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Southwest Oral History Association Mini Grant Project

**Patricia Espinoza
Hinds**

**Oral History of
Patricia Espinoza Hinds**

a contributor to the Henderson Oral History Project

**conducted by Anne Marie Hamilton-Brehm, Fredric Watson and her
grandchildren William and Elizabeth Mueller for the
Southwest Oral History Mini-Grant and the Henderson Historical
Society**

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Henderson, Nevada

Rick Watson: *Well, we've shifted gears and Patricia Espinoza Hinds has joined us now and we're going to have some questions asked by her grandchildren, William and Elizabeth. But, maybe Anne Marie Hamilton-Brehm and I will ask some questions and ask some other folks in the studio today who...my sister, a good friend of Patty's and Patty's daughter, Christina, maybe they'll have some questions to ask too. So we would ask just to listen and if you can think of follow-ups that we should be asking that maybe we don't think of, then be sure and chime in and you, the same, Patty.*

Patricia Hinds: Okay.

Rick Watson: *As we get to talking you'll think of things that, that were just good stories about...*

Patricia Hinds: I think that I wanted to get this...I didn't write anything down but I wanted, Toni, if you could say something about Art Espinoza Terrace, I think that would be nice.

Christina Hinds: I told Anne Marie...I told Anne Marie about our Art Espinoza Terrace which is on Van Wagenen and Pacific and is a very nice senior complex that is kept up really nice and is such a tribute to a wonderful man, that I'm happy that it's doing so good and a couple of years ago the sign was missing, that said Art Espinoza Terrace, and I about went crazy. And I called everybody to see what was going on. I thought maybe they were changing the name and I was really going to throw a fit. Turned out they were just redoing the sign to make it, you know, stronger because they said so many years. And that's all I've got to say about Art Espinoza Terrace.

Rick Watson: *That story, that is maybe an indication of another reason why we collect history because we want to honor people who have done good things for our community and Art Espinoza did some wonderful things for history and he was a leader. And we want to honor people because they serve as an example to young people and young people can study the lives of the famous people and then begin to pattern their own lives after those famous folks. But let's go back to history. It's like we have a time machine. Let's go back to maybe the '20's or the '30's and see if we can recall where the Espinoza family came from. And how they decided to come to Henderson and when they came here. Where they settled. Questions like that. Patty will remember all those things. Where did your Dad and Mom come from?*

Patricia Hinds: They came from Chama, New Mexico.

Rick Watson: *Chama, New Mexico. That's interesting. Because this Norm Craft that we interviewed yesterday, that's where they came from. The Chama area of New Mexico. What prompted them to move all the way to the barren desert of the Las Vegas valley?*

Patricia Hinds: Well, my Mom and Dad got married when they were about nineteen years old and my Dad wanted to open up a Mexican restaurant so he opened up his first Mexican restaurant in Las Vegas and it was on Las Vegas Boulevard. Right now Dino's Lounge is where he used to be located. And Roy Rogers and Dale Evans used to come in and they used to have

dinner there. And that was his dream and he made his dream come true at nineteen. My Dad was always very, very ambitious.

Elizabeth Mueller: That sounds delicious.

Rick Watson: *Did you remember where on South Main it was?*

Patricia Hinds: It was, well, Dino's Lounge is there right now. That was, let's see, that would be north of...well, that would be south of what, south of Sahara, south of Sahara.

Rick Watson: *Well, so would it be basically that same building? The same...*

Patricia Hinds: Yep.

Rick Watson: *Oh, really.*

Patricia Hinds: Oh, yeah, part of it was.

Rick Watson: *See, that's...I'm back and forth with, from that, from that neighborhood and I can stop by there and take a picture. That would be fun. Did your Dad take pictures of the restaurant, you know, from those days?*

Patricia Hinds: Yes, yes, he has pictures. Actually, my Dad didn't know one thing about Mexican food so he and my uncle, Bill Piester, went to Los Angeles and they ate in a Mexican restaurant and they just saw food they loved so they asked to see the chef. So the chef came out and they talked to the chef and they said they wanted to open a Mexican restaurant and would you be interested in working for us. So the chef said yes. So the chef went up, got his clothes, packed his suitcase, put it in the back of the car, and they all came to Las Vegas and my Dad opened the restaurant.

Rick Watson: *Good story. What year would that have been?*

Patricia Hinds: Probably 1942 maybe.

Rick Watson: *'42. So they were here when, when they were building that BMI Plant.*

Patricia Hinds: Oh, yeah.

Rick Watson: *That's neat. Yeah, I'd like to know more about that story. When did they move, did they live in Las Vegas then?*

Patricia Hinds: They lived in Las Vegas then but actually they lived in a little Townsite house. They could have actually lived in Henderson at that time but it would have been much later that they actually moved to Henderson. Those houses were only the temp...the old Townsite houses were only supposed to be temporary 'til the war was over and everything but as you know they're still standing. They look like they've been through the war, some of them. (Laughing)

Rick Watson: *But people refuse to leave.*

Patricia Hinds: Yeah.

Rick Watson: *So were you born in, in Henderson then?*

Patricia Hinds: Yes.

Rick Watson: *Born at the Rose de Lima Hospital.*

Patricia Hinds: At the Rose de Lima Hospital, yes.

Rick Watson: *Right. Let's see, why don't you tell us a little bit about school.*

Patricia Hinds: Okay, I went to St. Peter's Catholic Church when I was in grade school. Just like you did, Rick Watson, and my friend, Toni Watson. And then later we went to Gorman. We were called Gorman Goodies, Bishop Gorman High School.

Rick Watson: *Right. Well kids. Go ahead, Elizabeth.*

Elizabeth Mueller: When did you move to Henderson?

Patricia Hinds: I moved to Henderson with my family probably in 1942-'43.

Elizabeth Mueller: What did children do for fun?

Patricia Hinds: We went to Victory Theater and if we were really good my Mom and Dad would take us to the Swanky Club for dinner.

William Mueller: Um, how did you end up coming to Las Vegas?

Patricia Hinds: Well, the reason we came to Las Vegas was so my Dad could open up the Mexican restaurant.

William Mueller: Okay.

Rick Watson: *How long did he continue to operate the restaurant?*

Patricia Hinds: Oh, he operated for it for probably about five years.

Rick Watson: *All right. Good. That was a successful venture then.*

Patricia Hinds: Yes.

Elizabeth Mueller: Do you ever see flying saucers?

Patricia Hinds: Oh, it's just so funny you say that. Well, I don't know any of you out there remember. This is, this is really the truth. Flying saucers, we used to see them all the time in Henderson. We'd look up at the sky and we'd see like hundreds of lights up there and like all the neighbors would come out and we'd all be looking up at the sky and then the police would stop and get out of their police cars and we'd all be looking up at the flying saucers. It was just amazing. Sometimes it would be during the day and sometimes it would be at night. It was

just, it was just the most amazing thing. And my aunt was like, my Aunt Bette Jo, she'd run inside the house and we'd call, she'd call Nellis Air Force Base. And Nellis used to send their fighter pilots up there to like check everything out. And, of course, they were way, way, way below the flying saucers but that...it was just, it was a really fun time and really interesting but that used to happen all the time. And Nellis would keep their planes up there so the flying saucers til would disappear. Then Nellis would leave. But this used to happen on a weekly basis.

William Mueller: What did the children do for fun?

Patricia Hinds: Oh, we went to Victory Theater and there my Dad and Mom sometimes took us to the Swanky Club for dinner.

William Mueller: Okay.

Patricia Hinds: And sometimes as a treat they would be showing scary movies like Count Dracula. And then movies weren't like...

Elizabeth Mueller: We've seen Count Dracula and that's not scary.

Patricia Hinds: Well, it wasn't scary then but when I was like thirteen, like, this big bat looking through the window and it would be like this and you could see like the strings hanging or the wings would be going like this. (Laughing). You guys would think it would be hilarious. Then it was scary.

Rick Watson: *Victory Theater. You mentioned Swanky Club. For, for newcomers in Henderson who don't, just don't have any idea of what the Swanky Club was or where it was, why don't you tell us a little bit about where it was located and the kinds of things that they served and what you thought of it as a youngster.*

Patricia Hinds: I think it was kind of actually in Pitman which was just halfway in between Las Vegas and Henderson and they, actually they had the first salad bar, I think, that ever was like in the state of Nevada. They had a wonderful salad bar and they served like steaks and chops and all kinds of really good things. I mean that was a huge event to go to the Swanky Club.

Elizabeth Mueller: Wait. Were there casinos then?

Patricia Hinds: There were casinos. In fact, my Dad built the first casino in Henderson. It was called the Royal Casino and later on Bill and Sam Boyd bought that from him and that was the first casino they ever opened.

Elizabeth Mueller: Um, what were race relations like?

Patricia Hinds: Oh, the races. This is really, really interesting. I can hardly believe it when I think of it. But when Sammy Davis Jr. used to come here to Las Vegas, he'd come here to perform on the Strip and do you know that they wouldn't allow him to stay at any hotel on the

Strip. He had to stay in North Las Vegas at the Moulin Rouge. He couldn't even mingle and he was with Frank Sinatra and all those big stars and everything. And they all felt bad because he couldn't even be with them.

Elizabeth Mueller: Who was...who was the President then?

Patricia Hinds: I don't know. (Lots of talking in background)

William Mueller: I didn't live back then.

Elizabeth Mueller: Aunt Toni, what, who was the President?

Toni Tibbets: Well, Eisenhower was in the '50's wasn't he? Dwight Eisenhower.

Patricia Hinds: That was good.

Rick Watson: *And who, who was President when we lived out in Carver Park?*

Toni Tibbets: In Carver Park?

Rick Watson: *Mmhmm. How old was it?*

Toni Tibbets: Extremely.

Rick Watson: *It was Harry Truman.*

Toni Tibbets: Harry Truman was the President.

Rick Watson: *Toni and I...I'm going to tell you kids a story. My sister and I and my younger brother, Kip, we lived in Carver Park. And in 1948 was a big election between a man who had been governor of the state of New York. His name was, his last name was Dewey. And he was challenging Harry Truman who was the current President and it was really a close race. We were really...we were Democrats of course...we wanted Harry Truman to win this election really bad even though we were just little kids; didn't have a financial stake in things. And it looked like maybe that Thomas Dewey was going to win that election. And so just before we went to bed my mother got out all the rosary beads. We were Catholics. And, of course, she had us all pray really hard that Harry Truman could win the election. And when we woke up the next morning God had worked a miracle and Harry Truman had won the election.*

Elizabeth Mueller: Excuse me, who, what, this Dewey guy, was he...so you don't want him to win because that's the president you had in the current time or is because you, or is because everybody told you that you wanted the current President to win or did you just...or did you not like this man?

Rick Watson: *I think part of it was, was influence. My, my mother and my dad and my grandfather were...they really all wanted Harry Truman to win. Harry Truman was from Missouri and my Dad was born in Missouri and, and my mother and her dad had lived in Kansas*

City and, and they had seen Harry Truman and they had campaigned for him for other offices before he became President. So I think...

Elizabeth Mueller: Oh, so they knew him. That was really cool.

Rick Watson: *...They knew him a little bit. He probably didn't know them as well as they knew him.*

Elizabeth Mueller: [unintelligible] President. President doesn't know them.

Rick Watson: *That's right.*

William Mueller: Tell me about your memories of Las Vegas. Did you go there?

Patricia Hinds: Yeah, we used to call up boys at town. And my girlfriend, Toni Watson, and I...we were like 12 years old. We used to take the bus to Las Vegas. We'd take the bus to Las Vegas and we'd go to this little diner-type place. It was called the Circus Room and we'd each get two hotdogs and then immediately after that we'd go to Woolworth's and we'd eat a whole turkey dinner and strawberry shortcake.

Elizabeth Mueller: Now how much money was that?

Patricia Hinds: It was probably 25 cents for a turkey dinner at the time. But I remember that we ate so much Toni got sick on the bus on the way home. (Laughing)

Elizabeth Mueller: Toni, Toni, who was the mayor at the time?

Toni Tibbets: James French.

Patricia Hinds: Oh, was it? It was French?

Toni Tibbets: It was, yeah, French, James French, Dr. French.

Patricia Hinds: Oh, he was a doctor. Right. That's right. I remember now.

Toni Tibbets: And then Will Byrne, he was mayor for some time.

Rick Watson: *In addition to your father being an entrepreneur and a businessman, he was also involved in community politics and then later a more broader range of politics. Could you tell us...*

Patricia Hinds: He was in State Legislature. That was a really fun and exciting time and everything. My dad was such a good person. He helped so many people.

Rick Watson: *Did you ever get to travel to Carson City?*

Patricia Hinds: I did get to Carson City and I stayed there and I got to go when they were passing the laws about different things and I remember one time they tried to pass a law where Henderson would be Las Vegas. It would just be like North Las Vegas but my dad fought for

Las...for Henderson to have its own mayor and its own city. But a lot of people were against that but my dad fought for that and that's why Henderson is its own city now with its own mayor and...

William Mueller: If you recall about early politicians in Henderson.

Patricia Hinds: Then I would think that about my dad because my dad was in the State Legislature.

William Mueller: What was your favorite family trip you guys ever went on?

Patricia Hinds: Oh, my favorite family trip. Oh my gosh. Well, my trip this...our big trips were when we went to town in Las Vegas. My mom was, my mom never went to go take us to Las Vegas because she was always afraid we were going to get polio. (Chuckling) So my aunt, once a year she'd take us to Las Vegas and we would go to Sears to see Santa Claus. And that was our family trip.

Rick Watson: *Where was the Sears store when you went?*

Patricia Hinds: It was on Fremont Street.

Rick Watson: *Right around Fremont and Fourth maybe.*

Patricia Hinds: Yes.

Elizabeth Mueller: What did the planes look like?

Patricia Hinds: Oh my gosh, I don't remember the planes. I remember the flying saucers though [laughter].

William Mueller: Flying in the air, flying saucer going to Colorado.

Patricia Hinds: Okay.

William Mueller: What do you know about Industrial Days?

Patricia Hinds: Oh, Industrial Days, we still have that. I think they changed the name though, didn't they? But, anyway, Industrial Days was like a really fun time for us. Toni Watson and I used to be in the parade and we'd march with St. Peters and we'd go passed my aunt's house and they'd be laughing and making fun of us (chuckling). And we'd be marching. We'd practice marching like for weeks before the parade. But, you know, and then my Dad always had a float in the parade. And It was really, really fun. Every year we'd have a float and every year since we were old enough to learn how to decorate, Toni Watson and Roger Lay and I, we would all get together and decorate the float. So it was a big deal in Henderson. Everybody knew they were going to see my dad's float.

Rick Watson: *Can you imagine marching past your aunt's house. Which aunt was that and...*

Patricia Hinds: That was Bette Piekser and my uncle, William Piesker.

Rick Watson: *And what was the address of that house?*

Patricia Hinds: That was on 203 South Water Street.

Rick Watson: *I believe that house is still there.*

Patricia Hinds: It's still there. It's still there.

Elizabeth Mueller: What, when...one very important question...how did you...how did...what did you guys, you and Toni do? What did Toni and you do for fun besides going to the Circus Room and the little diner place?

Patricia Hinds: Well, actually, we used to...in Henderson there used to be like a little stream of water and my Mom and my aunt used to take my sister and I and then sometimes Toni would go with us and my cousins and we'd like wade in the stream of the water. And we thought it was the water from the mountains but it was really water from the Plant. (Laughing) So it probably wasn't really a very good idea when we found out about that til years later. But nothing happened to us.

Elizabeth Mueller: You didn't grow an extra arm?

Patricia Hinds: No. [laughter]

Rick Watson: *Which aunt was that took you to..?*

Patricia Hinds: My mother.

Rick Watson: *Oh, your mother.*

Patricia Hinds: My mother, my Aunt Bette and my Uncle Bill.

Rick Watson: *Would, would it have been like down at the Vegas Wash or, you know...*

Patricia Hinds: It would probably be in between Las Vegas and Pittman.

Rick Watson: *Oh, all right.*

Patricia Hinds: No, Pittman and Henderson. Almost right across from the Plant. We should have gotten that. [laughter]

William Mueller: Did you make little boats or rafts to sail down the polluted water or did you not?

Patricia Hinds: No, we never did that.

William Mueller: It would have been a good idea to do that.

Elizabeth Mueller: When did they start abusing elephants in the circus? That's what I want to know.

Patricia Hinds: Oh, they used to do that since the beginning of...I can't even remember. But now they don't do that too much anymore because they have all kinds of strict rules and regulations. They can't, they can't do that anymore.

Elizabeth Mueller: What is, what was it, what was there a farthest you guys ever went away from home?

Patricia Hinds: When I was in high school we went to California.

Elizabeth Mueller: Cool.

Rick Watson: *Did you and your friend walk? What kind of desert that I think Elizabeth is thinking about.*

Patricia Hinds: Oh, is it only a type of walking out in the desert? We used to, we used to walk in the desert. Yes. And there used to be a big underpass. Toni, do you remember that underpass on Boulder Highway? And we always used to imagine that there were monsters there and scary things.

Elizabeth Mueller: And how old were you when you saw that?

Patricia Hinds: Eighteen. (Laughing) No, no. I, you know, I really thought...we were probably about ten, huh? And somebody smeared ketchup all over the side of the wall.

Elizabeth Mueller: Oh, my god.

Patricia Hinds: We liked to pretend that, you know, all kind of scary things.

Toni Tibbets: Tell that story about Fidel Castro.

Patricia Hinds: Oh, oh yeah. My Mom and Dad went...my Dad had his business through Westinghouse when he had the appliance store and he won a free trip and my...it was to go to Florida and my Mom said, "The only way that I'll go to Florida is if we can go to Cuba." So my Dad said okay. So she said it was so scary when they got off the plane because they had all these like armed guards with shotguns and they were like...aiming at half the people getting off the plane. She said she was terrified and my Mom was always afraid of things like that.

William Mueller: Why were they aiming at the people?

Patricia Hinds: Because it was during the war.

Elizabeth Mueller: World War 175.

Rick Watson: *What year do you think that was?*

Patricia Hinds: I think that was probably in 1961 maybe.

Rick Watson: *All right. So Fidel Castro was in...had taken, taken...*

Patricia Hinds: Oh yeah.

Toni Tibbets: He was staying at the same hotel. That was the story. They were staying in the same hotel as Fidel Castro..

Patricia Hinds: Oh! As it came to happen. Then he was so surprised when they got to the hotel and Fidel Castro was staying at the same hotel they were staying at.

Rick Watson: *He visited in, he visited in New York I believe, I'm sure. Fidel Castro brought chickens with him because he was, he was afraid that somebody was going to poison him so he brought his own food. He brought live chickens and butchered them in the hotel. There are a lot of good stories about that one. Life is interesting. Your mother and dad were there in New York City when he did this.*

Elizabeth Mueller: Toni, what year did your family start going to Hotel Dell?

Toni Tibbets: Oh, in 1992.

Elizabeth Mueller: So, that's kinda like a really fond memory you have.

Toni Tibbets: Yes.

William Mueller: When was it built? That's my question.

Rick Watson: *Don't tell Dell.*

Toni Tibbets: 1898...1880, I think.

William Mueller: Wow. Wow. I'm impressed it's that old.

Rick Watson: *Tell us some more about your...about your dad's political career. I know he ser...he served in other offices besides the State Legislature, didn't he?*

Patricia Hinds: Yes. He did a lot of things. He was on the water commission, for the power...he was on that. He belonged to the Rotary Club. He belonged to a lot of things. He loved doing things for people. The Housing Authority.

Rick Watson: *Sure. That Clark County Housing Authority was...they managed Carver Park and Victory Village and what was the old Kelso Turner neighborhood that looked a lot like Carver Park and Victory Village?*

Patricia Hinds: That's right, I'd forgotten about that.

Rick Watson: *Yeah, it was Maryland Parkway on the North side of Fremont Street.*

Elizabeth Mueller: What year did they start making zoos. And they kept wild animals.

Patricia Hinds: We didn't have any zoos in Henderson.

Elizabeth Mueller: I wonder what year did they bring zoos to Henderson?

Patricia Hinds: I don't think they have zoos there now. Do they? No.

Elizabeth Mueller: They don't have a zoo in Henderson? I've been to a zoo in Nevada.

Patricia Hinds: Yes, in Las Vegas there are zoos.

Elizabeth Mueller: Oh, that's still kind of sad.

Patricia Hinds: Well, maybe it's good for the animals.

Rick Watson: *Well, Elizabeth, let's think about that. Now see, that might be kind of like one of your life goals to, you can help to establish an animal preserve or maybe some way of studying animals in that area. So you...now, when you first, when you first moved to Henderson you lived in one of the Townsite homes. But then...*

Patricia Hinds: Well, first we lived on Nebraska. Then we lived, moved to Basic Road and then I lived on Water Street.

Rick Watson: *All right.*

Elizabeth Mueller: Wait, who named "Basic Road" "Basic Road"?

Patricia Hinds: I don't know! But, I have a street named after me. My sister, Chichi and I have a street named after us.

Rick Watson: *Is that...*

Patricia Hinds: And Art Espinoza Terrace with a Patricia and Alice.

Rick Watson: *So what is...where is your street, the street that's named after you and your sister? Where is that located, do you recall?*

Patricia Hinds: Not really. It's as you're going in.

Rick Watson: *All right. Going into the Plaza.*

Patricia Hinds: The community.

Elizabeth Mueller: Didn't your dad build that road? Is that why he named...

Toni Tibbets: Yeah. That road.

Elizabeth Mueller: He built the road and named it after you.

Rick Watson: *Did your, did your folks belong to the country club, play golf?*

Patricia Hinds: No, my dad never played golf and he never had time to play golf. He was always working. He was always working.

Rick Watson: *That's my recollection of him in the museum involved in many, many things.*

Patricia Hinds: He was always busy and he always did his own yard. He always washed the windows himself. He always did all his own work. And it was so hot in Henderson. We used to feel so bad for him because if we really had tried to come in from mowing the yard. I remember one time he was just lying in between the living room and kitchen and he was there on the floor. And everybody was just walking right over him. Well he almost had heat stroke and nobody knew that. We though he was just resting there.

Rick Watson: *Mhmm. Good lord. That's very dangerous.*

Elizabeth Mueller: What name do you...what year did you get into tropical fish? I know that you have a very beautiful blue and pink fish.

Patricia Hinds: I ...actually I got my first fish from Woolworths. I think I went into on a bus with Toni Watson to Woolworth and they had those little goldfish. I think they were like five cents. And many times they... and that was my first fish.

Elizabeth Mueller: Aww.

Rick Watson: The old Henderson buses...that's a good story too. We talked to a lady whose children and grandchildren attended the Robert Taylor school and she was here in the early '40's and said that they...the only way that they could get to, from Henderson to Vegas was to ride on the bus. But she described the bus, it was like a truck, a tractor-truck, that pulled a trailer and the trailer had windows and seats which would be 1943. But you recall riding the bus. What, you know, what route did it take you to Vegas? How much did it cost?

Patricia Hinds: Oh, there weren't a lot of routes. You had to be on Water Street and then they'd go straight up Boulder Highway and right to Fremont Street and that was the bus. And then back to Henderson again.

Rick Watson: *How much did it cost to ride the bus?*

Patricia Hinds: I think it was probably like about fifteen cents.

Rick Watson: *Yeah. All right. I remember the old, the old bus to Vegas.*

Elizabeth Mueller: What was your favorite...what was your very first car?

Patricia Hinds: My very first car was a Mustang.

Elizabeth Mueller: Didn't you used to drive your dad's old car?

Patricia Hinds: Yes. I used to...it wasn't an old car then but, yeah, my dad and mom...

William Mueller: Was living in...sorry you can go ahead.

Patricia Hinds: So it was a Mustang. But I always used to drive my mom and dad's car mostly. And Toni and I, and she had to spent the night at my house. My girlfriend, Toni Watson, we would for our big event, we'd get in the car and drive around the golf course early in the morning.

Elizabeth Mueller: So you always basically lived in um, country clubs.

Patricia Hinds: No, we never did. We just drove there and looked at the houses.

Elizabeth Mueller: Was living in Henderson dangerous?

Patricia Hinds: I think that the most dangerous thing probably was the pollution from the Plant.

Elizabeth Mueller: What did it smell like?

Patricia Hinds: It smelled awful. It smelled like burnt cabbage. And like sometimes when we'd be like on the way to school to go to Gorman you couldn't like see like five feet in front of you. Do you remember that, Toni?

Toni Tibbets: Yes.

Patricia Hinds: We had to pull over to the side of the road and we had to wait until the clouds cleared and the clouds were an ugly yellow and they were all the way to the ground. We had to wait 'til that cleared and then we could go. Because we couldn't see in front of us so then we had to...and then when we'd get to school the nuns would ask us why are you late and we had to tell them in front of the whole class and all the kids from Las Vegas would kind of snicker. (Chuckling)

Elizabeth Mueller: Why. Would they see the huge dust clouds outside the window?

Patricia Hinds: That was in Henderson.

Elizabeth Mueller: They wouldn't see it outside the window?

Patricia Hinds: No.

William Mueller: Now they're facing the smoke.

Rick Watson: *You know, I'm, I'm interested in the region of New Mexico, like Chalma, the town was, which is, I think is just a small town. I, I'm, I took my family to visit in Santa Fe and on our way home we drove up through northern New Mexico and up into southern Colorado but the Chalma neighborhood seems to have been the home town of a whole bunch of Henderson residents. Did you, did you ever go back to visit...*

Patricia Hinds: I did. I think when you were talking about a family trip, we did go there. We went to Chalma and we also went to Santa Fe. We, we'd get in the car and Mom would pack sandwiches 'cause there weren't fast food places then. It wasn't like you could stop, stop like

at Taco Bell or something. So she'd make sandwiches and we'd eat in the car and I'd get car sick and but we had a good time.

Rick Watson: *I wonder what, I wonder how, that, why so many people came from Chalma.*

Patricia Hinds: I don't know.

Rick Watson: I won...see, that's a question...

Patricia Hinds: I think Chalma's a really small town.

Rick Watson: *That's my thought. It...I mean, that is one of the prettiest areas I've ever driven through. It's just, you know, beautiful woods...*

Patricia Hinds: How many people would you think lived there?

Rick Watson: *Well, Johnny Simmons...not Johnny, but Monica, Monica's family was from there. Norm Craft said that he was from there. Norm Craft is the school district fella and old Basic High School athlete that Ann Marie and I interviewed yesterday. He said his family came from there in about 1943. So there are people that came to work on the plant and uh, so I'm in my wanderings to all these oral histories and everything I'm going to ask that question to see, you know, why that community contributed. I'm sure it wasn't thousands or anything but even if there were eight or ten families it would be fun to know, were they friends. Was there, was there some outreach from the BMI Plant to the community to, to come to work?*

Patricia Hinds: It would be interesting to know. I don't know the answers to that. I really don't. I really never knew anybody from Chalma except my dad's family. I don't know anybody else but you know a few people, and that's really interesting.

Rick Watson: *Yeah.*

Patricia Hinds: Do you remember, do you remember when we got our first televisions in Henderson?

Rick Watson: *Yes. Tell, tell about that because your dad...I think your dad's probably sold some of them.*

Patricia Hinds: My dad had Ideal Appliance and we had to the first televisions and those televisions were...you know how the shapes. They were shaped oval, they weren't square and they always had a pattern so when you turned on the TV you have to look at that pattern and adjust it to make sure that it was good enough to watch the show otherwise you wouldn't be able to see anything from the constant of flickering. And I think the only station at that time was Channel 13. I think so. And then pretty soon we got the color TV, we got the first color TV in Henderson so all the relatives and friends would come over and we'd fix food and everybody would watch color TV. It was really fun.

Rick Watson: *Now, that phenomenon of beginning of television was interesting to watch. Same at our house. You know, we were, I think we were one of the first families on Victory Road to get a TV set and immediately we had all kinds of friends that we didn't know we had. (Chuckling) Everyone would come and watch.*

Patricia Hinds: And there were only just a handful of shows on TV. Can you think of some of them? I think it was...

Elizabeth Mueller: "Dick Van Dyke".

Patricia Hinds: Maybe "Dick Van Dyke" and "I led Three Lives" and there were, there were only like maybe six shows on television. But "Ed Sullivan" was one of the them, but he came a little bit later though.

Rick Watson: *Did you ever get to be on that television, one of the local programs, when you were a kid?*

Patricia Hinds: Oh, well, Toni Watson and I were on "Bostick Wester".

Rick Watson: *All right. That's the one I was thinking of.*

Patricia Hinds: He was...He didn't...

Rick Watson: *I was on "Bostick Wester's Show" too.*

Patricia Hinds: He was such a character, wasn't he?

Rick Watson: *Yeah, all the kids all laughed about that, the kids at St. Peter's. Tony Valdez and Glenn Carroll and Georgie Monahan. They thought that was really funny. I went with a bunch of Cub Scouts and I was supposed to try to help supervise the Cub Scouts because the Cub Scouts were in yours and Toni's class. Do you remember a boy named Reck, his last name was Reck?*

Patricia Hinds: Yes.

Rick Watson: *And what were some of the others but Von Stout's brother was in that group. There must have been 12 or 15. That was interesting. Hey, look at the, kids look at the TV camera that we're videotaping or video recording this on. Look at how small and light-weight that is. I just a few minutes ago, when we were positioning it, I lifted it across the chair with just one hand and it was just effortless. But the, remember the television cameras that day that you were on TV? They were, they were big, you know, just huge.*

Elizabeth Mueller: I bet they were beautiful though.

Patricia Hinds: They're antiques. I think it's got to be a hundred years old to be an antique.

Rick Watson: *It would take two strong men to lift it over this chair in those days.*

Patricia Hinds: Oh, absolutely. And nobody knew how to operate them, you know, only a few handful of people could do that.

Elizabeth Mueller: After this, do you want to watch Dracula?

Patricia Hinds: Okay, we'll go...we'll rent Dracula and we'll watch it. Okay?

William Mueller: Okay.

Patricia Hinds: I think you'd get a kick out of it.

Rick Watson: *Could you, could you watch old movies on television at that time?*

Patricia Hinds: You know, I don't remember ever seeing old movie on television.

Elizabeth Mueller: Actually I did. It was like, like the original Mickey Mouse is playing on Disney Channel.

Patricia Hinds: Is it?

Elizabeth Mueller: Yeah, it was the original black and white Mickey Mouse.

Toni Tibbets: I think Mickey Mouse was on television then. I think that was another show.

Rick Watson: *Cartoons.*

Elizabeth Mueller: They're still playing the original Mickey Mouse. Like the black and white Mickey Mouse.

William Mueller: Actually it was a black and white show. It was, it was on the, it was on the...It was on Disney Channel.

Elizabeth Mueller: Yeah, they all...Disney has a lot of their old movies like when Walt was still alive and working on some of them. Yeah they still play a lot of those movies.

Rick Watson: *I remember those original Mickey Mouse. Mickey Mouse had really skinny arms and legs. (Laughing)*

Elizabeth Mueller: Yeah.

Patricia Hinds: He had big white shoes.

Rick Watson: *Yeah, and big, white shoes.*

Elizabeth Mueller: And he didn't ever talk and he was just like blank and they had this cartoon bubble over his head what he was saying. And then it was like he Montry (sic) Mouse or something.

Rick Watson: *He got better though as, as the years went by.*

Elizabeth Mueller: Yeah, I think the newest Mickey Mouse was animated and he was really not original.

Rick Watson: *But do you know how old your grandmother and my sister, Toni, and I are? We were born in 4...*

Patricia Hinds: No, That's definitely don't know how old I am.. (Laughing)

Rick Watson: *I shouldn't tell them. We were...we were...*

Patricia Hinds: No, they don't know that.

Elizabeth Mueller: Even my aunt doesn't even know that.

Rick Watson: *We were older than you, we were older than you kids when Disneyland first opened. In otherwords, when we were your age there was no such thing as Disneyland. Patty, can you, can you tell us, can you remember the first time you went to Disneyland.*

Patricia Hinds: Uh, yeah, Disneyland was so much fun. The main thing I remember is the Big Castle or that's what we say was the main attraction. That's my favorite part of Disneyland. And there used to be, they had that pancake house, it was called Aunt Jemima's Pancake House. Then we would go there and have pancakes that looked like a tiger tail. It was...I love Disneyland.

Rick Watson: *The first time I went to Disneyland my little brother had athletes foot and he couldn't walk so I had to carry him on my back everywhere we went. I must have been about fourteen, thirteen or fourteen years old. The kid couldn't walk so I had to carry him. I was just exhausted. How did you, how did you get to Disneyland? Did you fly down to California?*

Patricia Hinds: No, we drove.

Rick Watson: *You drove.*

Patricia Hinds: We drove.

Rick Watson: *What was the trip between, from Henderson to Los Angeles like in those days? What route would you have taken and what were the na...can you remember the names of the highways?*

Patricia Hinds: Well, we went on the old LA Highway 'cause that's out west, old LA Highway, and that's how we would get there. And then, of course, it was really hot because nobody had air-conditioning at that time so we had to roll all the windows down and it would just be hot air all the way. It was warm

Toni Tibbets: Is that just off Route 66? Is that it?

Patricia Hinds: I just called it old LA Highway.

Rick Watson: *You know, it was...it had various names. One of the names was the Arrowhead Highway, particularly from Vegas to Salt Lake. But it was, you know, it began in Long Beach, California and it went all the way to Salt Lake and it didn't, wasn't I-15, it wasn't a freeway until maybe the '70's, I don't think. But there was a cutoff that we used to always take. You didn't have to go all the way to Vegas. Do you remember the...?*

Patricia Hinds: Yeah, I do remember that.

Rick Watson: *Frontier Highway.*

Patricia Hinds: I do remember that.

Rick Watson: *Saint Rose de Lima.*

Patricia Hinds: And do you remember when Tropicana was Bonn Road?

Rick Watson: *Mhmm.*

Patricia Hinds: Do you remember that?

Rick Watson: *Absolutely.*

Patricia Hinds: And then when it was just a, it was just like one, one car would be in each lane. It wouldn't, it wasn't a two lane street or anything. Do you remember that?

Rick Watson: *I can remember when it was a dirt road.*

Patricia Hinds: It was a dirt road. It was a dirt road. Yes.

Rick Watson: *Flamingo and Sahara. Sahara was San Francisco.*

Patricia Hinds: That's right.

Rick Watson: *I can't...I don't remember that even...maybe there wasn't a Flamingo Road until they built the Flamingo Hotel. So maybe in '46...that, that was named the Flamingo.*

Patricia Hinds: Uhhuh.

Rick Watson: *Oh, where did you stop on the ride down to Los Angeles?*

Patricia Hinds: You know what, I don't think there were places to stop. It was probably like Baker. You know, I don't remember that. I don't remember us ever stopping 'cause it wasn't like fast food restaurants or anything. I remember, though, in Henderson there was a fast food restaurant when I was about twelve and that was the Dairy Queen. No, the Polar Queen, it was called the Polar Queen.

Rick Watson: *Where was that?*

Patricia Hinds: That was on Water Street. That was on Water Street and that was when they first came out. We used to go get like a coke or a cold drink, it would just always come like in a

cup with ice. Then they started having the little tops and then they started putting straws and that got really fancy. And then pretty soon they started serving sauce with their french fries. The mayonnaise and ketchup in those little containers.

Rick Watson: *Which is famous. You know, when we have our Historical Society parties, we always try to recreate that famous sauce. Valerie La Porta insists on buying many, many pounds of french fries and making a bunch of that sauce for our visitors.*

Patricia Hinds: Oh, I love that sauce. It's so good.

William Mueller: Do you know that Mickey Mouse's ears always stay 2-D, even when the cartoon, it came out? Mickey Mouse's ears always stayed 2-D.

Rick Watson: *Yes, instead of what, 3-D?*

William Mueller: Well, we said 3-D or 1-D, when he turned, turned to different directions.

Rick Watson: *Mmhhh.*

William Mueller: It's always 2-D.

Rick Watson: *It's, you know, and those pictures were all hand-drawn by artists. Today they use much with graphics and through computers and that sort of thing. But those were all hand-drawn pictures and they used to just pass them around slowly and take pictures and then run them back really fast and that's how you got all the motion with those things. Just think of the changes from the time that your grandmother was a little girl. Talking about Mickey Mouse reminds me of comic books. In comic books...do you know what a comic book is? Have you ever seen a comic magazine?*

Elizabeth Mueller: Yes. We do. We read comic books.

Rick Watson: *What about comics in the newspaper?*

William Mueller: So it's like a flip book. Like the old cartoons were like a flip book.

Rick Watson: *Absolutely. That's exactly right. If you flipped the pages each picture changes just a little bit and it looks like somebody's running or jumping over. When your grandmother and Toni and I were little kids they, we had comic books and we used to buy them at...what was...you know, who would you, if you were going to a comic book or...*

Patricia Hinds: At the grocery store.

Rick Watson: *Grocery store...what was the...there was a...remember, can you remember the McDuff...*

Patricia Hinds: Yeah, Joe McBeth.

Rick Watson: *Tell us your recollections of their store.*

Patricia Hinds: Well, I can remember about Joe McBeth is that he had the drugstore on the corner of Army and Water Street, I believe.

Toni Tibbets: Market.

Patricia Hinds: Army and Market? Okay. So...he was a really good friend of my dad's and he was like a really nice person and so was his wife.

Elizabeth Mueller: When did you get into painting?

Patricia Hinds: When did I get into painting. I started painting when I was about two.
(Chuckling)

William Mueller: When did you start, started singing Elizabeth?

Patricia Hinds: There are my paintings. Most of my paintings are on the wall right there.

Rick Watson: *You know, the only question that I have wanted to ask you is about your involvement in real estate and did you, were your mother and dad involved in real estate. Did they buy property...*

Patricia Hinds: My Dad had a real estate company. It was called Security National Real Estate and Mortgage Company. And so I learned a lot of things from my Dad and I bought my first house I think when I was 22 years old and the airport ended up buying it because it was really close to the airport. But, so anyway, I've always invested in real estate and right now we have three storage facilities named Safeguard One, Safeguard Two and Safeguard Three and my daughter, Christina Hinds and I buy houses at the auction and we fix them up and we sell them.

Rick Watson: *So you were 22 when you bought your first house?*

Patricia Hinds: I was 22 when I bought my first house.

Rick Watson: *And it was out by the airport you said?*

Patricia Hinds: Yes, and when I, I bought a little apartment complex and I was really nervous about it because I wanted it so much and I was actually the first woman in the stat of Nevada that got a commercial loan.

Rick Watson: *Right. That's interesting. You know, maybe the kids would be interested in this. Do you ever look at the children's page in the RJ, the Review Journal newspaper?*

Elizabeth Mueller: Sometimes.

Rick Watson: *Umhmm. I think it's on Wednesday, there's a page for...with...always starts with history, a history piece of some sort and then there are puzzles and things that you can do. Well, the last Wednesday they had a...it was all about the Homestead Act and homesteading property. And I never did this, and neither did my Dad, my family, but we always talked about we were, we were planning to do something along those lines. Did you ever do anything, do you*

recall whether or not your dad ever homesteaded any property? You could still do that up until, oh, sometime after we moved here.

Patricia Hinds: Are you talking about homesteading? Or being a squatter, being a squatter and you don't own the land. It would have to be, I believe it has to be like government land. But you did have to pay the taxes on the property. If you paid taxes on the property and you were able to live there for ten years that means that can become your property.

Rick Watson: *Umhmm. That's exactly right.*

Patricia Hinds: It seems like that would be...the only thing is, though, how would you know to go about paying taxes on the property? I mean maybe the government wouldn't even realize what was happening because they're so busy with other things. Maybe you could actually get by with it.

Rick Watson: *Yeah, and this now, the children's page that I read last, they talked about homesteading in Nebraska and a lot of farmers and I think you're right. The government probably had a hard time keeping up with everyone that stakde a claim on, on property. But I recall out in [unintelligible] Valley there would be a lot of just a little, you know, the beginnings of houses or foundations or a well and I think a part of the old agreement was that if you made \$300 worth improvement on this piece of property that had been laid out by the Bureau of Land Management, this was open for homestead, then like you said, you stayed there for a certain period of time then it became your property. You know, I was curious to know if you, if you'd ever done anything along this way.*

Patricia Hinds: No, and I don't know anybody that has either. But I know that people have done that.

Rick Watson: *Yeah, keep an ear open on that because that's a good story for Henderson because I believe people did. You know, out around like Whitney Mesa, you know, where the Botech property is. That would be fun to hear some stories on that.*

Patricia Hinds: All right. Well at one time I, this was in the '80's when the interest rates had gone sky-high in the '80's and the interest rate, I think, was like 20 percent on an FHA loan so even that you could buy a house for a little, little amount of money, the payments were still just huge because interest rate. So now is a really, really good time to buy because the interest rate is so low and the cost of the houses are so low. This is a really, really good time to buy land now.

Rick Watson: *Twenty percent, is that...*

Patricia Hinds: Twenty percent and now it's like three and a half percent.

Rick Watson: *Yeah, absolutely.*

Elizabeth Mueller: Can I ask a question? You can't get a good...Now you could get...back then you could get a job without going to college. Correct?

Patricia Hinds: Yes.

Elizabeth Mueller: Well, now you can't get a job without going to college. It's hard to get a job without going to college now. Right?

Patricia Hinds: Well, I don't know that. I like, I like both of you kids are both gonna go to college but actually some people that go to college don't really have...

Rick Watson: *How about your dad and mom. Did your dad and mom go to college?*

Patricia Hinds: No, my mom and dad didn't, no, my mom and dad didn't go to college. I didn't go to college.

Elizabeth Mueller: Did Gigi go to college?

Patricia Hinds: Gigi went to college. And Gigi, actually, Gigi took Spanish for, like, twelve years. She did really well. But, I mean, when she went to Gorman, the teacher said, "Oh, this is an easy A for you." Well, she didn't know a word of Spanish so she really actually had to learn it from, she learned it at school. But she, although she speaks, she can speak Spanish really well, her accent is horrible. It's just like she's speaking in English almost.

Rick Watson: *Did your mom and dad speak Spanish at home?*

Patricia Hinds: My dad did. Oh no, we didn't speak at home. But they spoke Spanish.

Elizabeth Mueller: Did you discover that cigarettes were bad for you?

Patricia Hinds: Oh, the cigarette thing. I think that's really interesting because people love to watch those old movies from like Desi Arnaz and Lucille Ball. They're smoking cigarettes and everything. That looks so funny now because we don't see that in movies anymore. I mean, that's just a...you never see a person smoking a cigarette and then they had the ads for cigarettes. But when did they ban all that? Do you know?

Elizabeth Mueller: I think when 2001.

Patricia Hinds: No, it was earlier than that.

Rick Watson: *Yeah, I think it was but that's, that's an interesting question. Gee, that was...it was a part of our lives. It was, that was a romantic thing to do. You know, if you were out on a date maybe the man would light a cigarette for his girlfriend or his wife and hand it to her.*

Patricia Hinds: I know, I know. I know. I remember sometimes that, like, my mom...both my mom and dad smoked. I mean, sometimes my sister, Gigi, and I would be in the car and it would be winter time and they'd have all the windows rolled up and they'd be smoking

cigarettes. We were in the back seat coughing away. I mean that would never happen now. Your dad used to smoke cigars.

Rick Watson: *My dad smoked cigars and if was cold; we were going somewhere and it was cold out he'd keep the windows rolled up so the car would just be full of smoke. He could barely see where we were going.*

Patricia Hinds: [Laughing]. 'Cause one time Toni, I think she was in second grade when she went to school. The nun says, "You smell like you've been smoking cigarettes". And she goes, "Oh, that's my Dad's cigar."

Rick Watson: *Yeah, the stink, stinking thing. The kids, like all my friends at school, they were...they thought I was cool because they thought I smoked cigars. Now the kids, William and Elizabeth, if you went to school and you smelled like cigarette smoke would your kids, would the other kids at school or at the community center or wherever you were, do you think they would admire you and think you were cool?*

Elizabeth Mueller: No. And William wouldn't notice because he says he can't smell.

William Mueller: But I, but I can smell smoke.

Rick Watson: *But when we were, when your grandmother and I and my sister, Toni, were in school, but we...I think everybody thought, well when we get old, get older, we'll smoke just like our parents do. But you kids, you don't want to do that. And that's...*

Elizabeth Mueller: But the new thing is vapo cigarettes or something, they put like gas, they put like gas from a car in there and they smoke it. What is it? It's not, it's not bad for me but...

William Mueller: It's not bad for you, but people do it.

Elizabeth Mueller: It is bad for you.

William Mueller: Oh, lots of people say it's not.

Elizabeth Mueller: It is though.

Rick Watson: *See, isn't, isn't that the role of history? We, in this country, for hundreds of years we smoked cigarettes and different kinds of tobacco. We chewed tobacco. And we learned from that and it took us a long time. It's a hard lesson to learn but we learned from it because people got sick and they...my grandfather was an old, old man by the time he was 70 and died when he was 72 and, and it was because he started smoking when he was 10 years old, I think. I'm sure that's what, it, it destroyed his lungs.*

Elizabeth Mueller: 10?

Rick Watson: *Mmhmm. He was just, yeah, just really young. My mother said that she's from...she was an Iowa farm girl. She said she started smoking corn silk. You ever, you ever eat an ear of corn and it's got silk coming out of the end of it?*

Elizabeth Mueller: Yeah.

Rick Watson: *The kids, her friends, would get the silk off those old ears of corn and roll it in a piece of paper, newspaper or something, and smoke it. And she, she smoked almost her whole life and just, it was just bad for her health...*

Elizabeth Mueller: Was it technically smoking if it was with corn silk? Come on.

Rick Watson: *Well, not in the movies but, but it was...yeah, the movies, of course, are more sophisticated. It would be embarrassing to smoke corn silk in movies.*

Patricia Hinds: But we didn't smoke. We never smoked. Toni never smoked.

Elizabeth Mueller: Gigi, Gigi has a problem.

Patricia Hinds: Gigi, my sister, Gigi, smoked. And the kids are always on her about that, they hide her cigarettes and...

Elizabeth Mueller: And her lighter. One time we hid her purse, hid her purse full of cigarettes.

William Mueller: I stole like five of her lights and put them all in my bathtub. So if there was a fire, I could just turn on the water, and it would be very convenient.

Rick Watson: *You've been trying to discourage people from smoking.*

Elizabeth Mueller: Yeah, but Gigi, she just buys more.

Rick Watson: *Patty, do you remember, remember the ads for cigarettes on TV?*

Elizabeth Mueller: Actually...

Patricia Hinds: They would make them sound so much fun to smoke a cigarette.

Rick Watson: *Or that they tasted so good. Do you remember the ads for Old Golds, Old Gold Cigarettes? The guy would have a bowl of, of tobacco with it all been shredded up and it was just ready to be made into cigarettes and he would lift up all this tobacco, put his face down and smell it. "Aaahh, rich tobacco".*

Patricia Hinds: I know.

Rick Watson: *Made you want to eat it.*

Patricia Hinds: I know. And then Camel Cigarettes, they used to show the camel. Do you remember walking along the Sahara Desert.

Rick Watson: *Mmhmm. Joe Camel.*

Patricia Hinds: And Lucky Strikes and all that. And now...

Rick Watson: *We knew all...*

Patricia Hinds: That was really...

Elizabeth Mueller: I think even more people smoke cigarettes now than they did.

Patricia Hinds: See, I don't.

Elizabeth Mueller: Well, I Gigi's whole building smokes. Apartment building, Gigi smokes, she lives in, everybody smokes.

Patricia Hinds: They do?

Elizabeth Mueller: Yeah. Like I went over to her friends' house and it was just smelled terrible.

Patricia Hinds: How sad.

Rick Watson: *Let's do this. Here's what I want you to do. This'll be like a project. Get yourself a little notepad and every time you see somebody who smokes, a different person, make a note on the pad and report that back to your Grandmother. But I bet you'll find that you'll see more people who don't smoke than who do smoke.*

Patricia Hinds: I don't know. Gigi's the only person I think I know that really smokes. I don't know anybody really. I'm sure I do but they all...and people are very secretive when they smoke now because they know that no one likes it so they kind of keep to themselves about it.

Elizabeth Mueller: Didn't they have an "I Love" .. I watch "I Love Lucy" She's really funny. She's like a really good comedian even though she's not popular anymore. But I watched, I was looking up "I Love Lucy" videos, and there was one it said "I Love Lucy Cigarette Commercial" and I was like, "What??". And it had her giving a cigarette to her husband. I think it was an ad for a Camel.

Rick Watson: *It's interesting that these kids are interested and watch programs that were...I Love Lucy I think was in the late fifties or early sixties when it started.*

Elizabeth Mueller: I know but it's still pretty good. She's hilarious.

Rick Watson: *Lucille Ball was funny. She was. Did they...did the kids...was there a smoking area at Gorman High School when you were there? They changed all that but during the time that I was at Gorman there was a place where kids could go and smoke.*

Patricia Hinds: Oh my gosh, I think they would have beat us with a stick if we had smoked there. No.

Rick Watson: *That's interesting. How it would be fun to, to see...that was a question we should have asked Norm Craft, if they had, if they had that permission at Basic. Okay, kids, look at your questions one more time. Let's see if there's some important things we forgot to talk about.*

Elizabeth Mueller: Oh, my Mom, Christina has a question.

Christina Hinds: I wanted to ask is, do you think being a woman living in Las Vegas hurt you or helped you. Because don't you have a story about Selma Bartlett getting a loan or something?

Patricia Hinds: Oh, I'm sure that most of you have heard about Selma Bartlett. I love Selma Bartlett.

Elizabeth Mueller: Doesn't she have a library named after her?

Patricia Hinds: She has a school named after her, yes. Selma Bartlett Elementary, I think. Anyway, she was, she was very good to me. She, she was able to help Christina. Christina opened her own law firm on 8th Street in Las Vegas and Selma got the financing for Christina and that was already like starting a new trend because women we were doing more things and I remember when Christina was started in law school, she was going to law school in San Diego and a lot of the kids at the time, they got really good and high grades and everything; they'd graduate and then they couldn't get a job. So, so I said to Christina, well just come back here. Just rent an old building and put up a sign and people will come to you. So that's what she did. She rented an old building and just put up a sign and people came to her. And then she opened her own office and she was able to be very successful at it.

Toni Tibbets: Didn't you get one of the first loans for women in the state of Nevada.

Patricia Hinds: I did, I already told that.

Toni Tibbets: Oh.

Elizabeth Mueller: Noni, what year were women allowed to vote?

Toni Tibbets: I don't know.

William Mueller: Toni, what year were women allowed to vote?

Toni Tibbets: Oh, honey, probably the 1930's, wasn't it?

Rick Watson: *Late 20's or early 30's yeah.*

Anne Marie Hamilton-Brehm: I have a question! I heard a rumor that, I thought the tokens or the chips from casinos, I thought in Henderson, weren't people using those as currency and the Federal Government put a stop to it? Weren't people paying like tips and restaurants and stuff with their casino tokens?

Patricia Hinds: I don't remember that. I don't remember that but then the, in, in Las Vegas, like, I was just a very small child then but I remember that one time we went to San Francisco

and my dad got all the silver dollars, well, he got everything in silver dollars, so when we'd go to eat some place, he'd tip with silver dollars. Everybody's like impressed, "oh, silver dollars, silver dollars, you're from Las Vegas". And my dad could get them because right there at his casino they actually had the Royal, he used to get silver dollars and it used to really be fun to go out of town and having your silver dollars. But it was so interesting now when you think of it 'cause like all of the dealers had their Twenty-One tables and if they didn't have chips it was all silver dollars. It was like so much fun. Everything was silver dollars at the tables.

Elizabeth Mueller: I wonder, maybe in the, maybe in the building where the Royal used to be there's some silver dollars hidden in the floors or something.

Patricia Hinds: There could be. You know, my Mom who had the insight enough to before silver dollars kind of went obsolete, she went to the El Dorado and she got like \$250 in silver dollars and we still have them. Thank goodness she did that.

Rick Watson: *Wow. Yeah, my dad, see my dad worked at the, worked for a friend at the Horseshoe, Benny Binion and frequently he was given his bonuses in silver dollars. Silver dollars are heavy, \$250 in silver. Your mother probably injured her shoulder carrying it home.*

Patricia Hinds: It was really, really, really heavy. It was really heavy.

Rick Watson: *Have you kids ever seen a silver dollar? William, have you ever seen a silver dollar?*

Elizabeth Mueller: I have seen a silver dollar.

Rick Watson: *Have you really?*

Elizabeth Mueller: They are big, silver coins.

Rick Watson: *They're that big around, in slot machines?*

Elizabeth Mueller: How does this happen? Like, people accidentally get some money misprinted then it becomes an actual currency. Then after a while it fades away. Yeah, I still can't believe that.

Patricia Hinds: But Carson City minted a few silver dollars. Did you know that?

Rick Watson: *Oh, yeah. Sure.*

Patricia Hinds: They did a few of them. There weren't so many but those are worth a lot of money because there were very few of them minted in Carson City.

Rick Watson: *Did you save any of the rare silver dollars?*

Patricia Hinds: I, I just have the ones, the \$250 worth. I have all of them.

Rick Watson: *So there might, there might be some around?*

Patricia Hinds: I think just a silver dollar that, I think just a silver dollar that doesn't really have a value as far as like the date or anything. I think they're worth about \$28 just for a silver dollar that doesn't have a special date.

Rick Watson: *Yeah, that's interesting.*

Patricia Hinds: Mmhmm.

Rick Watson: *Sure. See, that's a...*

Patricia Hinds: So much fun, you know, just a lot of fun.

Rick Watson: *That's part of Henderson history.*

Patricia Hinds: That was a part Henderson history.

Rick Watson: *It would be fun to ask, have a survey of some sort, out in Henderson see...if the old-timers, how many of the old-timers have a collection of silver dollars.*

William Mueller: You did.

Rick Watson: *Mmhmm. Mmhmm.*

Elizabeth Mueller: Noni, so, there were special silver dollars, so how did this whole silver dollar thing happen? How did someone make a mistake about printing?

Patricia Hinds: Because well years ago we used to have just gold coins, right? And then they didn't have gold coins and then they went to silver.

Rick Watson: *Uhhuh. There's a big dispute about, about, I'm not sure I can, could tell you, but I remember William Jennings Bryant was, he was, he was an advocate for, I think he was an advocate for silver and he...one of his campaign slogans was that he wanted the United States, what, crucify our currency on a cross of gold. You'll read about that when you study history. Kids, I think we're going to have to wind this up. But we have one last question. But the question has to be relevant. It has to have something to do with Henderson.*

Patricia Hinds: Do you have something, William?

Elizabeth Mueller: Uhhuh. Who had the first airport in Henderson?

Rick Watson: *All right. Good question.*

Patricia Hinds: Aaah. That's a good question, very good question. And that was McCarran Airport and, you know, I still have pictures of it but it was a little, little tiny airport. It was so little and it was very interesting because the famous movie stars used to come here and they'd get out at this little tiny airport. It was really funny. My dad actually when he first, he was a surveyor and he surveyed a lot of the land that the airport was built on. That's before he started his businesses.

Rick Watson: *Aaah. Aaah.*

Patricia Hinds: So he actually worked there.

Rick Watson: *I remember, I remember the old McCarran and it was small. Prop planes before the big jets.*

Patricia Hinds: Do you remember the prop plane engines and everything and...

Rick Watson: *School District has a good photo of the old Paradise School and when Swenson was just a dirt road. William, can you think of one last question you'd like to ask your Grandma?*

William Mueller: Hmmm. When was, when was, when was the first country club? When was the first county club working?

Rick Watson: *Good question.*

William Mueller: In Henderson.

Patricia Hinds: Oh, the first in Henderson? The first and I didn't live there but that was the Henderson Country Club? Is that what...?

Rick Watson: *Black Mountain.*

Patricia Hinds: Black Mountain Country Club. Black Mountain Country Club.

Toni Tibbets: The country club was the road to drive, to learn how to drive.

Patricia Hinds: Right. We, we drove around the golf course, Toni and I did. But, yes...

Rick Watson: *Was it paved roads?*

Toni Tibbets: Mmhmm.

William Mueller: You guys were off-roaders.

Rick Watson: *Toni is an off-roader.*

Patricia Hinds: I remember the kids that went to Basic High School would all get together and they'd go up Black Mountain and they'd paint those "B's" on there, do you remember? And a lot of kids got hurt, they'd go so high up there pretty soon they started making "B's" lower down the mountain. Do you remember that?

Rick Watson: *Absolutely. Yeah.*

Patricia Hinds: is it still there?

Rick Watson: *Yeah, you know, the old "B", you can still see a little bit of it. And they have...there's a new one out on the River Mountains behind where the new Basic High School...*

Elizabeth Mueller: Why did they paint “B’s” on mountains?

Patricia Hinds: For Basic High School.

Rick Watson: *Basic High School.*

Elizabeth Mueller: Oooh. Okay.

Rick Watson: *So that everybody would know. Then the other high schools, Vegas High and Boulder City High School would try and come by and do something...like maybe they'd try to paint a corner of it their school colors before the big football game.*

Elizabeth Mueller: So their school colors are a yellow and black?

Rick Watson: *Basic...mmm...do you remember what color Basic High School colors were?*

Patricia Hinds: Blue and white.

Rick Watson: *Blue and white?*

Elizabeth Mueller: But that would have been dumb doing the “B”. Blue and white. A blue...maybe blue and white “B’s”?

Rick Watson: *They just did, they just did white.*

William Mueller: Oh, Basic “B”. Oooh.

Patricia Hinds: Sort of like the Hollywood sign.

Rick Watson: *We are, we are just about out of memory on our, on our camera, so we're going to draw a conclusion to this interview. I'd like to thank Elizabeth and William and Patricia Hinds for participating in this oral history.*