

Henderson Libraries

Henderson Oral History Project

Doris Wade Boyce

Oral History of Doris Wade Boyce

with daughter Kathleen England

conducted by

Anne Marie Hamilton Brehm

May 7, 2014

Interviewer: *Today is May 7, 2014. My name is Anne Marie Hamilton-Brehm and I'm interviewing Doris Wade Boyce as part of the Henderson oral history project of Henderson Libraries. I'm also pleased to have Doris' daughter Kathy England with me this morning. Thank you both for joining me. I'd like to start, Doris, by asking you about your childhood. Tell me a little bit about where you were born and raised and what your parents did for a living.*

Doris Wade Boyce: Okay, I was born and raised in St. George, Utah. And I lost my mother when I was six, so I don't—she did a lot of sewing for the community. And my father was not well, and he passed on when I was nine, in the third grade. So my brother was away at college, and so they called him home, and he was put in as guardianship for my sisters and me. I had three sisters; they were all older. And my brother was the oldest, his name was [unclear] Wade. So when the war started out, he came down here to go to work. And as soon as he got a house, he brought our family down, and I lived with them until I got married and moved away from home. But I was here in the earliest days and it was just really fun. It was a fun community. Everybody knew everybody, and the kids, when they went to parties or went anywhere, it was always in groups. I can't ever remember going anywhere just singly, you know. The school was situated where the convention center is now. That was whole school, grade school up to high school. And Gordon McCaw was the principal and Lyle Burkholder was the superintendent of schools. I don't remember traveling to different places by bus. The teachers always had to drive us when we went to ball games or anything. Dorothy Robinson was working then and I remember her taking the cheerleaders wherever we had to go. We went to Santa Clara to a ball game, played ball games with Santa Clara and Washington, just the little towns around.

Interviewer: *Were you a cheerleader before you came to Henderson?*

Doris Wade Boyce: No.

Interviewer: *You had never done that before. How did you get involved in cheerleading?*

Doris Wade Boyce: They had elections. Anyway, I wasn't a cheerleader until I was a senior in high school actually because I went to work as soon as I turned sixteen. The drug store was across from where the Rainbow is now and the drug store had a fountain in it, and it went all the way down the drug store inside. Joe McBeath was the owner then and so I got to know almost everybody that ate out at night after work. I got to know them. I worked up until they sent me out on an interview for a job, and I was one of the first employees for Pacific Engineering. I worked for them for fourteen years.

Interviewer: *Was that in the fifties that you started working for them?*

Doris Wade Boyce: Yes, I think it was 1953. My daughter was three years old then.

Interviewer: *What were they making?*

Doris Wade Boyce: A fuel for the missiles—for the space—I forgot what the name of that is now.

Interviewer: *Okay. They were always making that. They used to call it PEPCON [Pacific Engineering].*

Kathleen England: Perchlorate?

Interviewer: *Oh, the actual fuel itself? Perchlorate, I think, yeah. Perchlorate?*

Doris Wade Boyce: Perchlorate, yeah, ammonium perchlorate.

Interviewer: *That's right.*

Kathleen England: That's the year—1953 was the year that my family moved here as well and my father went to work for TIMET, and I know that whatever it was they were making there was being used on the space program, the rockets and things, because they made titanium sheets which he would bring home occasionally a little scrap of the—it was like aluminum foil, but it was made of titanium. And we could form it around our little dollies, you know, make dresses with it.

Interviewer: *That's probably what they found in Roswell. [laughter] The mysterious foil material.*

Doris Wade Boyce: [laughter] Anyway, after I interviewed for a job for Western Electrochemical Company—that's the company it was then, with the Gibsons, Fred Gibson and his sons—then I didn't get that job but I typed up inventories of the plant while it was in operation here. It had dissolved then, so they were typing all of the inventory, so that's the job that I had at first at the plant.

Interviewer: *You know, I bet we have some of those inventories in our collection of historical materials. Yeah, so probably some of the things you typed are in our collection.*

Doris Wade Boyce: Yeah, probably. [laughter] But anyway, then when my daughter was three years old, I decided to go back to work, and I went down and interviewed for and I got a job at Western Electrochemical Company. I worked in their personnel department and they had

payroll. They had to come up to the payroll window every week, so I got to know all of the employees of that. Then when they signed on for work, I would drive them over to the clinic and they had a physical before they went to work. So that was my job. I knew all of the insurance, you know. It wasn't OSHA then, it was—I don't know what it was—the Nevada insurance, anyway. If somebody got hurt, then they had to have that. There wasn't any health care of anything like that. If they were hurt on the job, they got that. If they didn't, they paid when they went to the doctor. But the clinic was still over there across from the hospital where it is now.

Interviewer: *There was a separate clinic for the plant employees?*

Doris Wade Boyce: No, it was for everyone. They had regular doctors there. But anyway, I remember a few of the doctors there that were here.

Interviewer: *Who do you remember?*

Kathleen England: Who do you remember, Mom? We were just talking about that. The good and the bad. [laughter]

Interviewer: *Did you know Dr. French? What was he like?*

Doris Wade Boyce: Yes, I did. Wasn't he the first mayor?

Interviewer: *I think so, yeah.*

Doris Wade Boyce: Then there was Mr. Byrne, B-Y-R-N-E.

Interviewer: *The other mayor, yeah.*

Doris Wade Boyce: The post office was located where Wells Fargo is now.

Interviewer: *You were telling me a great story about McCaw too, that you knew something before—*

Doris Wade Boyce: Oh, yeah, he would come in and have dinner every night where I worked in this restaurant. They eventually did away with the counter and they added a restaurant on.

Interviewer: *That was McBeath's Drug Store?*

Doris Wade Boyce: Yes. But, Alan [unclear] started this café; it was between the drug store and the movie house. They put in a little restaurant in the back too that you could go have dinner. But he came every night and had dinner, and he turned out to be one of my mentors. So when he came from the Red Cross and he was telling me that he was going to get married. One night he came in and showed me his rings that he had bought her. We always had a joke about that because his wife then worked for Stauffer Chemical, which was quite prominent, so we got to be very, very good friends. She always teased that I saw her rings before she did. But then he got to be blind, but he was a remarkable man. Up until a couple years ago, I still corresponded with his wife. She moved to Yuma, Arizona. She got remarried over there.

Interviewer: *That's neat that you're able to keep up with people that lived here.*

Doris Wade Boyce: Yes, the Burkholders, they had a daughter, and so Connie was in my class at school. And George Linsmith, the Linsmiths were here, and the Childs were here, and the Coroneos brothers. We only had about three cars and all the kids would—one of them was the McGinty brothers. One of the McGinty brothers had a rumble seat coupe and he would pile

about ten of the guys in the back of the rumble seat, take them to the lake and come back and get another—you know, he'd just make two or three trips. Of course, they all had to pool their tires or their gas because it was during the war. But, it was fun, and the Coroneos brothers, they could take—theirs was kind of a flatbed truck, not like an SUV. So they could take quite a few with them.

Interviewer: *Yeah, they could take a lot in that.*

Doris Wade Boyce: But we were always in groups if we went to the lake or went to the VFW hall, they'd have a party maybe on Friday night and you could go play pool or dance or whatever—for the teenagers.

Interviewer: *I heard there was a lot of dances in the old days.*

Doris Wade Boyce: Yeah, it was really nice.

Kathleen England: In my day, it was the Youth Center. Is that the same place, the VFW?

Doris Wade Boyce: Yeah, I think so, yeah.

Kathleen England: They just called it the youth center, and that's where we would all go for our dances. There was a pool there. I don't know if it's still there.

Doris Wade Boyce: By the drug store, they had a pool hall, and I think that's where most of the men went for their recreation was to play pool at that bar and pool hall.

Interviewer: *I heard at one point—well, I didn't hear, I read in the Henderson Coordinating Council minutes, from the early '50s and late '40s that they had a "teenage problem," where the*

teenagers were going into the pool hall, and they were trying to create activities for the kids so that they would have somewhere else to go and behave themselves. [laughter]

Kathleen England: You must have been part of that, Mom! [laughter] You must have been part of that problem.

Doris Wade Boyce: I couldn't participate in a lot of it because I went to work as soon as I got out of school. So later on then, the parties probably were already going, so they would come pick me up and take me because it was a little bit further to walk down to where the lake was.

Interviewer: *Oh, yeah, it's pretty far. Yeah, I heard some people biked there but it was pretty far.*

Doris Wade Boyce: We just really had good wholesome fun, you know. There was no TV or telephones or sidewalks. [laughter] You'd walk out in the road, actually. So it was a fun time.

Interviewer: *Right, and I bet a lot of the roads were still not paved.*

Doris Wade Boyce: Yeah, right.

Interviewer: *What was Carver Park like when you moved there?*

Doris Wade Boyce: Oh, Carver Park. Everybody went to Carver Park first and waited for a house, to get into a townsite home. That was the first kind of home that we got into, was a townsite—the wooden townsite homes.

Kathleen England: There was a little store in Carver Park. A little grocery, kind of like—I guess sort of like a convenience store would be now. I mean, it had just a little bit of everything. It seemed like it was situated somewhere near the front central area.

Doris Wade Boyce: But we lived there and then when they started the Davis Dam, then we moved down to Davis Dam for a while, while my husband worked on that. And then when we came back, we had to live in Carver Park again until we waited to get a house.

Kathleen England: It was sort of segregated in the day that—I don't know if was or not, but there was an area of it that was where the African American community lived. And the streets were kind of situated so they were—like, there was a section where they lived. At least I remember that.

Doris Wade Boyce: Vegas Village [Victory Village] was more—it was—the nicer part was Vegas Village, but they were all pretty much the same apartments. You either had to stay at one or the other until you got a house. And then they built the regular—

Kathleen England: You meant Victory Village.

Interviewer: *Victory Village, right.*

Doris Wade Boyce: Yeah, Victory Village.

Interviewer: *Well, the interesting thing I think about Carver Park too is that it was designed as a community for the African Americans who worked at BMI. But then they didn't really want to live there because there was a bigger African American community in Las Vegas, on the Westside. So a few of them moved in, but then they eventually all moved out by the end of the '50s as far as I know.*

Kathleen England: Absolutely, because I looked through my yearbook—and I only went to Basic my freshman year, which would have been 1968—and by then, there were only seven African

Americans that had pictures in the whole yearbook at the high school. But I do remember as a child having lots of African American friends. I remember some of their names. And I was really surprised when I looked at my yearbook and there were only seven and I didn't recognize any of them. So that's what had happened then, they had all moved.

Doris Wade Boyce: I only remember one family actually that went to school with me. They were treated the same as everybody else.

Kathleen England: Yeah, I don't remember having any sort of prejudiced feelings or—you know, I honestly don't remember feeling anything like—

Interviewer: *There was no segregation in Henderson? Like, they could go to the movie theater, and—*

Kathleen England: I don't think so. I don't remember anything and maybe I'm just oblivious. I really don't remember any separation.

Doris Wade Boyce: I don't either. In fact, I don't think I had even seen a black person until I moved down here. In St. George, they didn't have any that I can remember. But no, we treated—everybody was the same.

Interviewer: *So you didn't have to live in Carver Park very long.*

Doris Wade Boyce: No, I didn't. I lived there when my son was three years old. I lived there for a little while until I got into a house on Basic Road.

Kathleen England: We lived there for three years.

Interviewer: *Oh, three years. What was it like? What were the houses like in Carver Park?*

Doris Wade Boyce: Oh, they were just apartments, bare apartments, the barest things. Some of them were two bedrooms, some of them were three bedrooms.

Interviewer: *Do you remember, did you have a regular stove or did you have like a—*

Doris Wade Boyce: Oh, yes.

Kathleen England: Yep, regular stove. I can remember the layout of the kitchen. The sink was against—you know, I kind of remember the layout of it because my sister—even though I was too young to remember actually living there, I have a few memories. But my sister who is a whole generation older than me, she got married to someone from the Air Force Base and they moved into Carver Park for a while and had a child, and I remember going to her house there. So that's why I remember what it sort of looked like. They were small rooms. When I went back and saw it—they still had the concrete foundations there for many years afterwards, and I remember going and driving through and looking and saying, "How many units were on each slab?" Because they were just so tiny. Things were smaller in general, you know. Our homes are so spread out now, so large now. But I don't think we noticed that they were small; it's just the way everything was back then.

Doris Wade Boyce: Nobody had garages, it was all carports.

Kathleen England: No garages, very loose storage area. The closets were just tiny and bathrooms were small, and no one noticed that. That was just the way it was then.

Doris Wade Boyce: Everybody lived the same. The houses were all the same. In fact, one night, my husband had gone to a meeting and he came home and he says, "Oh, I see one of your

relatives is on the couch.” And I said, “No, there isn’t.” He said, “Yeah.” I said, “What are you talking about?” So I got up and there was a man sleeping on our couch.

Interviewer: *Really? [laughter] How funny.*

Doris Wade Boyce: And he had fixed himself something to eat and went to sleep in there. But I had left the back door unlocked, and all the houses looked alike, so he got in the wrong house I guess. We didn’t even know him! My husband had to wake him up and send him on his way.

Interviewer: *How funny. But that could happen though. You know, you can see that happening.*

Kathleen England: He probably stopped at the bar on the way home. [laughter]

Doris Wade Boyce: That was fun; that was funny.

Kathleen England: We never locked our doors. I think there might have been a lock on the door, but I—honestly, my whole growing—I do not ever remember locking the door.

Doris Wade Boyce: I don’t remember until then, but then I started. I never could lock the back door because my husband was always, you know, had to get in. You didn’t have all of these keys or whatever.

Interviewer: *Oh, okay. What was your favorite place to live in Henderson over the years?*

Kathleen England: And she lived in a lot.

Interviewer: *Yeah, it sounds like you did, because you lived in Carver Park and then you lived in a townsite home.*

Kathleen England: Several townsite homes.

Doris Wade Boyce: Then we moved to Vegas Dam, then we moved back, and I lived over on Manganese. And that was fun because the houses were flat and this one day it snowed and my husband had to get up and get the snow off the roof so it wouldn't cave in, because one of the other houses down the street had caved in from the snow.

Interviewer: *Oh, gosh, how scary.*

Doris Wade Boyce: See, I lived [in] several places. I lived on Basic Road, and my daughter was little. And then when they built these new homes, I was working for WECCO then and so we got one of those houses.

Kathleen England: And where was that? What was the address of that house? Because I know you lived on Karen Way.

Doris Wade Boyce: It was on Karen Way.

Kathleen England: That's where it was, yeah, Karen Way. Which was your favorite house?

Doris Wade Boyce: Oh, and then we moved from Karen Way. Then we moved into Vegas, then I got divorced and I moved back out here and then I lived on that triangle. I rented a house down there, and then I bought a house on—gosh, I don't remember the address of it. But it was in the north end.

Kathleen England: By Church Street or somewhere wasn't it? No, that was Karen Way.

Doris Wade Boyce: But anyway, I lived there until I remarried again. So, I lived in several places.

Kathleen England: And she lived on Hickory Street down on the tree streets. I don't know what that area is called anymore, but that's where I lived too.

Interviewer: *How did the Henderson community change over the years? You said in the beginning everybody knew each other. Has Henderson changed from having that small town feel over the years?*

Doris Wade Boyce: Oh yes, it has. When I go out there now, I don't recognize it at all. And there's still some people that I run into that, like one of the Coroneos boys. I think he's still living. Then there's a Jolly, Vaughn Jolly. I think she's still living. She was here a long time ago.

Kathleen England: We had an interesting thing happen about ten years ago, or maybe a dozen years ago. I became familiar—was friends with a lady in my neighborhood and I would go visit her all the time. We kept talking about our mother-in-laws. Her mother-in-law lived next door and my mother-in-law lived with me. We'd be talking, talking about all these things and at one point, she said something about her mother-in-law coming from Henderson, and I said, "Well, what year did she graduate?" And I had her write her name down, because it was this odd name to me, Gerry Whisenant. And I came home and I said to Mom, I said, "Tell me what year you graduated, because my friend's mother-in-law, who lives next door to her just down the street is named Gerry Whisenant, and she graduated this year." What year was it, Mom?

Doris Wade Boyce: 1946.

Kathleen England: And she said, well, "Gerry Whisenant?" They were best friends! How fun was this: we set up a lunch, we went to Olive Garden, and the two of them hadn't seen each other since high school. In fact, when Gerry came in—she had found her report card—because the very last report card, Doris had to work and she actually got credit for working and didn't have to complete a full day of school by the end of the year because she needed to work. So instead

of her getting her own report card, the principal or the teacher, whoever had given it to Gerry because Gerry was her best friend, saying, “Here, give this to Doris,” and they never saw each other again.

Doris Wade Boyce: [laughter]

Kathleen England: And so here she opened her yearbook to look through and just remind herself, and here was Doris’s report card. And so she gave it to her at lunch that day!

Interviewer: *That’s great. That’s hilarious.*

Doris Wade Boyce: It was really fun and we went to a couple of class reunions together after that. She just lived up the street from me.

Kathleen England: And had for years and we didn’t even know.

Doris Wade Boyce: Didn’t even know.

Interviewer: *That’s amazing that you didn’t know that. Wow. Henderson has grown a lot.*

Doris Wade Boyce: It really has grown. But I still love Henderson, it’s really great.

Interviewer: *It’s a good place to live.*

Kathleen England: When we moved into our first house after Carver Park—like I said, we lived there at least three years—we moved on Grove Street, which was the very last of the tree streets. The school that is now C. T. Sewell, I believe, is the school that used to be just called Valley View. There was Park Village, which was up farther, to the south from there. That’s where I began, but when Valley View High School opened, I went there to elementary school.

But Grove Street was the last of the tree streets. There's a whole bunch more of them now, but I can remember just loving life because across the street was nothing but desert. We owned, like, two pairs of shoes: a pair of church shoes and a pair of saddle oxfords, when school started, which you'd get a couple sizes too big so that they'd fit you all year and then just little rubber thongs for the summer. But most of the time we just went barefoot and our feet were so used to running across the hot dirt and rocks that we had calluses built up. We just would run and play in that desert across the street from Grove Street before they built those homes. That was good times.

Doris Wade Boyce: My son was one of the first kids born at Rose de Lima Hospital.

Kathleen England: Speaking of health care, tell her about your experience with Dr. Starzinsky.

Doris Wade Boyce: I had eclampsia when I had my daughter and so then I got these big boils on my legs. The doctor was trying to treat them and he didn't know what he was treating. Finally, my husband was down there to get a treatment for an injury he had had at work and he ran into the doctor. He was so mad at him because he couldn't get me better—he had me soaking in hot water and all this stuff—and he pushed him up against the wall and said, “When are you going to cure my wife?” Anyway, then Dr. Minors had just arrived, and he came out and he took over and knew exactly what it was because he had just treated one in Minnesota. He was my doctor from then on. Both my kids were born and raised and graduated from Basic High School. My son was quite an athlete, quite a basketball player.

Interviewer: *What's your son's name?*

Doris Wade Boyce: He was England. So he was quite well known for his basketball. My daughter was in Desertaire, one of the Desertaire.

Interviewer: *Your sons' first name was?*

Doris Wade Boyce: Dennis.

Kathleen England: Charles Dennis. He goes by Chuck now, but he was Dennis to anybody that knew him.

Doris Wade Boyce: In school they called him Denny.

Interviewer: *So we could probably look him up in the newspapers, in the Henderson Home News.*

Doris Wade Boyce: He was quite a star. But you know then, the games—the whole town would turn out for basketball games or baseball games. There was so much enthusiasm for all of it, because that was the only entertainment we had actually.

Kathleen England: It is sad to go to high school games now and see just a scattering of a few people that come.

Doris Wade Boyce: There is, because we just—

Kathleen England: And literally, they were always packed, standing room only at any sporting event, high school sporting event. It didn't even matter if you had a high school student. The whole community just mobbed the gym and mobbed the football field or whatever it was. It was just—that was really a huge part of the community.

Doris Wade Boyce: And the teachers didn't go to the games just because they had to, to chaperone or whatever. They went because everybody enjoyed them. The first games that we ever had, football games, we never won a game. We would go and we would cheer and we would think, "This time we're going to win." Some games, they were fifty-something to nothing.

Kathleen England: Is this when you were in high school, Mom? Not when your son was.

Doris Wade Boyce: Yes. We would play Las Vegas. This is when I was going to school. We'd play Las Vegas and that would be the scores. Still everybody would be out to the games, you know, they didn't get discouraged. They still would give the kids their support. It was just wonderful.

Kathleen England: They had pep clubs back then, you know, and they had bon fire rallies. I remember the parades, like the Helldorado parades where the schools were all involved and every club would have some part in it, in making floats and costumes and parading up and down Water Street. The community spirit is so different now than it ever was then. Then, everyone was involved with each other, it was a real family and everyone was there looking out for each other. I lost my parents when I was younger too, and the community just literally just stepped up. Not that they don't now, but it's in a different sort of a—maybe the church congregation would help. But in those days, it didn't even matter what church you went to or whatever. Everyone was everybody's family. It was just a completely different feeling.

Doris Wade Boyce: We had the Richardson's department store, we had Prime Meats grocery store, and they had Vegas Village.

Kathleen England: Well Vegas Village was up in Vegas.

Doris Wade Boyce: Yeah, but they had one out here. They started one where Rainbow Club is now. Then they had Western Union. My ex-sister-in-law ran the Western Union office.

Interviewer: *I've seen that and it's in the pictures [City of Henderson photographs].*

Doris Wade Boyce: And then there was a shoe repair shop, and there was a beauty shop.

Interviewer: *A photography shop, right?*

Doris Wade Boyce: And Van Valey's shoe store. A lot of times, we'd just go down and sit in front of the grocery store and watch people come in and out on the weekend, on a Friday night. [laughter] They'd go and buy groceries then they'd come out and they'd say 'hi' and whatever, and we'd all sit in the car and watch people come out. It was something to do, you know.

Interviewer: *When you were teenagers, did you cruise at all? You say there were only three cars, but did anybody cruise?*

Doris Wade Boyce: No, I didn't. But a lot of people went into Vegas, a lot of the kids. But they didn't have cars available to do that when I was a teenager.

Interviewer: *So did you get to go to Vegas at all?*

Doris Wade Boyce: Oh yeah, we'd go once in a while.

Interviewer: *To go shopping?*

Doris Wade Boyce: Yeah, to Woolworth's on Fifth Street. That's where it was.

Kathleen England: That was the hang out. Everybody went to Woolworth's.

Doris Wade Boyce: And then they had a Sears store in there and a Penney's store. You know that's where you went to do your shopping. You had to go with somebody that had a car. Of course, my brother had a car. They had to go grocery shopping once a week or something like that. Then they got the other stores, like Prime Meat and those. They had a little grocery store down in Pittman. His first name was Paul, but I don't know what his last name was. But he had a nice little grocery store there, the people that lived down there.

Kathleen England: There were a few things on Boulder Highway, between Vegas and—I used to take the bus sometimes if I had to shop down on Fremont Street, which was really where there was anything reasonable.

Interviewer: *Yeah, I was going to ask if you ever took the bus.*

Kathleen England: I took the bus to the Show Boat, that's as close as I could really get, and then walked up Fremont Street to the stores.

Doris Wade Boyce: Yeah, you'd have to. You'd have to take the bus.

Kathleen England: That's about all you could get to, was to the Show Boat and that was still pretty a good walk. But I mean we walked everywhere then.

Interviewer: *How much was the bus?*

Kathleen England: I have no idea.

Doris Wade Boyce: I don't know.

Interviewer: *Was it a whole nickel? [laughter]*

Kathleen England: Oh, it probably wasn't very much. I'm sure it was not a dollar.

Doris Wade Boyce: It was a nickel or a dime, one of those prices.

Interviewer: *What was the old movie theater like?*

Kathleen England: Oh, it was a great place!

Doris Wade Boyce: Oh yeah, that was great. Everybody went to the movie theater on Friday or Saturday.

Kathleen England: Yeah, what it costs, like, I think in my day it was like thirty-five cents, so I don't know what it was in your day.

Doris Wade Boyce: I don't know what it cost.

Kathleen England: On the weekends and the evenings, that's what it was.

Doris Wade Boyce: I think it was a dime to go to the movie.

Interviewer: *Did they just show the movie or did they do activities when you went?*

Doris Wade Boyce: No, they showed the movie but they had news reels before and all the history. I mean, things that were going on in the world that you see on TV now, they tried to show what they could of the war.

Kathleen England: Yeah, I don't remember any activities. I very seldom ever was able to go to a movie.

Doris Wade Boyce: One time, they had a review in the Huntridge Theater [Huntridge Performing Arts Theater in Las Vegas] with the regular stars. That was an exciting night.

Kathleen England: One thing I don't remember at all is anything to do with the Strip or anything like that. I mean, it was all Fremont Street, cruising down Fremont Street.

Doris Wade Boyce: It was—Last Frontier and El Rancho were the only two.

Interviewer: *As an adult, did you go down to Vegas for dinner?*

Doris Wade Boyce: Once in a while. The people that I worked for took me to dinner at the Last Frontier one night for my birthday and that was really exciting. But you dressed up. You didn't go in your jeans, you really dressed up when you went down there to dinner.

Kathleen England: There was a restaurant called Bob Baskins, down off of Fremont Street somewhere. That's the only place I remember—or, there was a smorgasbord on Boulder Highway. What was that smorgasbord called? I remember there was a Stuckey's and there was this smorgasbord [Swanky Club].

Doris Wade Boyce: There was a Sizzler that was out there on the corner.

Kathleen England: That's not what I'm thinking of, but it was pretty unique. To go out to dinner, like she said, that was a real unusual thing and that's why I remember them so well, the few times that we ever did go out to dinner.

Interviewer: *Did you all travel to Boulder much or to other areas around the region?*

Kathleen England: Oh yeah, much more often than Las Vegas, actually. Boulder was always the rival sports-wise and everything. Mom, your sister lived in Boulder City. She was married and her husband—before—when Doris was still in high school.

Doris Wade Boyce: When they came out of the service, they settled in Boulder City.

Kathleen England: So she was back and forth to Boulder City.

Interviewer: *Why did they choose to live in Boulder?*

Doris Wade Boyce: Well, that's where he lived before he went in the service. He moved there before he was drafted into the Navy or—I don't know if he was drafted or just joined the Navy.

Interviewer: *Was he doing some work on the dam? Was there still work being done on the dam?*

Doris Wade Boyce: After the war? No, not really. There was a lot of people who lived in Boulder. I didn't go over to Boulder that much.

Interviewer: *Did those people work at the plants? The people that lived in Boulder?*

Doris Wade Boyce: No, they mostly worked on the dam. They had quite a work force for the dam. That was built in '35 or something like that.

Interviewer: *So what was it like to visit Boulder back in the old days? Did they have shops and things like Henderson?*

Doris Wade Boyce: They just had a couple.

Kathleen England: Not as many as Henderson. It seems like Boulder City was smaller.

Doris Wade Boyce: They had Desertwear and something else. You know, there was just a couple of shops over there. Mostly people went to Vegas.

Kathleen England: It was like the Friday or Saturday nights, we'd go there for their dances or, you know, social events.

Interviewer: *Oh, so—even though there was a rivalry.*

Kathleen England: There was rivalry and there would be fights, and back in those days—

Interviewer: *Oh, yeah? [laughter]*

Kathleen England: Oh, yeah, definitely.

Interviewer: *What were the fights like? [laughter]*

Doris Wade Boyce: [laughter]

Kathleen England: Oh my goodness, you should have her son, my husband, come in, because he could tell you all about them.

Interviewer: *Yeah, I'd like to know those stories.*

Kathleen England: He has all of the details of the stories of the fights, and literally, that was just a part of a man's—how to gain status, how to—you know, you just had to prove yourself. I don't know why, I'm sure not everybody had the same experience he did with fighting. But it was just a way of life. Then once they fought and established themselves, then they would be best friends with whomever it was.

Interviewer: *Oh, really?*

Kathleen England: Oh, yeah.

Doris Wade Boyce: I remember the first time I saw my son—he was like three years old or something like that, maybe between three and five—and we lived in Carver Park then. He kept coming home crying; they were picking on him and all this stuff. So one night, we were sitting

there and he was coming toward the door and he was crying, and my husband just reached over there and locked the door.

Kathleen England: There was someone trying to steal a toy. One of the bully neighbor kids was out there trying to steal his toy and he grabbed the toy and was running from the little kid who was chasing him.

Doris Wade Boyce: Anyway, he'd locked the door and he couldn't get in. And he turned around and, boy, he just plowed into that little kid. And they left him alone after that. So that's how he learned to fight. [laughter]

Kathleen England: Yeah, and can you imagine that? Can you imagine you locking your own son out from protection because you have to teach him at that early age that you got to fight for yourself?

Doris Wade Boyce: And I was crying, "Let him in, let him in!" He said, "No, he's got learn now or he'll never learn."

Interviewer: *That's tough love. [laughter]*

Kathleen England: That's seriously tough love and that's just the beginning, because that went on. I mean, my husband is hysterical when you listen to some of the stories of how it was for him.

Interviewer: *Oh, we'll definitely have to get him in here.*

Kathleen England: He was real small for his age. I mean, he's six foot now, but he grew six inches his senior year or something. I mean, it was like, freshman in high school, ninety-eight

pounds or whatever. But yeah, he could tell you all about that sort of culture that was different back in those days. Talk about bullying now and all the protection and all the big outreach to poor children who are bullied. They didn't deal with that back then in any other way, it was just what they did. You just had to learn how to cope.

Interviewer: *Well, and you were allowed to fight back. You weren't kept back from fighting back because your parents were worried about insurance or getting sued.*

Kathleen England: So much has changed that way. Of course, they didn't allow fighting on school grounds or anything. But, anyone would just leave and there was always a designated fight site over the railroad tracks in Henderson, over, you know, the pit, you know, whatever, and everyone would go there after school or at lunch or whatever it was and gather around like a big arena event and watch the fighting.

Doris Wade Boyce: Of course, this was after my day, so I didn't realize that. I'd hear the stories at Thanksgiving and Christmas. I'd hear all the stories, but I didn't know what was going on at the time.

Interviewer: *You know Doris, you worked in a lot of different plants. I'm interested to know if you have some stories about those plants.*

Doris Wade Boyce: Oh yeah, I did. I went to work at Pacific Engineering and then I worked for them when they built their plant. At first we had our offices—we were in the Stauffer Chemical building, and then they eventually built the plant way out there over the railroad tracks, way out where it wouldn't hurt anything if it blew up, you know. And they had very good safety. You had to—when you quit working, you had to go take a shower and stuff like that. But I worked

for them, like I said, for fourteen years. And then when my daughter was a senior in high school, we clashed a lot and my husband and I had remarried then. And he suggested that maybe I should quit working then because I had—got sick and I was—actually, I was the assistant secretary of their corporation at that time when I quit. So, I was home for a while to get acquainted with my daughter and then one day she called me and wanted me to come in and interview. She worked at the Plaza Hotel. That was quite new then. She was going to college. She had graduated from college and she had gone to work for the Plaza until she could get a teaching contract. So she called and I went and interviewed from there. And I worked for Frank Scott for First Western and the Plaza Hotel—I think it was around fourteen or sixteen years—as his personal secretary. We went back and forth, whatever. Those are the only two, actually the only two companies that I worked for after I got started in the secretarial business. But the thing about it is, like I say, I've been married three times and I still don't have a pension, you know. So it was always before they started things like pensions that I worked for them, and after I left, then they started their pensions. But I loved the work.

Kathleen England: She was very good at it. She was an excellent secretary.

Doris Wade Boyce: I loved the people. I loved the people.

Interviewer: *Did you write shorthand?*

Doris Wade Boyce: Yes.

Interviewer: *I've always thought that's, like, a real talent to be able to do that.*

Kathleen England: She still uses her shorthand.

Doris Wade Boyce: Off and on, when I take a message a lot of times, but I can't always read it.

[laughter] But I can't always read my writing either.

Kathleen England: Well, she has macular degeneration. She can't read print either.

Doris Wade Boyce: They wouldn't give me a license this last time. They wouldn't renew my driver's license, so she has to drive me everywhere.

Kathleen England: That was a sad day. It just happened at the end of March where she had to surrender her driver's license.

Doris Wade Boyce E: But, no, I've loved living in Henderson. It's different than living in Vegas actually, but we live close enough. In Vegas, we live by the airport, so that's really close to Henderson. I've stayed close to the people, you know that I—

Kathleen England: Her congregation is the same one that she's gone to forever. She comes into Henderson to attend Our Saviors Lutheran Church, which is just up [off of] Basic [on Lynn].

Doris Wade Boyce: I think this is about the fiftieth year that I've gone to the same church.

Interviewer: *That church was here when you came? Tell me about the history of that church. I don't have any stories about that.*

Doris Wade Boyce: The members had built that church. When my husband and I got married, we decided that we would—he was Lutheran and I was a leftover Mormon, but I hadn't been going to, you know, because I was always working on Sunday. So we decided to go to church, start going to church, and that's the one that we settled on, was that Lutheran church. The members had all built that church and there's a few left, but there's not too many. I think I

joined that church in '65 and I've been going to it ever since. I still go once in a while to the Mormon church because that's the way I was born and raised. My family was all Mormon.

Interviewer: *Do you know anything about the history of the Mormon church in Henderson?*

Doris Wade Boyce: Yes, I know that when they built the Ocean Street chapel—and then I know when they built the other chapel down on Cholla Street. Yeah, I was here then. My kids were both baptized in the Ocean Street church.

Interviewer: *I think the churches are a big part of the community in Henderson.*

Doris Wade Boyce: Yes, they are. Well, they are in Vegas too, very well known.

Kathleen England: It's interesting, because they say 'Sin City' but you can't find a more devout community anywhere else either. There's quite a contrast between that life and, you know, people hear you're from Las Vegas and—when I was a teenager and often would be—I'd travel with my sister-in-law to her family in Oregon—I just remember one occasion when there were some relatives that had a son my age, and the parents of this boy wouldn't let them anywhere near me because I was from Las Vegas. They just assumed that coming from Las Vegas I would be a wanton woman or something.

Interviewer: *Oh, yeah, you were a bad influence. [laughter]*

Doris Wade Boyce: Or you had horns or something, you know.

Kathleen England: Right, it was very—yeah, throughout the country, everyone assumed that if you were from Las Vegas, there was a sinful nature to you. But honestly, I've been all over and I don't care where you are in the country, there is a huge faith-filled community in this—and it's

a big contrast between one side to the other, but I think that makes each side a little more powerful or whatever.

Interviewer: *Well and one of my favorite stories that's interesting is the story about one of the nuns going to a casino to ask for a donation of a car for their charity ball. [laughter]*

Kathleen England: [laughter] That's good.

Interviewer: *So they work together somehow.*

Kathleen England: You know, they do. That's true.

Interviewer: *That's pretty funny.*

Kathleen England: It is just part of our—I mean, most of us have family members that work in the gaming industry, of course.

Doris Wade Boyce: I remember when the sisters came to Rose de Lima. Sister McDaniel, she was in charge.

Interviewer: *Did you know the sisters?*

Doris Wade Boyce: Yes.

Interviewer: *What were they like?*

Doris Wade Boyce: Oh, they were just wonderful. She was quite snippy.

Kathleen England: Austere. [laughter]

Doris Wade Boyce: But, most of them were really just like people.

Kathleen England: But they wore the big habits and everything. I can remember them soaring down the hall. It was scary as a child.

Interviewer: *Intimidating, huh? [laughter]*

Kathleen England: Yeah, intimidating. It was just a single story of course, with one wing where there were the hospital rooms and, as I mentioned, my parents died when I was younger, but they were in a car accident. My father was eventually—he had a couple of years recovering from that. My mother was killed, but he didn't live much longer. But during the time of his recovery, he was in St. Rose for an extended period of time and he had a room that—we weren't allowed in the hospital—until you were fourteen years old, you couldn't go in. But I would go outside the window of where his room—I would walk over and then just look in the window and see him. And there was a back door, and I just remember just wanting so bad to see him, and I hadn't been able to see him or touch him for over a year by then, so I went in the back door and I just went up the hallway and I was just opening doors and I found his room and went in there. And I remember the nun coming, sweeping down there and getting me out. But I stayed in there for a little while with him. I actually ended up contracting some terrible disease because he was in isolation and you had to gown up and all of this stuff to go in. He had some horrible infections from the effects of the accident he'd been in. I had just maybe a couple of years, because I never got treated for it, whenever I'd get a little scratch or break the skin, it would turn into this huge, ugly oozing sore. But I remember that experience with the nuns chasing me out and I just remember being so terrified because that's all I knew about them, was that they were mean, trying to get me out of the hospital.

Interviewer: *Wow! What a story. Well, they were trying to save you from the bad bugs.*

Kathleen England: Of course they were. I've wished I'd listened actually.

Interviewer: *Well, who knew you could get a disease from going into the ICU? You think that that's to protect them from you.*

Kathleen England: I know, exactly! I would have not thought of that at all.

Interviewer: *That's interesting.*

Doris Wade Boyce: You know, it's scary now to go to the hospital. You never know if you're going to contract something in there.

Interviewer: *But you know that at the old St. Rose, that new area they have for rehabilitation, that's a beautiful floor. Wow, you'd recover really fast in that place.*

Kathleen England: I have heard that they might change that hospital to just the rehab. I don't know if that's true, but I did hear that it's possible that rather than having regular service, that they might eventually just change it into just a rehab hospital. I don't know, I just heard a rumor about that.

Doris Wade Boyce: I don't know whether I've helped you.

Interviewer: *You have. But let me ask you a few more questions about Henderson and the war years too. How did the war affect the community of Henderson?*

Doris Wade Boyce: Well, it was the entire—that's what it was here for. The Basic Magnesium plant going toward the lake, that was built especially—and then this plant, it was all war work, you know, government.

Interviewer: *Was the plant running all the time, or did they close down on certain days?*

Doris Wade Boyce: Oh no, they didn't close down.

Interviewer: *It was running the whole time, yeah, that's what I thought [based on WWII operations in Oak Ridge, Tennessee].*

Doris Wade Boyce: It was running all the time. That provided work for everybody in Henderson.

Interviewer: *Did you all have scrap metal drives? Did you collect aluminum and other things for the war effort? Some people used to do that, but I don't know if people in Henderson did.*

Doris Wade Boyce: I don't remember that.

Interviewer: *What happened at the end of the war? Do you remember? Did a lot of people leave Henderson?*

Doris Wade Boyce: A lot of people left. And Fred Gibson, he was positive about keeping the plant open and keeping Henderson here. And he was very, very good about that. That's the reason Henderson is still here, is Mr. Gibson. He wanted the plant to remain. They were very good about that.

Interviewer: *Well, I think when Henderson was about to be incorporated, they organized all of the legislators to come to Henderson for a visit, and everybody was very positive about the future of Henderson.*

Doris Wade Boyce: Yes, they were, very much.

Interviewer: *Was he involved, do you think, in bringing those people to Henderson?*

Doris Wade Boyce: Oh, I'm sure he was. And his son, Jim was a very prominent legislator for a long, long time, until he died. And Fred Gibson, Jr. continued with the plant. And then they built that beautiful new plant that blew up [PEPCON explosion, May 4, 1988] and that was so sad.

Interviewer: *Were you here when that happened?*

Doris Wade Boyce: Yes, I worked in Vegas.

Interviewer: *It must have been hard for you to get home that day.*

Doris Wade Boyce: No, because I lived in Vegas then.

Kathleen England: I was here working. We lived in Vegas. But I was working out here at the ice cream plant, down by the—that's right toward the lake—right at the foot of Calico Ridge, there's an ice cream plant there, popsicle plant.

Interviewer: *Is it still there?*

Doris Wade Boyce: Um-hm.

Kathleen England: I was working there when the bomb went off, and my husband's two sons from his first marriage were in school. One was in middle school and the other was in high school. My working partner and I were actually in the Eldorado having lunch—it was a lunch break—and we were in that casino when it exploded. And, of course, we heard it, and it was just pandemonium trying to figure out what had happened. We couldn't tell, of course. We

couldn't get into Vegas; we couldn't leave because all the roads were blocked off. The only thing I could think of was, "Well, I'm Henderson, I've got to get the boys and make sure the boys are safe." And so that's what we did. My working partner and I just went around to the schools trying to get our sons, my sons, and we couldn't find them. I mean, it was just pandemonium in the city. And we had to go to backroads because you couldn't get on Boulder Highway; they just immediately had closed off any outlets going in or coming out. And so we would take the backroads, flipping around in the dirt, you know, and finally got to my husband's ex-wife's home, and Ryan, who is the middle school child, told us what had happened. He said the ceiling tiles and everything fell in and the teachers just said, "Everybody get under your desks!" And one of the air conditioning—or some big unit came crashing down on someone's desk. He said the teachers just said, "Everyone stay under your desks. No one leave!" and Ryan just jumped out and took off and ran home as fast as he could. So he actually was home when we went there, and their garage door, which was an aluminum garage door, had just been crashed in. The windows were all laying inside the house.

Interviewer: *Oh, gosh. So, he ran home after the big blast.*

Kathleen England: The explosion went off; the big blast went off. They were trying to keep the children there, but he has never been one that really cared what anybody asked him to do and he just ran home.

Doris Wade Boyce: I thought I was living in Vegas then, but I wasn't. I lived on Hickory Street and I remember the front part of our house. It was just cracks in the stucco from the thing. And

we had a swimming pool and we thought there was a leak in the swimming pool, but there really wasn't.

Interviewer: *So you weren't behind Black Mountain? You weren't shielded by Black Mountain, where your house was?*

Doris Wade Boyce: No, I lived on Hickory, right on the corner, right on the corner of Ivy, you know right by where that school is, down on Ivy.

Interviewer: *But you weren't injured at least?*

Doris Wade Boyce: No, I was at work. I worked for First Western then. But we heard the explosion and it just so happened that at that time, they had a [crew] up on Black Mountain for Channel 21. They were starting this Channel 21, and so they had video up there and they took pictures.

Interviewer: *So they got a shot of the big blast with the shock wave.*

Doris Wade Boyce: But I knew the people that were killed. I had worked with them. I had gone to their open house; they'd invited me to their open house that they'd just had shortly before it blew up, you know. It was sad. It was really sad.

Interviewer: *And a lot of people were injured, even though, you know—it's tragic that people were killed, but what we don't hear a lot about is the number of people that were actually injured by glass.*

Kathleen England: Because there was the first explosion and everybody ran to the window to see what happened and then the big explosion happened and the glass shards did injure a lot of people.

Interviewer: *But of course you're going to run to the window to see what's going on. You don't expect two explosions! That reminded me of another thing I wanted to ask you about, was the Nevada Test Site setting off atomic bombs. Did you ever get to watch the atomic bombs?*

Doris Wade Boyce: Oh yes.

Kathleen England: Absolutely! That was like a big happening. We climbed up on the roof every time there was a big one.

Doris Wade Boyce: My brother-in-law was in charge of maintenance up there. He was in charge of all of those when they had the blasts. My husband worked up there for years.

Kathleen England: You could just see it: you'd see an explosion, then you'd see the big, rolling waves coming at you.

Doris Wade Boyce: It was beautiful! It was really beautiful.

Kathleen England: It was beautiful. It was really cool. Nobody had a clue that it was going to kill us all. [laughter]

Doris Wade Boyce: Nobody knew it was going to be so dangerous.

Kathleen England: Her first husband, my husband's father, worked up there and actually would go in post-shot, and they would of course put the device deep, deep in the hole and then there would be cables for all of the data coming out. And there were times—he was a very small man

and he could fit in that thing, so sometimes as they were trying to retract all of the information, the cables or whatever—something would get hung up down in the hole, and they have documented where they would have Chuck's dad get on the headache ball of a crane and ride it down into the hole to untangle some of the wires.

Interviewer: *Unbelievable. That must have been so toxic.*

Kathleen England: Can you imagine?

Interviewer: *I can't.*

Kathleen England: Well, he died when he was, what, forty—

Doris Wade Boyce: Forty-two.

Kathleen England: Forty-two years old.

Interviewer: *It's pretty clear that he was irradiated, yeah. That's awful.*

Doris Wade Boyce: But he died of lung disease.

Interviewer: *Because he inhaled it, yeah, I'm sure. Well, that's interesting. Wow, I can't believe they did that.*

Kathleen England: I can't either.

Interviewer: *But you know, they [smelters] were also, like, having men go down in smokestacks to clean them out and getting mercury poisoning.*

Kathleen England: Just not a clue.

Doris Wade Boyce: Yeah, my husband worked a lot, and they would have shots and then have to go in and clean, you know, after the shots, clean up the tunnels and stuff.

Interviewer: *Gosh. I don't know, you know, they knew enough about—they were starting to learn about it. I don't know if they knew everything, but they were starting to learn about it. Anyway, interesting. Well, Doris, back to happier things. [laughter] What do you enjoy most about having lived in Henderson?*

Doris Wade Boyce: The people. It was just a beautiful place to grow up for children, you know, for school—for school, even though there was a war going on, you didn't hear all this stuff that goes on now. There was no drugs, there was no—well I think once in a while, the boys would get together and maybe get a little drunk. But that was the extent of it. There was no shootings.

Interviewer: *Yeah, parents didn't worry about their kids. They just let them do whatever they were doing?*

Doris Wade Boyce: No. It was just wonderful to have your kids. You could take them to the movie, drop them off, pick them up and nothing would happen. It was just really a wonderful place to raise your kids.

Interviewer: *How did St. George compare to Henderson in terms of the climate? What kind of place was St. George?*

Doris Wade Boyce: I think the climate is about the same.

Interviewer: *Oh, so it was also a desert? So you were used to the desert when you came here?*

Doris Wade Boyce: Well, it wasn't desert, but it wasn't a lot of snow or there wasn't a lot of ice.

Interviewer: *Temperate, yeah. What about the heat when you came here?*

Doris Wade Boyce: Oh, that was pretty bad because we had those coolers, you know, the swamp coolers. That's all we had. We didn't have air conditioning, we had swamp coolers. In Boulder City, they actually—they had to put wet sheets up at the window and everything at night so they could sleep. I mean, the heat was bad.

Interviewer: *I heard even some people here slept outdoors at night.*

Kathleen England: Absolutely.

Doris Wade Boyce: That didn't bother us, you know.

Kathleen England: We used to sleep outside a lot. I know the humidity was much lower then. It was much drier, because we have so many water features and just, you know, landscaping and the growth has caused this climate to be different. Because when I grew up, I remember you'd hear on the weather report or whatever, it was like zero humidity, or really low numbers of humidity. It's never like that anymore. It's always much more humid. And I remember when the flash floods would happen. And that was so exciting! We would just go play out in the street and wherever it would accumulated. Which is dangerous and you don't do that! But that was just fun.

Doris Wade Boyce: And whenever they'd build something, there would always be a flood coming afterward.

Kathleen England: Yes, absolutely, no flood channels, no flood control, so it just was what it was. And there was lots of that kind of flooding.

Doris Wade Boyce: I thoroughly enjoyed being raised in Henderson and raising my kids there. I really enjoyed that. They didn't give me any grief. You trusted everybody and it was just a wonderful place to raise your family.

Interviewer: *It sounds great, and I think it's still a great place to live. Things have changed, but the spirit of Henderson has not changed. It's very community oriented.*

Doris Wade Boyce: Doesn't seem to have.

Interviewer: *Was there anything else that you'd like to share about your experience in Henderson that we haven't talked about or something in your life that you wanted to tell me about? We covered a lot of ground.*

Kathleen England: We sure did.

Doris Wade Boyce: Well, I enjoyed the fishing.

Kathleen England: Oh yeah, fishing, bowling—she was quite a bowler.

Doris Wade Boyce: I bowled quite a bit.

Interviewer: *Did you fish in Lake Mead?*

Doris Wade Boyce: Yes, in the river.

Kathleen England: Down at the Colorado River, Willow Beach.

Doris Wade Boyce: Willow Beach. We had a boat and we went down there on the weekends and spent most of the weekends on the boat a lot of times. We took our grandkids down there.

Kathleen England: And when our kids were in high school, they did a lot of water skiing and stuff like that.

Interviewer: *Oh, how fun, yeah. Well, you were really active.*

Doris Wade Boyce: Right, and that's the reason we had a swimming pool is because all of a sudden the kids wanted—when they grew up, they wanted to take the boat out water skiing because their friends could take theirs out. And we didn't want them to do that, so instead of that, we built a pool so that all of the kids would come to the house. They had their pool parties at our house and it was just wonderful. We knew all the kids they went with and it was just a big family it seemed like. We chaperoned all their parties to Disneyland. But we always went to all their ball games, and it was just a fun place to raise your kids.

Interviewer: *Yeah, good community. Well, thank you Doris. It sure has been fun talking to you and learning about—*

Doris Wade Boyce: Well, you're welcome. I wish I had more stories, but I—

Interviewer: *You had some good stories.*

Doris Wade Boyce: Between going to school and working afterward, I missed a lot.

Interviewer: *But you knew everybody in town.*

Doris Wade Boyce: I did, I really did.

[break in recording]

[The following recording was added to capture the history of Doris's brother, Denby Wade, who was one of the first firemen in Henderson.]

Doris Wade Boyce: You know, in the fire department, he worked [on] one shift and then he was off a shift, you know. And he used to take—he used to drive the—he and my cousin's husband—he worked at the Fire Department too—and they used to trade off taking the kids in the bus, you know, to and from, the kids.

Interviewer: *Tell me your brother's name really quickly.*

Doris Wade Boyce: Denby Wade.

Interviewer: *Denby Wade. And he was a fireman in Henderson.*

Doris Wade Boyce: And he was here right from the start, before they had any houses at all.

Interviewer: *He worked for BMI, you said?*

Doris Wade Boyce: Well, Basic Magnesium, and then he worked for the Fire Department, I guess BMI Fire Department. But he was very active in the school, with the school kids. And also he played golf. He was one of the charter members of the golf club, I think, at the golf course. But yeah, he lived here all that time until—I don't know how long he's been gone now, but not a great deal.

Interviewer: *He was a major figure in the community.*

Doris Wade Boyce: He and his wife were married for over fifty years. She just passed away here a few years back. Their children were raised here. They weren't born here, but they were raised here. They went to school here, graduated from Basic High School. He loved Henderson.

Interviewer: *Were you and your other family members, your brother, were any of you involved in the organizations in Henderson?*

Doris Wade Boyce: I wasn't. I think all he did was play golf.

Interviewer: *He wasn't involved in the Lion's Club or the Elk's Club?*

Doris Wade Boyce: No, I don't think so. He was—no, he didn't belong to that.

Interviewer: *He was involved with the school kids and teaching them about fire safety and those types of things?*

Doris Wade Boyce: Oh yeah, and he took them on their bus trips and stuff.

Kathleen England: Bus trips for sporting events? Did he drive the bus?

Doris Wade Boyce: He drove the bus.

Kathleen England: That was just like a volunteer thing?

Doris Wade Boyce: As far as I know, he was a volunteer. But, yeah, he was always into things.

Interviewer: *Was he always a fireman?*

Doris Wade Boyce: Yes, he was.

Interviewer: *He continued to work for Henderson?*

Doris Wade Boyce: In fact, when they formed that—they had a Fire Department down at Lake Mead, the Navy Fire Department—he was in charge of that. I think he was the captain over there. I'm not sure, because I was married then. But no, he was quite prominent in Henderson. He let himself be known.

Interviewer: *Well, thanks for telling us a little bit about your brother. That's neat.*