch boxes?*

Becky Jacobs: Of course. Yes. I don’t know when the plastic thermoses came out, but I think it was way after us.

Interviewer: *Did they—back—you know, we had metal lunch boxes too when we were kids, in the ’70s. Did you have pictures on your lunchbox?*

Becky Jacobs: Oh, yes.

Interviewer: *What was yours? Do you remember?*

Becky Jacobs: You know, honestly, I can't remember what I had. Probably imagine one would have been a Barbie one.

Interviewer: *Yeah, maybe so.*

Becky Jacobs: But, other than that I don't recall.

Interviewer: *What were your teachers like? Do you remember some of their names?*

Becky Jacobs: Yeah, I can remember Sister Mary Catherine and I think it was Sister Joseph Francine or something like that. She used to bring her guitar and she would play and all the kids would sing and everything. And then some of the nuns were very strict and the little ruler on your hands if—you know. So that was typical. But overall, it was a good education. I remember in first grade I got in trouble because we had gotten new readers and we were supposed to not be sitting there just holding our readers. Well, of course, I wanted to look at the pictures! So I got caught looking at the pictures and I was sent out of class to go sit with my brother in second grade. Don't know why, but I didn't get to look at the pictures any longer! I got to experience a little second grade. [laughter]

Interviewer: *[laughter] That's interesting, and who knows why they did it that way. What was your favorite class?*

Becky Jacobs: What was my favorite class. In fifth grade we had what they called a lay teacher. It was just a—it was a woman, and this was—we called—her name was Mrs. Ruth, and in real life it was Lahoma Ruth, and I really, really liked her. She was just a really nice lady. Her son was going to school there in my class—Christopher Ruth—and I think that probably had to be my favorite overall.

Interviewer: *How were the classes set up? Did you have a homeroom and then you went to other classes for different subjects? Or was it one teacher?*

Becky Jacobs: No. There was just one classroom for each grade and you just went to that particular class. You would have somebody for P.E. and that was the only difference that you had. On Friday, first Friday of the month, you would always go to mass. We would—we had to learn all the hymns and we would sing in the choir, and if there were funerals, we would have to sing at funerals and things like that. And I know in the month of May, it was always supposed to be the month of Mary, and St. Peter's had a huge grotto—a rock-type grotto—out there with an altar, with a huge statue of the Blessed Virgin. And a girl from the eighth grade class would always be chosen to crown the Blessed Virgin with a flower crown. And we would sing, and one of the projects that all of the kids had to do was we had to make our own little May altar out of some type of box. And we would all bring them in to have our classroom decorated and everything. The grotto's no longer there, which I was really sorry when they took that down.

Interviewer: *Do you know why they took it down?*

Becky Jacobs: To expand the church.

Interviewer: *Oh, okay, so it wasn't because it was falling apart or anything.*

Becky Jacobs: No. To my knowledge it was to expand the church. There were weddings out there and all sorts of church events. So it was—behind the grotto there was a whole section where you could do the Stations of the Cross, just kind of like a little garden setting back there.

Interviewer: *How interesting, I haven't seen any pictures of that. I've seen pictures of the grotto, but you say this was behind the grotto.*

Becky Jacobs: Yes. But when you had first communion you would always have your pictures taken out in front of the grotto, and there were the steps going up, and so it was kind of a neat little thing to have in Henderson.

Interviewer: *When did you have first communion?*

Becky Jacobs: You did your first communion when you were in second grade. So, let's see, probably about '62 to '63. It was always done right before Easter, basically.

Interviewer: *And what did you wear?*

Becky Jacobs: You always wore white and my mom made a dress for us that I think all my siblings wore, and you had the white veil and you got a white prayer book and everything. I don't recall that you wore gloves.

Interviewer: *Did you have to wear a hat when you went to church?*

Becky Jacobs: A hat or a chapel veil, was pretty much—and then early on you never wore slacks. Women always wore dresses. Don't know when the transition was.

Interviewer: *How long did you attend St. Peter's?*

Becky Jacobs: I went all eight years. I was the only one of my siblings that went eight years. My eighth grade class was the last eighth grade class of St. Peter's and then they started scaling it down. I don't recall if they just did away with eighth grade or whatever, but yeah, I was the only one that went there. You went there, you made your first communion in second grade. Then in eighth grade, you did your confirmation. And we didn't have to go to C.C.D. because we had our religious training right there at school. We always felt a little lucky for that. In the church hall that they had there, they had lots of functions there that we would all partake in. At Christmastime, they would have Santa Claus come there. You know, we would go down and Santa would always have a gift for you, and church bazaars, and it seemed like when I graduated from St. Peter's they did have a big graduation for you and they, had a big breakfast for us in the small hall. There were lots of activities that took place there.

Interviewer: *It seems to me like St. Peter's was really a cultural—a central cultural icon of Henderson.*

Becky Jacobs: I think so and you know it was, you had people coming from Vegas to go to St. Peter's. It wasn't just Hendersonites.

Interviewer: *How about that.*

Becky Jacobs: People from—not just like, say, East Vegas or others, they would come from the outlying Las Vegas area. Some of them actually even came out from Nellis.

Interviewer: *Did they not have a Catholic church available to them? I assume they must have.*

Becky Jacobs: I don't think that it was just the church. I think it was the school. There weren't very many Catholic schools out here then.

Interviewer: *What school did you go to after eighth grade?*

Becky Jacobs: After eighth grade I went into Basic High School and stayed there for two years and then I moved on to Vo-Tech and went there and took up data processing and secretarial work.

[Editor's note: Created in 1966 as Southern Nevada Vocational Technical Center, known locally as Vo-Tech, the magnet school is a four-year comprehensive high school and career technical academy now known as Southeast Career Technical Academy (SECTA).]

Interviewer: *When you went to high school, why did you chose Basic instead of Gorman [the Catholic high school]?*

Becky Jacobs: I don't think my parents could afford to send us to Gorman.

Interviewer: *It was probably pretty expensive.*

Becky Jacobs: Yes. In fact, when we went to St. Peter's, my parents actually cleaned the school rooms in the evenings to help pay for our tuition.

Interviewer: *I'm sure Father Moran appreciated it too! [laughter]*

Becky Jacobs: [laughter] Yeah.

Interviewer: *What was he like?*

Becky Jacobs: You know, I don't remember him. The priest that I remember the most—I mean, Monsignor Anderson was there a lot, and then Father Caviglia. Father Caviglia was actually the one that married my husband and me, and I think Father Moran actually ended up in Boulder City, if I remember.

Interviewer: *Yeah, he may have been transferred to a different location. I don't know exactly when that transfer occurred.*

Becky Jacobs: Yeah, you know, I couldn't really tell you what they were like. I know some of them, you were kind of frightened of them. [laughter]

Interviewer: *[laughter] Authority figures!*

Becky Jacobs: Yes, exactly. You know and wearing their cassocks and everything, you're like, hm.

Interviewer: *Now were the nuns that taught at St. Peter's, were they part of the Adrian Dominican Sisters?*

Becky Jacobs: Yeah, they were the Dominican nuns, definitely. They had something to do with St. Rose de Lima hospital as well. I think some taught there, some were at the hospital.

Interviewer: *Did you know the other nuns that worked at the hospital that didn't teach at the school?*

Becky Jacobs: No. I really didn't because being military, we had our medical done out at Nellis. You know the only thing I can really remember from St. Rose was my youngest sister was born there in '66. Other than that we pretty much went out to Nellis. For medical dental, though, we went to Dr. Stanley Jones. He had an office on Water Street. In fact, they were a neighbor of ours, and my parents ended up cleaning his office in exchange for dental work for years. I know one time we were down cleaning there

and there was some public fundraiser or something that was going on, and my mother and father had discussions about whether they should go or what-not. Then it was decided my mom would go and she entered some raffle and ended up winning a TV. We didn't have a TV prior to that!

Interviewer: *That's pretty cool!*

Becky Jacobs: We were so excited that we could go—and of course, it was just black and white TV—little box TV, but once it came home, we all sat there looking at it. We weren't allowed to watch a lot of TV. We could watch, on weekends, we got to watch—basically, it was Disney's Wonderful World of Color. That was one of our favorite programs to watch.

Interviewer: *On a black and white TV? [laughter]*

Becky Jacobs: [laughter] On a black and white TV! I think the color part came in for us many years later.

Interviewer: *That's funny, ironic! [laughter] What was Henderson like when you first moved there?*

Becky Jacobs: You know, Henderson was such a small town and it seemed like everybody knew everybody. And you had the freedom to roam. We rode our bikes to school, crossing Boulder Highway without any concerns.

Interviewer: *Really? Because that seems really scary.*

Becky Jacobs: Nowadays it does, but you didn't have much traffic then. There was—you know for school, we had—the kids did the crossing guard thing. It wasn't adults or people from the police department doing it; it was students. We never really had any problems there. We'd ride our bikes all around, and in fact, when it was hot—at some point in time, they put a little rest area in, I believe it was at Basic and Boulder Highway area—and we were so happy when they did that because there was water! And when we got hot and thirsty, we could scoop up water in our hands to get something to drink on our way to or from school. So you know, that was nice.

Interviewer: *Did they have the underpass under Boulder Highway at that time, or had they filled that in?*

Becky Jacobs: I don't think so. I'm not aware of it.

Interviewer: *Maybe they filled it in.*

Becky Jacobs: Yeah, and we used to roam out in the desert, constantly. Our house backed to the desert, so we could just go out the gate. Construction trucks would dump their cement and everything in there, and a lot of them would be broken up chunks, so we would use those and we would build forts. We would drag pieces of wood or anything that we could find to put a roof over the top. We could play in there for hours. One time my brother and I were running around out in the desert and, I don't know, we would walk to the train tracks which was quite a ways, and we found an abandoned vehicle out there one time. So, I don't know any better, I get in, I steer and my brother pushes it, and we pushed it all the way home. [laughter]

Interviewer: *Oh, I can't believe it!*

Becky Jacobs: Yeah, we did. I don't know whatever became of it or anything. It was just—it was one of those—and there were horse corrals out there that some of our neighbors that had lived there a little longer than us would tell us, like, ghost stories and things about them being haunted. We were always a little leery of those areas, but over the years they just kind of disappeared and what not. We would also collect bottles—glass bottles that didn't get broken as people threw them out along the highway because we could take those to the store and redeem them for five cents.

Interviewer: *Oh, yeah. That's nice.*

Becky Jacobs: Yeah. So, that was our extra spending money there. We were always canvassing the area for them. So that was fun. And then, you know, they had the youth center. We spent a lot of time down there—different crafts and things like that. We did the leather crafts. I can remember tooling those and

then sewing them together and making wallets. Or going to the swimming pool there and swimming, although I flunked beginner swimming lessons and for some reason I was never put back, but I guess I just stayed in the shallow end. But we would buy a season pass to go there to keep cool.

Interviewer: *All right, how did you flunk swimming? I have to ask!*

Becky Jacobs: I don't know, but I can do the best dog paddle in the world! You know, I guess I just didn't pay enough attention. And then I know my dad, we would go out to the lake a lot. And one time my dad just took me out past the ropes—he says, "Okay, Honey, sink or swim!" So I did learn a really good dog paddle, but never really did learn formal swimming.

Interviewer: *So at the lake they had an area where you could swim?*

Becky Jacobs: Oh, yeah. We would go out there a lot. We didn't have a pool. A lot of people didn't have pools in those days—so you had to go to the public areas.

Interviewer: *Did you ever have a boat?*

Becky Jacobs: No, no, never did, never did. In fact, I don't know any of our friends that had any either.

Interviewer: *So that may be kind of a new thing.*

Becky Jacobs: Yeah, maybe so. I think people are more affluent now than back then and can afford it.

Interviewer: *Could you visit the dam back in those days?*

Becky Jacobs: We could and we did, most often when people came to town that wanted to go see it. Just like now, people don't go out unless there's something like the new bridge that they put over—you want to go see the overpass and what not.

Interviewer: *Right. Did they have tours of the dam back in those days?*

Becky Jacobs: Yes. Oh, yeah, I can remember going down in the elevators. I think you actually, at that point in time, you could walk down on the floor where the turbines are. I don't think you can do that now. I think you got to see a lot more then, but security has changed.

Interviewer: *Oh, has it? Yeah. I think might have gotten to see the turbines back in the '90s. So I'll have to check and see if that's still on the tour. That's interesting. Did you ever, as a kid, go out to where the miners had their mines in the mountains around town?*

Becky Jacobs: No, we didn't. We stayed away from those.

Interviewer: *Did you think that was dangerous to do? Is that why you stayed away? Or did you just not bother to do it?*

Becky Jacobs: We just didn't bother to do it. We had enough to do out in the desert.

Interviewer: *You were collecting bottles!*

Becky Jacobs: Yeah [laughter] we were preserving the desert.

Interviewer: *That's great. And so you never go to meet the hermit?*

Becky Jacobs: No. We had heard about him and I think those were part of the ghost stories that the neighbors would tell.

Interviewer: *Okay. What were the [chemical] plants like? What kind of effect did the plants have on the town back in the 60's?*

Becky Jacobs: You know, I don't know that the plants had a lot of effect on us at that point in time. They were kind of just there and we didn't want to have a whole lot to do with them.

Interviewer: *Well, were there ever, like, chlorine releases?*

Becky Jacobs: I don't remember any as I was growing up. I know there's been problems in the past, but I don't think when I was there they were.

Interviewer: *You didn't have a lot of hazy days?*

Becky Jacobs: I don't recall. I mean, I can remember, like, being in Pittman and it would be—there would be odors and stuff and they would say, "Oh, that's the plants."

Interviewer: *So Pittman was still separated from Henderson, basically, at that time?*

Becky Jacobs: Yes.

Interviewer: *What was Pittman like?*

Becky Jacobs: Pittman was just, one of those little streets that you just drove through, and you know, little hotels on the side and a gas station here or there. I think Skyline Casino was there at some point in time. It was just one of those that you go by. I think a little past Pittman, there was a little restaurant-shop type thing, Stuckey's. It was a kind of a touristy type thing. But you know, you really didn't—I can remember gassing my car in Pittman, but you didn't really stop. There was a grocery store there—I take that back—we did stop at the grocery store every once in a while. Because I think in Henderson, the only grocery store we had was Safeway. So you couldn't always get everything at one store, so we would check that one out periodically.

Interviewer: *Did you do most of your shopping in Henderson?*

Becky Jacobs: My parents went out to the base to do most of their shopping.

Interviewer: *Oh, to the PX, yeah.*

Becky Jacobs: But you know, we did shop in Henderson on—gosh, I'm trying to think of what street it was. There was like a Rexall drugstore down off of Water Street and I think on Pacific, if I recall right, it

was a Coronet five-and-dime type store—that we would go there a lot. And there was also some kind of variety store on Boulder Highway in the Safeway shopping center. You could buy clothing, yarns, crafts things, all sorts of things. And there was a Venay's dress shop; I remember my mom would look around in there. And a Vegas Village—it was a big store—it had—I don't know if it had food, but I think it was just clothing and household items and stuff and they had a couple locations around town. And that's pretty much where I can remember shopping.

Interviewer: *What were—did you have any restaurants that you liked?*

Becky Jacobs: I think we went to the Eldorado once in a while and would eat there. A lot of times, like Thanksgiving, we would go out to Nellis. They would have Thanksgiving meals for the families out there, so we would go out there and they would always give us a little brown bag with nuts and candies and an orange in it. And then from there, we would always go up to Mt. Charleston to play in the snow. And on Easter, we would go to the Sands Hotel for their buffet. And that would kind of be our little Easter thing. We didn't have any family here; being military, my dad was shipped here. I think we had an aunt and uncle or two in California, but everybody else was on the East Coast. So, we kind of had to create our own traditions.

Interviewer: *Did you have time to visit your relatives in California?*

Becky Jacobs: When I was a teenager, I went one year and stayed—or one summer—and stayed with my aunt and uncle and they took me to Sea World down in San Diego and everything. So that was really a fun experience for me. And I went back east several times and visited my grandparents and other family members. But our vacations pretty much, we went out to Zion National Park, and we would camp out there and play in the Virgin River and go hiking. One of our favorite hikes was to the Emerald Pools. And there's three levels of Emerald Pools, and people usually just went to the first or second level. Well, we would go all the way up to the third level and pretty much have it to ourselves, and it was just a nice

fishing hole—or a swimming hole. And you could catch tadpoles and we just had a field day up there. We'd bring a lunch and spend almost the entire day there.

Interviewer: *That's an interesting thing that you bring up—tadpoles—because I wonder if you were able to catch tadpoles ever in Henderson. Did it ever rain enough to look for tadpoles?*

Becky Jacobs: No. Maybe somewhere, there might be some obscure place! But, no, we never found them. We did—on finding things, though—we would be out in the desert and we would find lizards, and what we called them then, horny toads, but now they're politically correct called horned toads. But we would catch those and put them in an aquarium and those would be our pets for a while. And I know one time, we were out playing in our backyard and a tarantula walked into our yard. We had no clue what it was. We were all screaming and everything. I think my brother caught it in a jar or something. That was about the most of the wildlife that we saw.

Interviewer: *Not much! [laughter]*

Becky Jacobs: Yeah. [laughter]

Interviewer: *How else did the weather affect your life in Henderson?*

Becky Jacobs: You know, it was hot, so that we would go out to the lake or to the recreation center, but overall the weather was wonderful. You really didn't complain except for when you had to ride your bike home from school and it was hot.

Interviewer: *You had a swamp cooler at your house?*

Becky Jacobs: We did have swamp coolers. In fact my parents still live in that house and they still have a swamp cooler.

Interviewer: *Was it one of the old wartime houses, the temporary housing?*

Becky Jacobs: No, no. I don't know what year it was built, but it was up off of Major Avenue and Burton Street. So no, it wasn't one of the war homes.

Interviewer: *What kind of people lived in your neighborhood—besides the dentist, obviously?*

Becky Jacobs: Yeah, let's see, across the street from us, originally it was the Belew family, and they had at least two sons and a daughter. It ended up when the daughter got married, her and her husband ended up moving into that house after her family left. And she was a beautician and he was a plumber and it was Dave and Rosemary Anderson. Then right next door, there was a lady, Mrs. Nelson—I think her first name might have been Dora. She used to—she was like a tailor, and she would do all of this tailoring in her home and she'd hem men's pants, shorten their jackets—and she would always have the labels from the different suits and she taught me how to make them into a pillow!

Interviewer: *How interesting. That sounds like a lot of work.*

Becky Jacobs: Yeah, but it was still something fascinating and different. Let's see, who else? We had the Pittman family lived a couple houses up, and I think next to them were the Tennans. We had the Pryors were also across the street from us, the Tochrans were on the other side of us and the Vincents.

Interviewer: *I think it's amazing that you can remember all these people that were your neighbors.*

Becky Jacobs: Those are only ones I can remember. [laughter] But, yeah, and I mean, there were different streets. The Payne family was on Federal Street; I remember them. The Carduccis were on our block, the Zorios, Van de Kamps lived close to us. That's about all I can remember that were really close—oh! Actually, down off of Major and Burton, the Willows. John Willow, and they had a daughter, Johanna, but I can't remember—I always called her Mrs. Willow. And across the street, on the other side of Major were the Shrecks, Frank and Jo Shreck, and the Wenzingers lived over there as well, and then farther down were the Morriseys.

Interviewer: *Wow, you remember everybody—it's amazing. [laughter]*

Becky Jacobs: [laughter] Well, those are the ones I can recall—there's a lot of houses in between that I can't.

Interviewer: *Well, I mean, that just goes to show what a close community Henderson was.*

Becky Jacobs: Oh yeah, we would walk down on the Willows whenever they had to go out of town—they were almost a good block and a half away from us—we would go down and we would water and take care of their yard for them while they were gone. The Wenzingers raised desert tortoises in there and they had a planter where they kept little desert tortoises, so we remember going down there playing with them and checking those out.

Interviewer: *Did you have any pets as a child?*

Becky Jacobs: Not really, I think at one point we had a dog. My mom didn't like pets too much, she was afraid of birds and hamsters and so we really didn't.

Interviewer: *Hamsters are really scary, you know. [laughter]*

Becky Jacobs: [laughter] They're just like mice!

Interviewer: *They are! And then they escape and you have to look for them and you can't find them.*

[laughter]

Becky Jacobs: Oh, yes, they do. You know, in Henderson, I used to babysit a lot for a lot of people. My youngest sister is like thirteen years younger than me so I was kind of like a little mom to her. And then it just kind of grew from there to where I was babysitting.

Interviewer: *I forget, did you say your mom worked?*

Becky Jacobs: My mom was pretty much a homemaker. Later on in life she worked at—I think it was the Rainbow, and she would do the drop in—kind of in the accounting office, payroll office or something like that. But that wasn't for a long period of time. Pretty much she was home. Oh, and actually, she also worked in the candy shop at Old Vegas for a while.

Interviewer: *Oh, that's interesting.*

Becky Jacobs: Yeah, that place isn't there any longer.

Interviewer: *Did you get free candy?*

Becky Jacobs: No! [laughter] All of this was kind of after we were all grown and out on our own.

Interviewer: *I just thought of something I wanted to get back to. You said you used to go to the casinos sometimes for meals, or whatever. How did they feel about kids in the casinos?*

Becky Jacobs: You know, back then it didn't seem to be an issue. We would have to walk through the casinos to get there, but we—pretty much, you were in a banquet hall. So we didn't really seem to have any problem whatsoever. I can even remember one time my brother and I put money in the slot machine! [laughter]

Interviewer: *Did you win?*

Becky Jacobs: No! Of course not. Thank God, or we would have really been in trouble. [laughter]

Interviewer: *[laughter] That's funny. Did you have any friends in Carver Park? Now, by the '60s I don't know how many families were left but, you know, Carver Park was originally designed to be for the African American community during World War II. Did you have African American friends growing up?*

Becky Jacobs: I did have African American friends but they weren't from Carver Park. They were more kids that came in to go to St. Peter's school. I can remember one, Deidre Anderson, she was a really

good friend of mine. I don't know what happened to her or anything, but we would have several people that would come in like that.

Interviewer: *So she didn't end up going to Basic with you, then?*

Becky Jacobs: No, I don't know where she went. But, yeah, I don't remember that many people of color in other areas, but at school we did have them.

Interviewer: *Do you remember much about Carver Park?*

Becky Jacobs: No.

Interviewer: *When you were a kid, did you like, on your bike, go around and just explore the other neighborhoods and see what they were like?*

Becky Jacobs: Pretty much we used our bikes for going to and from school. My brothers and sisters used theirs—they had a paper route, so they did that as well. But we would walk a lot. We would walk all over the place, especially like on Halloween, we would almost canvas the entire town. But we stayed on our side of Boulder Highway. We didn't get to cross Boulder Highway, just because of the darkness and everything. Boulder Highway wasn't lit very well many years ago. I mean, it was almost like pitch black.

Interviewer: *And it sounds like people were going eighty miles an hour down Boulder Highway because there were no speed limits.*

Becky Jacobs: It was a free-for-all, yeah. No speed limits, no stop lights.

Interviewer: *That's crazy.*

Becky Jacobs: You know, you just kind of went, and I know even like Sunset Road—Sunset Road was a horror road to go on, although we loved it. If you had to go pick up somebody from the airport, it was like a rollercoaster! You had big dips and gullies, and there were ranches on either side of the road, but,

you know, for the most part, it was totally dark. And then you always had to worry on the dips and gullies if it was a monsoon, is it going to flood out? And, you know, that sort of thing.

Interviewer: *So back in those days, Whitney Ranch was still a ranch?*

Becky Jacobs: I don't know that it was a ranch; I think it was just nothing there. Nothing there whatsoever.

Interviewer: *Okay, so when did things start to be built up in—*

Becky Jacobs: In Whitney Ranch?

Interviewer: *—in Green Valley, in that area, do you remember?*

Becky Jacobs: I would say probably in the '80s to '90s, things started growing and expanding. Whitney Ranch has developed into a lot now. But even then, coming out it was—

Interviewer: *It's solid houses now.*

Becky Jacobs: Oh yeah, well—and you know, when I went to Vo-Tech, we would have to take the bus to school initially because we didn't have a driver's license. But the first one of us to get a driver's license, we were carpooling back and forth, and, again, you had to be very cautious. You couldn't take Sunset Road if it was raining; you would have to go out, like, Tropicana or something like that just to be safe.

Interviewer: *What was it like going to the technical college?*

Becky Jacobs: You know what, it was—I really enjoyed it. I didn't really care for Basic High School when I was there. I think it was kind of because I went from eight years with the same students wearing a uniform every day, then you go into a big school and you don't really know a lot of people and you've got to dress differently, and I—Jo Shreck, she was the one that kind of encouraged me to go to Vo-Tech.

She worked there as the registrar and she was like, “You’d really like it!” And so finally went out and had a tour and I decided, all right, let’s try it! And I absolutely loved it.

Interviewer: *How old were you when you went there?*

Becky Jacobs: I started in my junior year. So anyways, I was not quite sixteen when we started.

Interviewer: *So were you both attending Basic and—*

Becky Jacobs: No, I went to Vo-Tech for everything, yeah. I know—well, at some point in time, that they had it where you went to your main school for part of it, but at this point in time you went there for everything. And a lot of—there were quite a few from Henderson that actually went out there and took up various vocations.

Interviewer: *Was that free, or did your parents have to pay for that?*

Becky Jacobs: No, that was free; it was all part of the school district. It’s like the technical centers now. They had airplane, power plant, they had auto mechanics, secretarial, culinary. And, I mean, they had so many different things that you could take up, and at that point in time, I didn’t think I wanted to go on to college, so I went there and I just—I really, really liked it.

Interviewer: *What did you study?*

Becky Jacobs: I took secretarial and data processing. I ended up graduating as valedictorian there.

Interviewer: *Of course! [laughter]*

Becky Jacobs: So, I liked it! [laughter] But, you know, I got involved in a lot of the school politics and I actually—the PBS station, KLVX Channel 10, was housed up there originally. And so I started—I had originally started working in the office as a student worker and then transferred over to Channel 10

when they offered me a job to work there as a student worker. I stayed there pretty much until after I graduated. So, yeah, it was a good decision for me.

Interviewer: *You say you didn't like going to Basic very much, but what do you remember about Basic?*

Becky Jacobs: There was—you know, like any other school, you had all the football teams and the basketball games. We would go to those and the little pep rallies and things like that. Those were fun and I enjoyed those. I was in the choir there and we did our choir performances. You know, I can just remember walking through the halls, the bells ringing, looking for your classrooms. You know, it was just a typical school. I can't say that there was anything outstanding about it that I totally remember.

Interviewer: *Do you remember who the rivals were? In sports, the football rivals.*

Becky Jacobs: Gosh, I really don't. I mean we would always play Boulder City, but if I were to guess, I would say Valley High School, because I think that was the closest.

Interviewer: *And you didn't play any sports, did you?*

Becky Jacobs: I actually played field hockey and girls' softball. But, that was it.

Interviewer: *Oh, wow. That's pretty good though. Those are good games. Who did you play? Did you play against other schools?*

Becky Jacobs: Yeah, we did. Again, I can't recall what schools they were. I'm sure we did like, you know, Rancho, Valley. I don't think we got into doing Gorman or anything. I don't remember what other high schools were—Western was one.

Interviewer: *Because I wouldn't even be sure how many other schools actually had teams to play.*

Becky Jacobs: Yeah, they all had teams, but there just weren't as many to choose from as there are now. Maybe there were only like, I really want to say seven or eight high schools.

Interviewer: *Yeah, fewer folks back then. How big was Henderson, do you think, in the '60s?*

Becky Jacobs: Gosh, I have no idea. It was just small town. I have no idea what it was.

Interviewer: *Did you ever, as a kid, get into any hijinks with your brothers and sisters in town?*

Becky Jacobs: No, not really. My brother probably did more than any of us. He seemed to have—get into some little bit of trouble here and there. But, I really didn't. I guess I was a little goody-two-shoes.

Interviewer: *No adventures?*

Becky Jacobs: No. I mean, I was in the Girl Scouts and we had our Girl Scouting adventures and things like that, where you'd go camping or hiking or what not. But I kept myself pretty busy.

Interviewer: *Did you have to sell cookies back then?*

Becky Jacobs: Of course! [laughter] Door-to-door, fifty cents a box. And I think we would canvas the entire neighborhood, and I don't think there was anybody that didn't buy cookies. I don't remember selling them at grocery stores though. Just pretty much door-to-door then.

Interviewer: *I guess we did that a little bit in my day [selling at grocery stores], but we still did it door-to-door too. That's neat. Were you in any clubs or social groups besides choir, in Henderson, when you were a teenager?*

Becky Jacobs: You know, I was in the pep club and the honor society and a lot of things like that. Girl Scouts was my biggest thing, I started that in Brownies and continued on until Cadets to where they didn't have it anymore, basically because they couldn't find leaders. Those were fun because, again, you had a whole different set of people coming in. We got to do lots of things; we would march in the Helldorado Parade, we got to—Debbie Reynolds, one time, did a show for the Girl Scouts and we all got to go to that and watch that.

Interviewer: *How fun!*

Becky Jacobs: Yeah, it really was. I still remember it to this day. And you know, just—we would do different performances and things like that.

Interviewer: *Did you participate in—you know, you said Helldorado—did you participate in Industrial Days too?*

Becky Jacobs: Did I say—I meant Industrial Days. I'm sorry.

Interviewer: *Well, it could have been both or either! [laughter]*

Becky Jacobs: Yeah, we didn't march in Helldorado Parade, but we would go to the parade and we'd definitely watch it. And Industrial Days was really fun. I mean, they had the carnival and we would go and we were always winning little goldfish. My mom probably would like to shoot us! [laughter] But yeah, we would go down there and we could just roam around and just have a field day. So we definitely enjoyed that—that and the penny toss.

Interviewer: *I bet it was fun.*

Becky Jacobs: Yeah, the parade was really fun. We always enjoyed that, because you'd have your friends along the side and bands and all of that. In fact, when I was in high school in Vo-Tech. I think the last year that I was there, they did the parade with something about the wonderful world of work. So the senior class at Vo-Tech, we put a float together and made that and had that in the parade there.

Interviewer: *That's really fun. What was the design for the float?*

Becky Jacobs: We had a vehicle and then I think it was a great big globe, and we depicted, I believe, different work sites and things on it.

Interviewer: *Wow that sounds really elaborate.*

Becky Jacobs: Yeah, and I had never done a float before, but apparently one of the instructors knew something about it. So that was really fun.

Interviewer: *A lot of tissue paper involved in that, I bet. [laughter]*

Becky Jacobs: Yeah, definitely.

Interviewer: *Yeah, that's cool. Do you remember anything about BMI [Basic Magnesium, Inc.]?*

Becky Jacobs: Not really. We didn't have too much to do with that.

Interviewer: *It was just sort of there?*

Becky Jacobs: It was there. You just drove by it. You might see a train out there once in a while.

Interviewer: *You couldn't ride your bikes out to it or anything, could you? You couldn't really get close to it?*

Becky Jacobs: We never really rode our bikes that far. We'd go down to Water Street. We'd ride it down to the library, the Malcolm Library. We'd go there a lot. We were in the summer reading programs and I can remember the little forms. When you read the books, you got little stickers to put on the pages. They would read us a story and then they'd have a little filmstrip for us. And then we'd all go scurrying around the library to find the books that we wanted. Then at the end, they'd have a little party for us.

Interviewer: *That's really fun.*

Becky Jacobs: Yeah, it was, it was. We did that every year.

Interviewer: *Did you get to go to Boulder City very often?*

Becky Jacobs: Not a lot. We'd go through it maybe when we went to the dam. They had an A&W Root Beer and we would buy root beer and bring it home and have root beer floats. But we didn't do a whole lot in Boulder.

Interviewer: *Were there shops there in Boulder back in those days?*

Becky Jacobs: Oh, yeah, there were shops there just kind of pretty much on the main drag. I couldn't tell you what they were, but we would go there and wander through it once in a while, but not frequently.

Interviewer: *When you were a teenager, did folks congregate at a certain drive-in hamburger place?*

Becky Jacobs: Oh, gosh. There was one on Water Street, the Pack-Out, I think is what it was called. I think that was the main one where people congregated.

Interviewer: *I hadn't heard about that one.*

Becky Jacobs: And, I mean, I could have the name wrong, but it was right on Water Street kind of across from the Eldorado area. There was another one, I think maybe off of Army Street called the Frostop. That was right by the school there. So that got some afterschool use.

Interviewer: *Did a lot of kids have cars back then?*

Becky Jacobs: No.

Interviewer: *So there wasn't a lot of cruising? [laughter]*

Becky Jacobs: No, nobody was cruising Henderson. [laughter] No, and in fact, when I got my car, my dad had bought two broken down cars and put them together to make one working car, and it was just an old clunker, but it got me to and from school.

Interviewer: *He could have used that car that you brought out from the railroad tracks!*

Becky Jacobs: Maybe it was. That was the wrong color though! [laughter]

Interviewer: *That's interesting. Did you get to go to Vegas when you were a teenager?*

Becky Jacobs: Yeah. We would also go out—there was the Charleston Plaza Mall. We would go out there and go shopping periodically. Sometimes we would go downtown and there were a few shops there that we would go through. My mom and dad always liked to go to the El Cortez for their social security contest. We would go to the Skyway Drive-In for movies. Let's see, is there anywhere else that we really went? I think those are the only ones I can recall.

Interviewer: *I guess you really had to carpool for those drive-in movies.*

Becky Jacobs: Well, there was enough of us. We were five kids!

Interviewer: *Ok, family drive-in movies. Yeah. So you went to Vo-Tech. Did you go to college after that?*

Becky Jacobs: I did. I started out at community college and then went on to UNLV. I didn't graduate and get a degree; I ended up getting married instead. But pretty much I studied business and accounting. But probably about two and a half years.

Interviewer: *Did you meet your husband in college?*

Becky Jacobs: I actually met my husband at Channel 10. He was the master control operator there, which basically puts your programs on the air. And I was working at the office and there were two different ends, and we just happened to meet and hit it off. But we got married at St. Peter's Church, which is rather interesting because he was Jewish and I was Catholic.

Interviewer: *I kind of wondered about that, yeah.*

Becky Jacobs: Yeah, and Father Caviglia married us with no problem. I think one of his uncles almost had heart failure when Don broke the glass and the priest yelled, "Mazel Tov!" [laughter]

Interviewer: *[laughter] Wow.*

Becky Jacobs: But yeah, we got married there on December 13th of '73.

Interviewer: *And then you all had a film company together.*

Becky Jacobs: Right. We have the television production company Mr. Camera. And we videotape, we do Entertainment Tonight, we do a lot of stuff for Harrah's, we do things for Oprah, that sort of thing.

Interviewer: *That's really amazing.*

Becky Jacobs: Yeah, it's a fascinating job. I just do the accounting end, so I'm not out in the field.

Interviewer: *So when people want to film in Las Vegas is your company the company to call? Or do you specialize in certain things?*

Becky Jacobs: We specialize in service. And when we first started out a good twenty-five years ago, the equipment that you had to buy to do these productions was very expensive. We started out with what was called an Ikegami camera. And, I mean, it probably cost seventy-five to a hundred thousand dollars just for one camera. Now, with the digital and everything, you can get cameras for a couple thousand dollars and still have high resolution, good quality and the whole bit. So there's more people out there now doing it, but at the same time you're losing a lot of the service and stuff. So we seem to be doing all right and have been.

Interviewer: *There's so much that's filmed in Las Vegas, in this region, that it seems like a really good market to be in.*

Becky Jacobs: It is. It's a fascinating one. And we don't advertise; ours has all been word-of-mouth. And it seems like one person will refer us to the next person, and whatever. But it's diversified. My husband got to go to Germany with Siegfried & Roy when they were doing that, and, you know, different things. He was in New York with them when their tigers got stolen. So it's many facets.

Interviewer: *I didn't hear that their tigers had gotten stolen in New York.*

Becky Jacobs: Oh, yeah, we still to this day don't know whether it was planned or if it was just a publicity gimmick or whatnot. But they were found in a U-Haul, the back of a U-Haul pick-up truck somewhere. But, can you imagine, the person that stole the U-Haul? There are these hungry tigers! [laughter]

Interviewer: *They were surprised, I guess.*

Becky Jacobs: Yeah, so it was—it's an interesting profession.

Interviewer: *Yeah, that's one of the shows that I wish I had taken the time to see when I was here in the '90s. But I did—but I got to see George Carlin. That was pretty good.*

Becky Jacobs: Oh, he's pretty angry. [laughter]

Interviewer: [laughter] *Yeah that was a good show. So when you were a kid growing up in Henderson do you think that living in Henderson was dangerous in any way? Or was it a pretty safe place to live?*

Becky Jacobs: Nope. I think it was pretty darn safe.

Interviewer: *Your parents never worried about you?*

Becky Jacobs: I can't say they never worried about us, but I think you just had the freedom. I think everybody knew everybody, and everybody was looking out for one another. So yeah, I don't—I can't say it was crime free, but we really didn't have much of a problem. We were too naïve to know we were in trouble, or that trouble could be lurking around the corner.

Interviewer: *I'm sure that it was much safer back then anyway then it is now.*

Becky Jacobs: Oh yeah, it's a totally different world.

Interviewer: *How do you think that Henderson has changed? I mean obviously, it's really dramatically changed. But in what ways do you think it's changed the most?*

Becky Jacobs: I think there's two sides of Henderson. I still think that there's old Henderson and then it's still pretty much, its modernized and new businesses have come there, but I still think it's still old Henderson. And with the advent of Green Valley, Green Valley is just a whole different portion of Henderson. Before, if you were from Henderson, [the reaction to you would be], "Ew, you're from Henderson!" People turn up your nose. But it's not the same anymore.

Interviewer: *Why do you think that people felt that way about Henderson?*

Becky Jacobs: Because I guess they thought we were just a podunk little town.

Interviewer: *But all the scientists were there!*

Becky Jacobs: Well, I don't think they cared! [laughter] You know? The casinos were out here and this was where Vegas was happening and Henderson wasn't. You know? And there was the separation, because you basically have only Boulder Highway going back and forth; it was pitch black at night and no lights or anything like that. So I don't think that Vegas cared that much about us. And then the smells in Pittman from the plants, that kind of added to it.

Interviewer: *Do you recall any memorable events that happened in Henderson over the years?*

Becky Jacobs: I mean the only one—taking down the grotto was the one that was—

Interviewer: *The most traumatic?*

Becky Jacobs: Yes! Yes. I really hated to see that go. But, you know, memorable—I don't. I really don't. It was just kind of everyday life for me.

Interviewer: *There was some building that happened in Henderson. Like, they built some banks.*

Becky Jacobs: Well, and the jail, or the Police Department on Water Street and the whatnot. And then there were houses all along a good portion of Water Street, and I know a lot of those were converted into businesses: flower shops, dress shops, beauty shops, and whatnot.

Interviewer: *Yeah, I thought that was interesting that people were running their businesses out of houses when they started out, and for a long time.*

Becky Jacobs: Yeah, definitely so.

Interviewer: *Yeah. What do you recall about seasonal events in the community, besides the things— well, a lot of it was probably church related. But were there other seasonal events in the community?*

Becky Jacobs: I can remember around Easter they would have a huge Easter egg hunt at Morrell Park. And we would all go down there, and, I mean, there were thousands of kids down there it seemed like. And they would divide it by age brackets, and little kids went in the tennis courts for their eggs, and whatever. Of course, they had prize eggs and stuff; I don't know if I ever won a prize. [laughter]

Interviewer: *The little kids went to the tennis courts? [laughs] They just would set out eggs on the t— [laughter]*

Becky Jacobs: Absolutely, yes. [laughter]

Interviewer: *That's no challenge!*

Becky Jacobs: No, you know, but that was all the little kids could do. It was really fun. That and then there would be fireworks. I think Morrell Park had fireworks at the Fourth of July that we would watch.

Interviewer: *Was it the City that would organize those events?*

Becky Jacobs: I think so. I think so. Parks and Rec or something like that.

Interviewer: *Parks and Rec, yeah. And then you got an indoor pool at some point, I recall.*

Becky Jacobs: Not while I was there.

Interviewer: *You didn't ever go? I think that was in the '70s, so you were probably—and then you moved.*

Becky Jacobs: Yeah, because I graduated in '72, and was in the area until '73 and moved to Vegas.

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

Becky Jacobs: The comradery between the people there. It just seems like you made friends with people and you were still friends, even if you didn't see them for a long period of time. You still heard from them and it seemed like everybody kind of had an interest in each other. From about eighth grade, I had started working for Mickey Shubiyama at her beauty shop and that was where I met Mrs. Shrek and I think it was Mrs. Robinson from Basic High School, who was a counselor, and they were instrumental in helping me get to go to Vo-Tech. And they had a genuine interest. And Mickey, finally, when she moved out of town, I mean I still heard from her. The same thing with Mrs. Shrek, I would go to her house for dinner and different things. So people just—they had a caring for one another. Maybe life wasn't quite as busy then. But, you know, it was a close knit community.

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

Becky Jacobs: Gosh, I don't know. It was a fun time. It's one of those, I'm glad I'm on the way out as opposed to the way in! I think that those were like the good old days. You could do a lot and I think everything has just totally changed.

Interviewer: *What do you think about the future of Henderson? They're trying to renovate a little bit.*

Becky Jacobs: They're trying to revive it and the whole bit, and I think they're doing a good job. There's new businesses there and they seem to be doing well.

Interviewer: *It's encouraging.*

Becky Jacobs: Yeah. I think Henderson's always going to be a small town. But I think Green Valley's going to be Green Valley and, you know, there'll always be that separation. But you know, old Henderson will—I think it will thrive. I think there's a desire for it to.

Interviewer: *I think a lot of people would like to draw old Henderson and Green Valley together and sort of forge a bond.*

Becky Jacobs: I don't know if that will happen. It could, but I think there will always be that separate—just because Green Valley is so vast, you don't have the closeness that you have of the neighborhoods and everything in Henderson.

Interviewer: *Yeah. We have little islands of neighborhoods in Green Valley, but they're not—they're mostly being rented out I think. [laughter]*

Becky Jacobs: [laughter] That could very well be.

Interviewer: *And Henderson, the original Henderson site, it seems like there are still a lot of home owners there, and people who have kept their homes, original home owners, which is extraordinary! Like your parents. Well, I don't know if they were the original owners of their home but they've just been there and stayed there.*

Becky Jacobs: Right, exactly. And I think a lot of old Henderson people have as well. Or if they haven't stayed in that home they moved up to the Mission Hills area and bought or built a home or something. But I do think they tend to stay there, and die there, that type of thing.

Interviewer: *It's an aging population, I guess, in the original townsite.*

Becky Jacobs: Yeah, I think so. My grandfather actually—my dad’s father actually came out from back east and lived on Basic Road for a while. I think it was Basic Road. But, you know, he lived here for a while and was very busy with the senior citizen center, in their kitchen and the whole bit. But then he ended up moving back east as he aged. That was about the only family member we ever had living here.

Interviewer: *He gave it a shot!*

Becky Jacobs: Yeah, he did. He decided it was too much.

Interviewer: *Was there anything else that you wanted to share about your experience, your life, your education, that we haven’t talked about? You’re very involved with the [Clark County Nevada] Genealogical Society. Do you want to talk about that a little bit? How did you get involved with that?*

Becky Jacobs: Well, I got involved in genealogy when I was a teenager. My grandparents—actually, my grandmothers kind of gave me the start and I would keep a little book and start writing down things that they told me. And then as I got older I started researching. I’d go to the family history library and just worked at putting my things together, gathering documents, and at some point in time I joined the Clark County Nevada Genealogical Society. It helped pursue my things and, I mean, I’ve joined other societies across the country where I have an interest. And I’ve just been working collecting documents and vital records and anything to bring my family to life. But right now, I’m helping with their programming to schedule speakers for our monthly meetings.

Interviewer: *It’s a huge group that meets here at the Library [Clark County Nevada Genealogical Society].*

Becky Jacobs: Yeah, I’d say there’s probably sixty to seventy people or so, on a regular basis.

Interviewer: *Yeah. That’s amazing.*

Becky Jacobs: It is. Then we have the seminars twice a year, which are fascinating.

Interviewer: *They draw a big crowd too.*

Becky Jacobs: They do, they do. You never know what you're going to learn or whatever. You just take one little piece of information from one of those and it can send you going in many directions.

Interviewer: *That's one thing that I think both the original Henderson and the Green Valley area share is that there are so many services for people to enjoy if they move here, for both families and retirees.*

Becky Jacobs: Right. There's a sense of community in both areas.

Interviewer: *And lots of activities and lots of things—you know, lots of places to go here. Good area to live and raise a family and take care of grandchildren.*

Becky Jacobs: Yeah, no kidding, many grandchildren, five!

Interviewer: *Five, wow. That sounds like a lot of babysitting. [laughter]*

Becky Jacobs: It is. I spend most of my time with grandkids.

Interviewer: *Do they like their schools?*

Becky Jacobs: They do. There are only two of them in school right now. One goes out in Southern Highlands, and the other—well, they're both at Southern Highlands. One is at Stuckey Elementary and the other goes to Southern Highlands Preparatory School, and they're both doing very well. Both in kindergarten. One of them, at the Southern Highlands Prep. School, is a little reader. She's five and half reading at a fourth to fifth grade level already.

Interviewer: *That's amazing! Wow. You have a smart family. [laughter]*

Becky Jacobs: [laughter] You know, actually I do. My youngest sister was also a valedictorian at Basic High School, and my sister that's two years younger than me, she was salutatorian for her class at Basic.

Interviewer: *How about that. And what did they go on to do?*

Becky Jacobs: Carol is my youngest sister, and she was a firefighter for a while, and right now she's working for a horsemanship company for handicapped people. And my sister Jean was in business-type stuff. She worked for a doctor's office managing it for many years. She and her husband have an online auction site living up in Yreka, California, now.

Interviewer: *That's great. Your sister Carol, where did she do firefighting?*

Becky Jacobs: In northern California.

Interviewer: *Okay. So did she not want to work for the fire department here? Or was that not an option? Because I know they were really—like, they didn't have very many places—it was hard to become a fireman here.*

Becky Jacobs: She had married and she moved to California, and so that was where she pursued it. She wasn't a firefighter for a long period of time, maybe a year. I could be wrong, but she moved on.

Interviewer: *What an experience.*

Becky Jacobs: Yeah, because I think she was the only woman at that point in time up there.

Interviewer: *I wonder about that. Well, you told me some great stories about Henderson, Becky. Is there anything else you want to add?*

Becky Jacobs: Gosh. I really can't think of anything else.

Interviewer: *Well, we've enjoyed having you here today. Thanks for coming.*

Becky Jacobs: Thank you, Anne Marie.