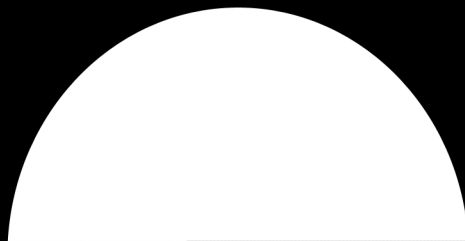
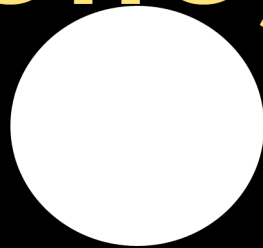


**Nevada State
College**



**Undergraduate Oral
History Project**

Oral History of James R. Cameron

An Interview

Conducted by

Sheryl Koch and Laura Hutton

April 23, 2014

Nevada State College Undergraduate Oral History Project

Produced by:

Nevada State College Undergraduate Oral History Project
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The transcript received minimal editing to preserve the conversational style and content of the narrator.

This interview is from the series *Bridging the Past: Henderson through Oral History*.

Oral History of James “Jim” Rodney Cameron

An interview conducted by Sheryl Koch and Laura Hutton on April 23, 2014

Biography

Jim Cameron¹ was born in Salt Lake City, Utah on July 7, 1947, where he lived until 1954. When his parents divorced, Jim and his brother Robert William Cameron, born December 17, 1948, moved to Henderson, NV to live with their grandparents at 1947 Victory Road. He remembered that his grandfather worked at the test site and had a bomb shelter in their backyard. Jim’s mother remarried and the family moved to Las Vegas for a brief period before moving to Carver Park in Henderson.

Jim began working at TIMET on August 30, 1965, but held several jobs before his career at TIMET. Jim was an apprentice with the Pittman Fire Station #2 when he was in high school. He worked at the Rebel Oil Station on Boulder Highway, north of Lake Mead for \$1.25 per hour. At seventeen, he worked at Arden’s Dress Shop, next to the Western Auto on Boulder Hwy and Major.

In January of 1966, he married Lana Denton. They were married for four years and had two daughters: Debbie, 48, and Becky, 45. He later married Kathleen Payne and they had Travis, 41, and Zach. On May 22, 1992, he married Patti Frizlle in Goldfield, NV.

Jim has many stories about being a teen ager in Henderson, working for the fire department and is familiar with original locations as well as names in many of the old pictures.

¹ James Cameron used photos from the Facebook page: *You Know You’re From Henderson If*. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/HendersonIf/> (accessed April 23, 2014).

James R. Cameron

Narrator: James Cameron

Interviewers: Sheryl Koch and Laura Hutton

Interview Date: April 23, 2014

Location: Henderson, Nevada

Sheryl Koch: It's April 23, 2014. This is Sheryl Koch and Lauren [Laura] Hutton. We're interviewing Mr. James Rodney Cameron for the Nevada State College Undergraduate Oral History Project. And Mr. Cameron, we like to thank you for joining us here today.

James Cameron: Thank you.

Sheryl Koch: And first we like you to tell us a little bit about where you were born and raised and if you remember what your parents did for a living.

James Cameron: I was born July 7th, 1947 in Salt Lake City, Utah. My mother used to work for the city bus lines in Salt Lake City and my dad was a truck driver. They separated in 1955 and about two or three days before my eight birthday in 1955, I moved down here with my brother and stayed at my grandparent's house at 147 Victory Road.

Sheryl Koch: What's your brother's name?

James Cameron: Robert William Cameron.

Sheryl Koch: And what are your grandparent's names?

James Cameron: James Whitney and Melba Robinson.

Sheryl Koch: James Whitney Robinson.

James Cameron: Yeah.

Sheryl Koch: James Whitney Robinson and Melba Robinson.

James Cameron: Yes.

Sheryl Koch: Alright. And can you tell us a little bit about your education. Where you started here in Henderson?

James Cameron: I started at Park Village Elementary School, it was brand new then. I went to third grade there and was living in Carver Park at the time at 11-C East Washington Street.

James R. Cameron

Sheryl Koch: In Carver Park?

James Cameron: In Carver Park.

Sheryl Koch: And then third grade and then fourth grade you went to - - -?

James Cameron: In fourth grade my parents bought a new house in the area around Oakey, behind the Showboat around about St. Louis; behind the Showboat Hotel, 2405 Kenosha Avenue. And I went to school in fourth grade and started fifth grade at Crestwood Elementary School.

My parents both worked at TIMET. My mother and my stepdad both worked at TIMET. They were both laid and I quote, lay off in 1957 so they rented the house out and we moved back to Carver Park and I lived at 11-C Washington Street until 1961. And I finished fifth grade at Park Village Elementary School. I went to sixth grade at Townsite Elementary School. And then junior high school, I went to the Henderson Junior High School uptown.

Sheryl Koch: Uptown.

James Cameron: Yeah.

Sheryl Koch: And you moved uptown. What was it like when you first moved to Henderson? You were showing us some pictures and tell us - - -

James Cameron: There wasn't much - -- I remember when I was a little kid, the BMI swimming pool was - -- where it is now, but it was the older one. The old brick one. It was made about the same time Basic High School was built in '54. We used to go swimming there all day for fifteen cents. And I'd walk from my grandmother's house on Victory Road, go up there and go swimming.

Sheryl Koch: And where was it located?

James Cameron: It was on Basic Road, across from where city hall is now.

Sheryl Koch: Oh, okay.

James Cameron: Yeah.

Sheryl Koch: Alright.

James Cameron: And then we go to the - - later on we go to the movie theater; the old Victory Theatre on Army Street. And at that time we got into the show on Saturday for twenty cents. I would get fifty cents in allowance; cost twenty cents to get in the show.

You would see a matinee, three or four cartoons; a serial, a matinee and then you can stay and watch the regular evening features if you wanted. And it was twenty cents to get in the show, ten cents for a box of popcorn and I would save my money for a pop because I get a small Coke was ten cents in the show, I could get a large one at the Polar Queen for ten cents. So I would wait for the show got out and go to Polar Queen.

Sheryl Koch: Now where was the Polar Queen?

James Cameron: The Polar Queen was on Water Street across the street from what is now the Eldorado Club². At that time that was a vacant lot, there was nothing there.

Sheryl Koch: And you said that there was one casino here when you moved here.

James Cameron: When I moved here, the only casino was the old Royal Club and it was on Market Street, which is - - - it's a part of the Eldorado now. The old Royal Club was built there and then later on, where the Eldorado was built, they built another casino called The Wheel. And there was an alley between The Wheel and the Royal Club.

Later on the Royal Club closed down and The Wheel later on was acquired by the Boyd Group. I don't know if Sam Boyd or Bill Boyd, or which one of the Boyd's, well they bought it and made the Eldorado Club and eventually expanded into what it is now. Blocking off the southern end of Market Street.

Sheryl Koch: Oh okay, okay. So when you were - - - okay, you went to junior high there. Where did you go high school?

James Cameron: What school, the high school. Basic High School but that location is what is now Burkholder Middle School.

Sheryl Koch: On Bandwagon.

James Cameron: On Bandwagon, yes.

² Sandquist, Allen. Photograph of Eldorado Club. From Facebook: *You Know You're From Henderson If*. <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10200581980889259&set=o.305204853951&type=3&theater> (accessed July 24, 2014).

James R. Cameron

- Sheryl Koch: Okay, so what was it like being at high school at that time?
- James Cameron: Oh, we had a good time. A lot of football games we went to. A lot of sports activities and we, you know, on Friday nights, we cruised up and down Water Street, hung out at the PQ, Polar Queen or we went into Vegas and cruise up and down Fremont Street, that was the big thing.
- Sheryl Koch: So who, when you said that they were sports events and football games, who'd you play football against?
- James Cameron: I didn't play football.
- Sheryl Koch: Oh, you didn't play football.
- James Cameron: No, I was the band.
- Sheryl Koch: Awww, I knew we had something in common. What did you play?
- James Cameron: I played the trumpet.
- Sheryl Koch: Oh, okay.
- James Cameron: I played the trumpet for since fifth grade till Junior in high school.
- Sheryl Koch: Oh okay, okay. The marching band - -- my band director always said that the band is the main attraction at football games.
- James Cameron: Well, I was in the marching band. We made trips down to Southern California. We went to Disneyland, you know, with the band for contest with all the high schools in Southern California. We had a good time.
- Sheryl Koch: Good, good. Okay, now you lived in Carver Park and in some of the books that we were reading it says there was an area - -- was there an area that was like a black area and a white area or Latino or was it broken up into different areas or did everybody just mingle?
- James Cameron: Well, it's pretty much, when you went down the main entrance which was Carver Street; you got down to the stop sign and it split. And if you went to the right, there was Lincoln and West Lincoln Streets and all the black people that lived there lived on Lincoln Street.

On West Lincoln, the there -- I don't remember any black people there. And then over on the other side when you turn left, you went down Washington and East Washington Streets and those were all mostly white people. Most of the Hispanics lived in Victory Village.

Sheryl Koch: Now did you live Victory Village at one time?

James Cameron: Yeah, I lived there after I was out of high school and I got married because it was the cheapest place in town. That was \$48 a month and that included everything but the gas.

Sheryl Koch: Were there a lot of Latinos here at that time?

James Cameron: There were a fair amount that I went to school with. There was a lot of people from around New Mexico that came out to here to work in the plants and stuff. I was friends with Eric Giagagus [*sic*], his mother worked at the old Carver Park Market. Man, I had the biggest little boy crush on her. She was a prettiest thing I ever -- her name was Susie Giagagus [*sic*]. She was pretty. I would go in there to buy a candy, penny candy, just to look at her.

Sheryl Koch: Were there any Asian people that lived in any and around here? Do you know of or that you ever saw?

James Cameron: Not that I know of.

Sheryl Koch: So you lived in Carver Park and Victory Village and that was when you got married but before you got married that's when you worked for the fire department, right?

James Cameron: Yes, I was a senior in high school when as a reserved in high school. They had a reserve program that was only for high school students. So after you got out, they had to terminate you and then if you want to later get on the fire department, you had to be twenty-one.

Sheryl Koch: Oh okay. And then you didn't work at the fire department. Because the picture that we have here is taken here in Henderson, but you said that was the Pittman Crew. So you worked actually at the Pittman Station.

James Cameron: Yeah. I worked at the Pittman Station #2, but we did a lot of training together and when we answered fire calls, we usually answered them together.

James R. Cameron

If we got a fire call, say in the middle of the night and they were closer to us first at Pittman and we got there and it was only like a trash can or something. We would call in and have the other truck turn around and go back because we didn't need two trucks.

Sheryl Koch: So now - - -

James Cameron: But almost every time an alarm went off, we had a klaxon in both building that went off and in the middle of the night you rolled out of bed and then you and into your turnouts and that's back in the day when we rode on the back over to the backboard, tailboard of the fire truck. Many times we go down the road and I'm trying to get my gear on while all the trucks rolling down the road.

Sheryl Koch: Now did you guys have a chief for each department or the gentleman that was in the picture was the Fire Chief?

James Cameron: No, Donald Richards [W. Don Richard] was the Fire Chief for the entire station.

Sheryl Koch: Okay.

James Cameron: And at that time Dale Starr, he was the captain, but he was kind of like the Assistant Chief. And they had two captains, one for each shift at the Townsite Station and they had two lieutenants, one for each station, and one at the Pittman Station. And the two captains at that time were John Farnsworth and Jerry Hugues. And down at the Pittman Station, the two lieutenants were Rex Newell and Gardell Rosequist. No, no, I take that back. Rex Newell and Danny Richards [Dennis Richard], the Chief's son.

Sheryl Koch: Alright, because I think on the picture we have Gardell as a lieutenant, so do we need to change that?

James Cameron: No, no, he was acting lieutenant.

Sheryl Koch: Oh, acting lieutenant.

James Cameron: When a lieutenant's there, you always had somebody there that was an acting lieutenant. You had him down as an acting lieutenant.

Sheryl Koch: Okay. Now - - -

James Cameron: Captains and lieutenants all wore white caps.

Sheryl Koch: Okay. I have a question about when you were in Carver Park. Did they have like youth or organizations things? Because when you're in high school, you went into the reserve, but what did you do other - -? You were in the band and you were in the reserves for the fire department. But what other things were - - - may be not necessarily that you were involved in but didn't you knew that were going on?

James Cameron: Oh, they had scouts and stuff involved with the church and stuff, the LDS church, well other churches too, but I mean, you had different sponsors for the Boy Scout troops and they had an organization in Henderson called Junior Police. And I was in that for a little while. And I remember Glen Bibby; he was a cop that we were personal friends with since we lived in Vegas.

Sheryl Koch: Is that B-i-b-b-y?

James Cameron: B-b, oh man, how do you spell - - Glen Bibby, was his name. B-i-b-b-y, I think.

Sheryl Koch: Okay.

James Cameron: Glen Bibby.

Sheryl Koch: Okay.

James Cameron: I remember his wife's name was [Inaudible 0:12:16] and I remember he had two little girls. We used to be real good friends with them years ago. Anyway, he was kind of in charge of this Junior Police organization and I think it was probably around 1960 or '61, they took a bunch of us when we went up to Cedar Mountain on a camping trip.

He took a whole truck load of us up there. There was probably twenty kids or better. And we all went up there, rough camped and all with tents and stuff and it was August, I remember because it was before school started and we stayed there for like five or six days. And I remember every afternoon, a cloud would come over and sprinkle rain, you know and stayed nice and cool out there. And that area now is Duck Creek, Utah.

Sheryl Koch: Aww, I know where that is.

James Cameron: Well back then there was nothing there like it is now; very primitive, very primitive.

James R. Cameron

Sheryl Koch: It was called what then?

James Cameron: It was still called Duck Creek.

Sheryl Koch: It was still called Duck Creek? Okay.

James Cameron: Yeah, that was because that was Duck Creek. That was before Duck Creek Village.

Sheryl Koch: Now you worked for the fire department when you graduated from high school. What was your first job?

James Cameron: Well, actually when I was in high school, I worked at the fire department. I worked at Arden's Dress Shop over on the strip mall, Tommy Finchum [*sic*] got me that job, I was sixteen. That was before I went to work for the fire department.

Sheryl Koch: Oh okay. Where is that?

James Cameron: And I washed windows. It's on Boulder Highway and it's in that strip mall where Baskin Robbins and the bowling alley and all that.

Sheryl Koch: Oh okay. I know where that is. Is that right off of Basic?

James Cameron: Well, it's on Boulder Highway between Basic and Major Street.

Sheryl Koch: Oh okay. I've been to that bowling alley. Did you ever bowl in there?

James Cameron: Yeah, I used to be on a bowling league.

Sheryl Koch: Oh yeah?

James Cameron: But that was later years. I mean - -- it's closed now, you know.

Sheryl Koch: No, I didn't know that.

James Cameron: Well, they closed them down.

Sheryl Koch: Oh.

James Cameron: But I worked at Arden's Dress Shop and when they closed up, I go around like an oil mop and mop the floors otherwise I'd be in the back, folding up boxes. Women's dresses and clothes get put in those boxes. I had - -- these were all flat and I was back there after school, making up these boxes. And on Saturday I had to squeegee

James R. Cameron

and wash and squeegee the plate glass windows in front of the store.

Sheryl Koch: What other stores were in that strip mall at that time?

James Cameron: There was an old Safeway, the original Safeway was there. About where Chief - - not - - was it Chief - -no, AutoZone's there now, that was a Safeway.

Sheryl Koch: Safeway.

James Cameron: Was there - - - awww man, what else was there? I'm trying to think. I know Western Auto was there for a while.

Sheryl Koch: Now I saw a picture. The pictures we were going through of Montgomery Ward. Do you know where Montgomery Ward was? Did you ever see it?

James Cameron: Well there was a catalog store; I think it was on Water Street.

Sheryl Koch: Oh, okay.

James Cameron: There was a Montgomery Ward department store was in Las Vegas across from where the Showboat was and it's gone now.

Sheryl Koch: Yeah, I remember that store. The first time we came to Vegas, we saw that. Okay, so you worked at the dress shop and then for the fire department.

James Cameron: Yes, and I also worked --- I was working like three jobs there for a while. I worked at that - - it's a Rebel Oil Station there now, where they do oil changes. But that was like a Terrible's, I think. I think that was a Terrible's. It was Jerry Urbs; part of the Urbs brothers and it was just a little island. It had four pumps and a little tiny, like a little island thing and that's all it was. And I worked there for - -- man, I was making a dollar and a quarter an hour. That was minimum wage.

Sheryl Koch: Well that was a raise from the twenty-five cents at the fire department. So now where was that located?

James Cameron: Boulder Highway, just north of Lake Mead Parkway.

Sheryl Koch: Oh, okay, okay.

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James Cameron: It's right there where - -- right now it's a Rebel Oil change thing and there's a McDonald's and some other - - -

Sheryl Koch: So alright, you worked there now did you start - - - when did you start working at TIMET?

James Cameron: I graduated in June of '65 and I went to work at TIMET on August 30th of '65.

Sheryl Koch: Okay, were you married before you started working there or after?

James Cameron: After.

Sheryl Koch: After. Now obviously, since you got married - - -

James Cameron: I got married way early. I got married January of '66.

Sheryl Koch: Okay and what was your wife's name?

James Cameron: Lana.

Sheryl Koch: Lana, what was - - -?

James Cameron: Denton was her maiden name. D-e-n-t-o-n.

Sheryl Koch: Okay.

James Cameron: She wasn't from around here.

Sheryl Koch: Okay. And how long were y'all married? If you don't mind if I ask you?

James Cameron: Four years and three months. I have two daughters.

Sheryl Koch: How old are your daughters now?

James Cameron: Oh, let's see, Debbie is - - - she'll be 48 in August.

Sheryl Koch: Do they live here in Henderson or do they live - - -?

James Cameron: No, she lives in Sanford, Arizona. And Becky just turned 45, she lives in Saffron, owns her own beauty shop.

Sheryl Koch: Okay, so the - - - you started working at TIMET. Now, how was it - -- what was it like working at TIMET when you first started working there?

James Cameron: Man it was [inaudible] and all that work. Actually, we went into the labor pool. Back then you went into a labor pool. There was six of us hired. Five went down to the labor pool. I went to janitor. Back then you had a 28-day probationary period. Now it's like three months. Back then after 28-days, you passed your probation you were in the clear. And so I passed my probation. I made 28-days and soon as I made that 28-days, I put in a bid for everyday labor. Because I was making \$2.32 an hour as a janitor and everyday labor made \$2.60 an hour. I wanted that money.

Sheryl Koch: So how do you know about BMI? You were familiar with BMI and how close was it to TIMET?

James Cameron: TIMET is a part of BMI.

Sheryl Koch: Oh it is?

James Cameron: All those plants was Basic Magnesium Incorporated. That was BMI was for the war effort in World War II. And when the war was over they didn't [Inaudible]. [Inaudible] magnesium, they shut the plants down. And they were going to dismantle it, that would be it for Henderson, but they - politicians got businesses to come in buy up sections of it, units one, two and three [Inaudible] for chemical and then there was US Lime, Kerr-McGee, and Flintkote, Montrose, TIMET had units seven, eight, nine, and 10 of that magnesium plant and they just converted it to their use because magnesium is one of the by-products to make titanium.

Sheryl Koch: So what did you do at TIMET after you got - - -?

James Cameron: I was a janitor until I got my probation, I put in for everyday labor and I worked one day as an everyday labor before the strike in 1965.

Sheryl Koch: Why did they go on strike?

James Cameron: Contract.

Sheryl Koch: Oh.

James Cameron: Contract was up and they had a big strike. So we were on strike until, we were off about ten weeks, couple - - - three weeks before Christmas. Because the strike was October first and we went back to work, a couple, three weeks before Christmas. In the meantime, I worked for Findlay Oldsmobile.

Sheryl Koch: Oh yeah.

James Cameron: That was a lot boy. That's where I met Dan Blocker, [Inaudible].

Sheryl Koch: Did he live here in Henderson?

James Cameron: No.

Sheryl Koch: Oh, he was just there for the - - -

James Cameron: I was at the Stardust Invitational Grand Prix Race out there and Oldsmobile was all the premiere cars out there, you know, that was the first year for the Toronado. And I was at the race and Dan Blocker had a car called the Vinegaroon out at that race. He had a driver for it and everything. Met him, a real nice guy, very nice guy.

Sheryl Koch: So, you said you were on strike on a contract, was it union?

James Cameron: Oh yeah, steel workers - - -

Sheryl Koch: Steel workers are union, oh okay. Because I didn't know, I didn't know. Okay, so the steel workers - - -

James Cameron: Went on strike, October 1st until first or second week in December.

Sheryl Koch: So how was that being a part of the Steel Workers Union? They're pretty tough union like the Teamsters, aren't they?

James Cameron: No, they were. I don't know about now or any of the unions as far as that goes. They don't have the clout they used to, wish they did.

Sheryl Koch: Yeah, gosh, y'all were on strike a long time. So the strike ended right before Christmas and did you go back to work immediately? Did they have time off for- - - ?

James Cameron: Yeah, they called me back. I was- -they called me back and they - - because they had to shut the plant down. Well to get it up and operated again because when you shut that process down, it's not flip the lights and go on home. There's a big long process to shut it down and it takes a long time to get it up and running again. So when I went back I was on day shift and then I worked swing shift and they cut back and I went back to day shift, back to swing shift and I did that for about three or four turns like that before they got it up and running and then I was on straight days.

Sheryl Koch: So what did you do? What did they make there at TIMET? I don't know anything.

James Cameron: They make the titanium ingots.

Sheryl Koch: Oh, okay.

James Cameron: Yes, they make the titanium. They get the ore from Australia, the [inaudible] from Australia and the process is done here to make the in ingots and then they're sent back to the rolling mills in Ohio, in Toronto, Ohio.

Sheryl Koch: What did they do with them? What are they for?

James Cameron: They make it, they'll make - - -titanium is used in jet engines and used in the aerospace industry. It's used in - - -I got titanium in both of my hips.

Sheryl Koch: Oh!

James Cameron: Yeah, it's usually used in prosthetic, used in golf clubs, it's used in - - -

Sheryl Koch: Do they make that at TIMET too?

James Cameron: They don't make it. They make the material and then it goes out to vendors that make that stuff.

Sheryl Koch: Oh!

James Cameron: Yeah, titanium does make the final product. It's shipped out to like Boeing and Boeing makes their jet engines out of it. And they have different grades of it, depending on the application.

Sheryl Koch: So, were you - - - you worked at TIMET and then - - - what did you do - - what did you guys do for recreation? You didn't work for 24 hours a day, so?

James Cameron: Well, we worked 21 turn shift.

Sheryl Koch: Oh you did?

James Cameron: Yeah, and that was --- we worked five days a day shift, you got one day off. You worked five days of swing shift from four to midnight, you had two days off. But that second day you had to be

in at midnight, because you worked five days of graveyard shift from midnight to eight in the morning. And then you got three days off and then back to days. So you rotated and I did that for almost eight years. Your body never gets adjusted to it - - - anytime to sleep, you know.

Sheryl Koch: Okay, so that - -- alright, do you - - - were there women that worked there too at TIMET?

James Cameron: Mostly, you know, in the office and stuff. But there were women that worked in the lab. Because I worked in various departments, I worked in mag recovery department. I worked in transportation. I worked in leaching, and then I finally found my niche in about 1968. I went to worked in the lab and I said, I found me a home. So that's where I worked from '68 to '73 and there were women in the lab.

Sheryl Koch: So what did y'all do in the lab? What were you testing, the titanium?

James Cameron: Yes, were [Inaudible] testing of titanium, chemical analysis of the titanium, yes. Septic graphic analysis.

Sheryl Koch: I want to go back to when we were talking there about Carver Park because one of the things is a lot of the historians want to look at is the different races that lived in the area and everything. What about the workers at TIMET? Were they primarily white? Where they back? Latino?

James Cameron: There were - - - you know, when I went to school we didn't have that you know; we didn't have that race thing. I mean, people ask me did you school with black - - - well, yeah, but - - - well, did you have any race issues? We didn't have that in school.

I mean, [Inaudible] Rucker lived down in Pittman, Jimmy Lee Drummond lived in Carver Park, Charlie Weston, they called him chopper and he worked in transportation in the plant and I knew his son, young Charlie, Donald Willby. I knew - - - but went to school with them people, but there was only like a handful, if that, I graduated with. But we didn't - - - it was just another person to us. And there was a lot more Hispanics than there were blacks. But when I graduated from high school, that's where I got more exposed to more blacks and more Hispanics. Because there were a lot of them in the plant, yes.

Sheryl Koch: And they didn't - - --?

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James Cameron: As a matter of fact, the first guy I worked with while I was a janitor, was Jones Jo Jones, nicest guy in the world. He was the one who trained me on that job. And then he went to heavy duty labor and later on I went to heavy duty labor and I worked with him side by side, scooping out dead pigeons and pigeon crap out of cells getting ready to open that unit up.

Sheryl Koch: And were there on strike there. Okay, so you all were on strike there at TIMET. Did that include all of BMI? Or was it just at TIMET?

James Cameron: What's that now?

Sheryl Koch: The strike.

James Cameron: Oh no, the strike was only TIMET. Each outfit had their own union, you know. And I think the steel workers represented Stauffer Chemical, I'm not sure. But they -- each plant had their own union, local thing. Just because TIMET went on strike doesn't mean the rest of them did and say vice versa.

Sheryl Koch: Unless they wanted to honor the strike.

James Cameron: Well, there would be no honor to it because they had their own gate, you know. Everybody had their own gate, that was their -- that's like five or six separate businesses. That would be like a shoe store went on strike on Water Street; well you're still want to go in the bank. It's a different business.

Sheryl Koch: When you worked down at Pittman, because -- where I was reading somewhere they were talking about the odors that came from Henderson.

James Cameron: Oh yeah!

Sheryl Koch: So was from all the industry or -- oh, the sewer plant?

James Cameron: No, because the sewer ponds were below Carver Park and they were open at the time. Yeah, the old sewer plant was open at the time. They had the spray bars and if the wind was blowing the wrong way, boy, you got whiff. I mean, that's just the way it was back then.

Sheryl Koch: Now what were those ponds or whatever that were below BMI- - ?

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James Cameron: Seal settling ponds. Those were settling ponds. I'm surprised I don't glow in the dark.

Sheryl Koch: Yeah what were they - - -?

James Cameron: Because I waded in them when I was a kid, chastised with a BB gun, oh yeah! Me and Bob Scowl, we go out with our .22s or BB guns and stuff and just shooting things up down there because there was some corrals down there too. The Henderson Saddle Association - -- before I went down to work down at Pittman was below Carver Park. It was all kinds of corrals down there. I mean, those guys had their horses.

Sheryl Koch: Now were you familiar or were you gone by the time you were like the different areas, like Dee's Camp and the camps that were there when BMI was - -- was there anything left of all of them when you came or were they all gone?

James Cameron: No. But I know that we used to go out - - you know, below Carver Park and we build like forts and stuff, you know, underground forts, you know, kids do. And we were like ten, eleven. We build these underground forts and all of sudden something caved in and there be these tunnels from those plants. Those tunnels; I don't know how many those tunnels they had under those plants from World War II.

Sheryl Koch: I didn't know that.

James Cameron: Well, let me tell you what, they can't do anything to me now. But in 1960 - - -let me see, probably '72 or so, when I was working the lab before I quit, I was on graveyard shift one night and I went down over to unit ten and I walked down into the thing and there's a tunnel and there's two of them running parallel.

And you get down into these rooms and as soon as you get into these rooms and under each one of units was all kinds of civil defense stuff. There was big cans of like water, there was cans called Carbohydrates, all it was - - was like, crushed up crackers you know. There was cans of hard tack. There was cans of stuff for like sanitary conditions you know. All the stuff was for civil defense in case we had the big one dropped on us.

Sheryl Koch: Oh really.

James Cameron: Yes ma'am.

James R. Cameron

- Sheryl Koch: Oh, did you ever see any of the atomic testing?
- James Cameron: No.
- Sheryl Koch: Was that - - -?
- James Cameron: Well you know what, my mother never - -- and that happened all the time I was here, but I never personally saw one. My mother and step dad, they said that people would go up and - -- at park at railroad pass along the side the road there and watch them go off. I guess the initial flash just light up the valley like daylight and calm back because it was always pretty dawn, you know.
- And they come back down and then you see the orange mushroom coming up. But I ain't never personally saw it myself. I guess I lived in a sheltered life. I wish I could have seen it because a lot of people ask that and I had a lot of friends in high school that did school. They had been here as long as I have because those tests ran till 1963 before atmospheric testing was banned.
- Sheryl Koch: So what kind of clubs were you member of when you were - --? I know you were in the Eagles now and the American Legion, but what about when you were a young married person? Did you guys go to church or did you do to any organizations? You mention the scouts, but you had girls. So did they go to like Girl Scouts or Brownies?
- James Cameron: Well my - -- after I re-married, I was married to Cathy for fourteen year to the day. And that was from '70 to '84.
- Sheryl Koch: So what was her name, Cathy? What was her maiden name?
- James Cameron: Cathleen Payne.
- Sheryl Koch: P-a-i-n-e?
- James Cameron: P-a-y-n-e.
- Sheryl Koch: Now was she from Henderson?
- James Cameron: No, she was from Springfield, Missouri.
- Sheryl Koch: Oh, okay.
- James Cameron: And she had a daughter that was two and a half. But I raised her. I'm the only dad she knows because about - -we were married on

James R. Cameron

April 4th, and on May 9th her ex-husband drowned in a lake in Texas. So, my daughter that she - - -I'm the only dad she's ever known. And then we had a boy, Travis. He's - - - he just turned forty-one.

Sheryl Koch: So you have four children? Essentially five, one younger than Travis.

James Cameron: Yes, Zack.

Sheryl Koch: Zack. Does he live here in Henderson?

James Cameron: No, he lives in Kingman. He graduated from [Inaudible] Light School here in Henderson.

Sheryl Koch: Now, so you were talking about with Cathy. Did you guys - - -?

James Cameron: She was - - because [Inaudible] she hung - - we hung around the Springgates, Jim and Linda, and they had girls and they were - - - Cathy and Linda got into the Girls Scouts, which that little Girl Scout building was right behind the Eagles.

Sheryl Koch: Oh okay.

James Cameron: The building right behind the Eagles at the park there was a Girl Scout thing. So they was into that and - - -

Sheryl Koch: What was Linda's last name?

James Cameron: Springgate.

Sheryl Koch: Springgate.

James Cameron: S-p-r-i-n-g-g-a-t-e.

Sheryl Koch: And her husband's name was - -

James Cameron: Jim.

Sheryl Koch: Jim and Jim.

James Cameron: Yeah! Anyway, Linda and Cathy were like Girl Scout leaders, you know. And we took them a lot. We went to - -we go like to the Red Rock Clean-Up, you know, once a year, they have people from all over the Vegas Valley that go to the Red Rock Clean-Up and go out there with bags and stuff and clean out the trash and

everything. And everybody would meet over at Spring Mountain Park. Do you know where that's at?

We'd meet over at Spring Mountain Park and I can't remember who it was, it was one of the McDonald's, but it was one of the fast food outfits that had free food for everybody that went out. So they all met at the grassy area there and that outfit had free hamburgers and hotdogs and - -

Sheryl Koch: Well that was quite a trip from here to Red Rock and then Spring Mountain. That's a long trip now, but it must have been an all day.

James Cameron: Well I was - - - [Inaudible] I mean, there was - - - because one you left where Red Rock Theatres were you know that area on Charleston? It was nothing out - - all the way out. Oh yeah, it was nothing there. Well, it was nothing here.

Sheryl Koch: Let's see, you were telling us about the Arctic Queen - - no you were telling us about that meat place.

James Cameron: Prime Meats.

Sheryl Koch: Prime Meats. Where that was - - - what's there now, that's where - -

James Cameron: Well, where Prime Meats is - - was - - when I first moved here, it later became Vegas Village.

Sheryl Koch: Vegas Village.

James Cameron: It was like a department store, like a JC Penney's. I did all my - - -in fact, I did all my Christmas shopping there because I remember when I was a kid, fourteen, fifteen, I used to babysit, I mowed lawns, I washed cars, I do anything to make money and then holidays come around, I buy my grandparents, my parents and my siblings presents and stuff. Nowadays, kids come out and can I have some money to buy you a present?

Sheryl Koch: So Vegas Village and then where else did you shop? Did you say there was a Safeway there?

James Cameron: There was - - well before Safeway, was Market Town.

Sheryl Koch: Where was that?

James R. Cameron

James Cameron: That was on Polar Highway and Lake Mead. The old original Market Town, it's down there a ways; it'll take me too long to find it.

Sheryl Koch: Oh okay.

James Cameron: There's a picture of it.

Sheryl Koch: On the Facebook page?

James Cameron: Yeah.

Sheryl Koch: Oh okay.

James Cameron: There's a picture of Market Town and it was where that Rebel Station is, that oil change place. It was facing it; it was off to the right, in back a ways. And I remember when it first opened up because before then you had Prime Meats uptown and you and Foodland further up Market Street on the right hand side. But Prime Meats was bigger. And then Victory Village had a little grocery store and Carver Park had a market. We had a market at Carver Park.

Sheryl Koch: Was there a church or school in Carver Park or did you - - -?

James Cameron: There was a - - - they had a - -- they had an assembly hall of some kind there. I could hear the - - I always called them the holy rollers, I could hear them going there [Inaudible]. But they only housed [Inaudible 0:36:51] not a very good one but - - -the only church - - in fact when I first moved here, we had to go to Townsite.

Sheryl Koch: To go to church?

James Cameron: To go to church until they got the church built on Ocean Street.

Sheryl Koch: Oh okay!

James Cameron: And then for a while that was the only LDS church. And then they built the one on Cholla Street, which is up behind Robert Taylor Elementary.

Sheryl Koch: Now, did you ever go out to the Railroad Pass?

James Cameron: You know what, all the time I was growing up, the whole time that place was never opened. It was always closed.

Sheryl Koch: Really.

James Cameron: Always. There was one time that I went by there and somebody tried to open up for a while and I went in the old original building, that's fully built on high rise. I went in that bar to have a beer and I'm looking and I - - - they had that old - - that big picture of that train, look like it was moving - - smoke - - it was awesome! I thought it was great and it closed down again. That place, the whole time I was growing up, I never saw that place open, ever.

Sheryl Koch: Did you ever see or hear or now anybody that any of the mines that are around here?

James Cameron: Three Kids Mine.

Sheryl Koch: Where is that?

James Cameron: That's -- - it's Manganese Mine. It was on the way to the lake on the right hand side. You go out Lake Mead Drive, well it's Lake Mead Parkway, and by the way, just to clarify things, before it was Lake Mead Parkway, it was Lake Mead Drive and before it was Lake Mead Drive, it was Frontier Street.

Sheryl Koch: Frontier Street.

James Cameron: Yes. And a lot of people argue with me about that and I go, where do you think Frontier Nursery come from? Right across from the hospital because it was on Frontier Street.

Sheryl Koch: Oh okay.

James Cameron: Yes, that was - - -

Sheryl Koch: And it was- - - so the Elks Club is there now. Now that's where Carver Park - - -

James Cameron: Yes, that's where Carver Park ended. That was [Inaudible 0:38:43] Carver Park.

Sheryl Koch: And so then - - -

James Cameron: Well, that new Victory Village Apartments are, they're on the left before you get to the Elks, that was about where you went into Carver Park. And then it circled around I don't know, but there's some aerial pictures I know of Carver Park and I can show you, but can't find it.

Sheryl Koch: And so that was Frontier Street and - - -

James Cameron: That went out to the lake.

Sheryl Koch: Went to the lake, okay.

James Cameron: Now as that curve around, before you got to Lake Mead on the right hand side, on the left hand side was the old police shooting range. And we go out there to, you know, target practice, you know, playing around. But on the right hand side was the old - -- it was called the Three Kids Mine, why they called it that, I don't know. But it was a manganese work mine and smelter. And they closed that down. It was still operating when I was here and they closed it down - -- I want to say in the early '60s. I know in '64 or '65, we answered a fire call out there and it was closed then. They had it blocked off and so - -- that wasn't in Henderson city limits then. Henderson city limits cut off at Trailer Estates.

Sheryl Koch: Where was that? That was on Frontier also?

James Cameron: That's on Frontier and Lake Mead, then Lake Mead Drive. Henderson city limits stopped right there at Trailer Estates and the Pittman - -- see when we got the fire call, that was in the county and at the time, the nearest county fire station was on Desert Inn and Boulder Highway.

Sheryl Koch: Wow!

James Cameron: Yes. So we had what we called a mutual aid thing, between a city and the county. And so the Pittman Station was the one that got sent up there because we didn't want both trucks going out there and not having any coverage for Henderson.

So we went up there and it was a two, three story old wooden building, it was like the office building in the front and it as all wood. Matt [Inaudible] was going like crazy, there was a 500 gallon tank of fuel oil on a stand alongside the building. When we got up there to go hook up the hydrants and everything; no water. Because they had their own pumps and everything, so they had no water in the hydrants.

We had a pumper, they had about 450 gallons but if we run that at full force, we can empty that tank in about three minutes. So all we did - --the buildings gone, we're not going to save that. So all we did was pour water onto that tank to try to keep it cool so it didn't

go up. And when the county arrived, they had a pumper and a tanker and then they would pour water on it and we would go back to Trailer Estates and fill our water tank back up and come back out and when we would pour water on it. When the county went back to Trailers, so we were relay back and forth until the building burned to the ground and the tank never went up but there was no water to the hydrants, so that's the best way to do.

Sheryl Koch: Okay - -we talked - -

James Cameron: Where's Carver Park?

Sheryl Koch: Okay.

James Cameron: Alright. I lived right about here. That's 10-C, I lived in the third building over, 10-C. I lived at 10-C, this was East Washington. Oh wait minute, wait a minute. I'm turning around here. This is the way, alright.

This is Carver Street. I lived right here. I lived right here because you had A, B, C & D. So this was 10-C Washington, there's the street, East Washington.

Sheryl Koch: Go ahead and write that on there.

James Cameron: 10-C and the streets here, East Washington.

Sheryl Koch: Who were your neighbors? Do you remember?

James Cameron: I remember Bonnie Craft, lived up here and her son, Larry Bush, they called him Twig. Because his dad's a bush and he's a twig. And she had two daughters named, Coleen and Nonie. Her name was Bonnie Wilson and then she got divorced and she was married to a guy, played in a country western Band in Vegas as I remember, probably at the Silver Dollar. And anyway she got divorced and married - -- her name was Craft. And later on she- - - they went to Guam and was there for several years and then they came back. And she had a beauty shop up there on Water Street for many years.

Sheryl Koch: I need to get in touch with her. Okay, so do you remember any of the other churches besides the LDS and the one that you were talking about was Baptist or do you know where they were?

James Cameron: I was here. That was in this - - now this is Carver Park Market. And I remember I was a kid, you walk up there - - - I always - - -

James R. Cameron

- Sheryl Koch: To see Mrs. - - -
- James Cameron: I don't know - -- but my mother sent me up to get, you know, a loaf of bread or a thing of milk or whatever, and as a kid, you got to remember back then, when around people drink their pop bottles be sitting out there - -- do you want your bottles? No. Boy, we turn them in because you got three cents apiece for them. And we turn them bottles in to get penny candy because boy you can get a lot of candy.
- Sheryl Koch: Did you ever go to Boulder City?
- James Cameron: While I was in high school. You always see Henderson guys in Boulder City in Vegas but you never saw Vegas or Boulder City guys in Henderson, always!
- Sheryl Koch: So what did you go to Boulder City for? Just to hang out?
- James Cameron: Just go up to the lake, we party at the lake, go up and raid their dances.
- Sheryl Koch: And then when you went to Vegas, you mentioned the Silver Dollar. Where there other small clubs that y'all went to?
- James Cameron: Well, the Silver Dollar when I was a little older. There was the Nashville Nevada Club.
- Sheryl Koch: Nashville Nevada?
- James Cameron: Yeah, that was a honky tonk - - when you went in there and I'm - - - one wall they had black lights on - -- they had pictures, it was like part of surrendering of all the old country people like, Grandpa Jones and String Bean, and all the old country guys that died and they called it "Hillbilly Heaven" and they had black lights and it was cool. It was way cool. And back in the day, they had little tables out there. It was all around the dance floor and they had phones on them.
- Sheryl Koch: They had what?
- James Cameron: Phones, telephones.
- Sheryl Koch: Really?

James R. Cameron

James Cameron: Yeah. And if you seen a girl over there, pick up the phone, sit at her table, would you like - - -

Sheryl Koch: Oh really?

James Cameron: Speed dating, that's funny.

Sheryl Koch: So, okay, so you come back into Henderson, what about – who was the mayor? How was the politics? Or did you know anything about it?

James Cameron: I didn't know French. The first mayor that I know of was Bill Burns. And him and Julie Burns was - -- they had just a little grocery store and we used to go in there all the time and buy penny candy and stuff - -just a little - -- today it would be like a 7-11, but a lot smaller. And he was the mayor and they had that store, but I'm sure back then, you know, your mayor's stuff didn't get paid, that was all voluntary, you know. Henderson - -- you got to realize; when I moved here it was only two years after Henderson incorporated.

Sheryl Koch: Right.

James Cameron: When I lived on Victory Road with my grandparents, none of the streets had sidewalks.

Sheryl Koch: Were the streets paved?

James Cameron: They were paved, barely.

Sheryl Koch: Barely.

James Cameron: And it was all dirt in the sides. Yeah, there were no sidewalks.

Sheryl Koch: Okay, now we know that, like during that time there were like the mob area down in Vegas and anything. What about here in Henderson, were there any connections with that - -that you know of or was it dangerous?

James Cameron: Not that I know of. No, Henderson, was pretty safe you know. I had fun in Henderson.

Sheryl Koch: We need to get some of those pictures so that we can identify. I'm going to pull a couple of them up that I put on there. What about - -- well you weren't here during World War II.

James R. Cameron

James Cameron: No.

Sheryl Koch: What about the Vietnam War?

James Cameron: I was here during the Vietnam. That's when Henderson changed a lot.

Sheryl Koch: Yeah?

James Cameron: Because when I was in junior high and high school, you know, you heard about drugs, but to us that was like a fairy tale. I mean we'd have a film on marijuana and heroin and they had us all believing you take on hit and the next thing then you are geezing up, you know.

So they had us scared and that's - -- because they tell us-- - it was a big fairy tale – something that you always saw in the big cities, New York, Chicago, LA, you know, and so it just never affected us. But boy I tell you what, when Vietnam come around it was- -- I graduated '65, I never any of this stuff.

By '67, '68 it was all up and down the streets. Most of it - -- a pot was a big thing. But a real big thing was acid--- is what they called it, LSD. And it all came back from Vietnam, all of it. Now I mean
- - -

Sheryl Koch: It says what kind of things happened in Henderson that didn't happen anywhere else?

James Cameron: I don't know.

Sheryl Koch: You don't know.

James Cameron: PEPCON blew up.

Sheryl Koch: Well yeah! That was quite an episode.

James Cameron: I wasn't here then. I was living in Laughlin at the time.

Sheryl Koch: Now, you mentioned Findlay. Findlay - - -

James Cameron: Findlay Oldsmobile. That was awesome! That was a great job. At eighteen years old, I mean, you're getting to drive brand spanking new cars and mind you this is when the muscle car was just coming of age. So when we had that three day event at of Stardust Raceway, which was way out on Spring Mountain Road and you

went out and you drove forever to get out there and they had a drag strip and they had a three mile grand prix track.

And it was the first invitational Stardust Grand Prix Race. And Oldsmobile was the official cars because that was the first year that the Toronado, which was a front wheel drive car and that was -- - I mean something special - - front wheel drive--- all cars were rear wheel drive, you know.

So the Toronado - -- and so I remember Charlie Davis, he was the lot guy on the new car side and I was on the used car side and had mechanics and everybody else driving cars out there for static display. And the Queen's car was an Oldsmobile convertible and I mean - -so we take those cars out and put them on static display naturally because - -oh, that's a nice car, how much is it and they sell cars.

We had them up under these canopies and so my job, for three days, I had a '66 442 convertible with a high performance engine and a 4-speed and I'm eighteen years old. And that was the car I had to take out there and back for three days.

Sheryl Koch: And you thought you were hot stuff.

James Cameron: And take that - - -- and I put the top down and put the boot on, you know, and I get out the oil cloth. It was fire engine red with a white interior, beautiful car. And then of course when I go back, you know, when nobody's looking, I'll let'em up and probably wasn't much left of rear tires on that car.

Sheryl Koch: So the Findlay Oldsmobile was here and then what other dealerships were here?

James Cameron: Okay, and that's another thing I see post in Vegas. People talk about, oh, Fletcher Jones, well before Fletcher Jones, there was only one Chevrolet dealership. And that was Lloyd Tritle's Community Chevrolet and that was on the corner on Maryland Parkway and Charleston.

Because a buddy of mine came back from Vietnam in '69 and bought a brand new '69 Z-28 Camaro there, and then there was Desert Chrysler Plymouth because a buddy of mine came back from Vietnam and bought a brand new '69 Plymouth GTX. And Ford dealer was Gaudin Ford and that was on Las Vegas Boulevard, just south of Charleston.

James R. Cameron

Sheryl Koch: So most of the dealerships were in Vegas? Findlay Oldsmobile was here in Henderson.

James Cameron: No, no, no. Findlay Oldsmobile was in Vegas.

Sheryl Koch: Oh, it was in Vegas too.

James Cameron: The only dealership Henderson ever had was - -

Sheryl Koch: Ben Stetman [Stepman].

James Cameron: No, Dick Stewart Motors.

Sheryl Koch: Oh, Dick Stewart Motors and was that where - - - is that where you said it would have been Stetman?

James Cameron: Well, actually, when I first moved here I remember walking down Victory Road and where the Arctic Circle is there was a house next to it and I don't know if that was the start of it, but they had some brand new '56 or '56 -- - yeah, '57 Dodges. That was the first time I ever saw a car with a push button drive.

Sheryl Koch: Oh, oh!

James Cameron: Yes! Push button -- -we called them typewriter automatics! Because - - instead of gear selectors, you pushed the button and click in park, reverse, neutral - - -

Sheryl Koch: Really?

James Cameron: You didn't know that. You never seen that.

Sheryl Koch: Well, I didn't drive in the '50s.

James Cameron: That '64 Dodge picture I showed you had a typewriter automatic.

Sheryl Koch: Oh!

James Cameron: Yep, push button drive.

Sheryl Koch: Why did they stop making that?

James Cameron; Well, they quit making that in '64, I believe. No, '65 because my car was a '64, that was the last year they had it. Yep, '65 they went back to the gear shift, lever, you know, for automatic transmissions.

Sheryl Koch: That's amazing! So during the holidays here in Henderson, when you were a kid and everything, like Fourth of July, Christmas, what kind of celebrations did they have or did y'all do?

James Cameron: TIMET used to have a huge, huge Christmas party for the kids. You didn't have to be the TIMET employee, I mean; they would have it in the auditorium at Basic High School. And the stage would be floor to ceiling -- - presents! And they be up there giving out presents, mostly the employees, but I had a kid wander in there and his dad wasn't employed, they didn't care, they didn't discriminate, they gave out - -- oh yeah! And also I remember the old Henderson Theatre.

Sheryl Koch: And where was that?

James Cameron: On Army Street.

Sheryl Koch: Okay, where's Army Street?

James Cameron: Army Street is - - I wish you had a map of Henderson.

Sheryl Koch: I do too. I should have- - -

James Cameron: Army Street is - -- well, Market Street runs parallel to Water Street. And where the Rainbow is, Army Street comes by where that Emerald Isle is and the parking garage for --that's Army Street.

Sheryl Koch: Oh really!

James Cameron: Runs into Panama Street.

Sheryl Koch: Oh okay.

James Cameron: And Army Street is the old Rexall Drug Store was there on that corner.

Sheryl Koch: Did you ever go there and have a soda?

James Cameron: Oh yeah! That was Joe McBeth was the pharmacist and he owned the Rexall Drug Store there. Barbara White used to work there years ago. My ex, Cathy, used to work there in the early '70s, you know. And later on it closed down and it became a bar. Steve Sendlein and Jerry Combs bought it and turned into a bar and they called it the Old Drugstore Tavern.

Sheryl Koch: I want to show that one picture - -

James Cameron: And later on they called it Baldy's. And later on it became Judy's. And I was standing - - I was in there getting a haircut one afternoon with Jack Barton's wife. When Jack Barton's wife run the car right through the wall because she was mad at her husband because he was in there and she kept calling him and he was telling the bar, tell her I'm not here. She called him again from the phone booth - -- wall - -- looking right at him, "I aint' here." Oh, she was mad. She was trying to run him over and she ran the car right through that wall. That's how that window got there inside of Judy's Tavern.

Sheryl Koch: What year about was that?

James Cameron: This was in late '80s early '90s. I think I was living back up here - -- oh that was funny. Because it was like a scene out of - here I come running - - because the fire station was still there and the fire trucks and everything come around - -- what the hell is going on? Me and Richard Price, he was cutting my hair, come out - -- he's got the clippers and the scissors in each hand. I got smock, you know the barber smock [inaudible] come out there, standing on the sidewalk.

Sheryl Koch: Now, I want to ask about the post office. Do you remember when the first post office was here in Henderson?

James Cameron: Well, I remember the first post office that I know of. Now, because I got my -- -when I turned sixteen, you know, it ain't like back then now, you get one when you born. But back in them days, you didn't get a social security number until you went to work.

Sheryl Koch: Right.

James Cameron: And when I turned sixteen and was going to go to work at Arden's Drug Shop I had to get a social security number and that's where I got it, it was at the post office. That's where you went to get your social security.

Sheryl Koch: And where was that?

James Cameron: That was right across from the Rainbow Club³ where Wells Fargo is now.

Sheryl Koch: Oh, okay.

James Cameron: People keep saying, "Oh, it's over there where Emerald Lounge." No, it wasn't, it was right there on the corner across from the - - on Market Street and across from the Rainbow Club. I know because I remember a many of times going in there and in the receiving area and that's when they always had the bulletin boards with the FBI's 10 Most Wanted. Always had the pictures up there, yep!

Sheryl Koch: Okay, I think this is - - I don't know if I can get that big enough. One of the pictures that was there at the Credit Union, that must have been for a parade or something - - -

James Cameron: Oh this is- -- this is the one I was telling you about.

Sheryl Koch: Yeah, that's what I thought. That's why I wanted to - - -

James Cameron: That's [Inaudible] Pharrell Peterson. I went to school with him. This is the - - the guy driving, is Buzz Warner, he was an engineer for the fire department.

Sheryl Koch: So how can we do - - - can we - - okay - -

James Cameron: This is a 1956 Crown and the trucks we had down at the Pittman Station, we had like an old '38 Mack, you know, but they brought that brand new truck in '56 and I don't think it was a year old when it got in a wreck. Because Shorty Harris went to go jump on the tailboard when it pulled up and missed it and it was a good thing because it killed the driver.

Sheryl Koch: Oh, wow!

James Cameron: And he was zooming across Boulder Highway and Lake Mead and I don't know - - I mean - - I don't always remember traffic light being there at Lake Mead and Boulder Highway. But he went zooming across there and ran into the side of tanker truck, milk truck and it killed him. And the truck was out of commission for a

³Sandquist, Allen. Photograph of Rainbow Club, 1989. From Facebook: *You Know You're From Henderson If*. <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10200581980889259&set=o.305204853951&type=3&theater> (accessed April 23, 2014).

long time. We had to send it back to the manufacturer to get it rebuilt.

Sheryl Koch: Now do you know what grocery store that is? And the picture that we're looking at are at the Clark County -- no what is that, it's Clark Credit Union - --

James Cameron: Oh, Clark County Credit Union.

Sheryl Koch: Yeah, those are the pictures that are displayed there so we're going to try to get some copies of those and maybe we can get with you and get them labeled, the ones that you know.

James Cameron: No, I don't know where that's at.

Sheryl Koch: Okay.

James Cameron: I saw some pictures in there along the back wall, where the tellers were and it showed the old cells in mag recovery, those were in mag recovery at TIMET.

Sheryl Koch: I didn't up to where the tellers were.

James Cameron: Oh okay. Well, they got pictures back there but those were taken in the '40s because that was before my time. Should have took some pictures.

Sheryl Koch: Oh, yeah, I didn't go up to where the tellers were so - - -

James Cameron: Yeah, where the tellers are, there are some pictures on that back wall and they are - --shows a guy medaling a cell and those were taken - --and I went, wow! Those are old because I medaled cells - - it's done pretty much the same way, but this guy didn't have any safety apparel on.

Sheryl Koch: So you could tell by the picture- -

James Cameron: Oh yeah, oh yeah - -- because when I was in there you had a hard hat, you had a face shield, you had a respirator, you had goggles and you still was breathing a lot of chlorine and gas, boy I tell you. It was nasty and it would be like 160 degrees in there in the summertime, on the cell floor. You'd know your bucket full and when the man come to pick it up and go cast it into ingot and you [Inaudible] stuck your head under a faucet that water constantly running and stick your head under there to cool off before he came

back out, set it by the next cells, till you come back up there and medal again.

Sheryl Koch: Wow! I didn't know -- I just knew TIMET was there. I had no idea what they did or anything else so - - -.

James Cameron: Molten titanium or molten magnesium.

Sheryl Koch: Now this is the garage, I think, one of the garages you were telling me about. Now that picture's there at the Credit Union too.

James Cameron: I think that's down up by Water Street, Water and Lake Mead, where the motel is, I think that's on that side of the street. Because the opposite side was a - --now this was before my time too, I can tell you. Opposite side of the street was Texaco Station and that was owned by [Inaudible] at the time and then later on Jim [Inaudible] had it. Sometime along the lines, Leroy Zike had it, which Leroy Zike later became the mayor. And Leroy Zike also - - he opened - -he had a new 76 Station where now there's a Circle K - not a Circle K, what the hell is the name of that? There on Boulder Highway and Lake Mead. I better not curse.

Sheryl Koch: For prosperity. Boulder Highway and Lake Mead.

James Cameron: Boulder Highway and Lake Mead, it's a convenient store. It might be a Rebel. It's a gas station, convenient store there, right behind it is a Little Caesars Pizza, well that was a 76 Station and it was brand spanking new, Leroy Zike had that.

Sheryl Koch: Do you remember - - - did you ever go out to the Dam? Do you guys ever go out there?

James Cameron: Oh yeah! Anytime you had company in town, you had to go out to the Dam. But you know, back then you could take the tour down to the Dam for fifty cents. We took field trips out there with the school. I mean - -- and back then you parked on the Dam. I mean right on the crest.

Sheryl Koch: Yeah.

James Cameron: There was parking places on both sides, you know, but you didn't have the traffic that you do - -

Sheryl Koch: That's for sure. Do you know where the Henderson Lumber Company was? Was that before your time too? Or was that - - -

James R. Cameron

- James Cameron: Yes, that was before my time but that's a '56 Chevy there. So that was a year after I was here. Ha, green stamps! See that?
- Sheryl Koch: Do you know what a S&H green stamps are?
- Laura Hutton: Heck no. What is that?
- James Cameron: They have gold bond stamps, they had blue chip stamps and they had S& H green stamps. And you saved them in a book and they had an S&H green stamp redemption store in Vegas and you saved up so many bucks and then you could get free stuff, depends on how many.
- Laura Hutton: Who output that? Who started that?
- Sheryl Koch: I remember they were in the grocery stores but - - -
- Laura Hutton: Who was giving out the goods for the stamps?
- Sheryl Koch: S&H.
- Laura Hutton: Okay so there - -
- Sheryl Koch: There was an S&H green stamps because I remember Kroger had stamps - - -
- Laura Hutton: Oh, it's a grocery store company, okay.
- Sheryl Koch: You could get some really cool stuff, but I didn't know they had a redemption center in Las Vegas.
- James Cameron: Oh yeah, you had to have someplace to - - -
- Sheryl Koch: Yeah. So we need to get some copies of some of those pictures and then maybe we can invite you to come out and go through them with us.
- James Cameron: Barbershop. Oh this is Prince's barbershop. That was on Army Street.
- Sheryl Koch: If you get a chance to look through any of your pictures, if you can find some from like Carver Park, when you lived there when you were a kid or if you come across some and let us know, okay?
- James Cameron: Yeah, I love to - - -

James R. Cameron

Laura Hutton: I have a question for you about your barbershop experience. You said Richard Price was cutting your hair, were you friends with his son by any chance? Derrill?

James Cameron: Huh?

Laura Hutton:: Were you friends with Derrill, his son, by any chance?

James Cameron: Was I what?

Laura Hutton: Friends.

James Cameron: Oh friends?

Laura Hutton: Yeah.

James Cameron: Does he have a landscape? No.

Laura Hutton: Derrill, Richard's son actually ended up being a barber as well and I think he actually - - -

James Cameron: Oh, okay, I see - - I went to barbershop. It was Price's Barbershop. The very first one I remember was where the Rexall Drug Store and where Emerald Isle was, there was a little Alco [*sic*] that sat back in the ways. I mean, it was a little hole in the wall. And the old man Jim Price, he cut my hair, Derrill and his oldest son was Derrill, Gary and Richard. And they all cut my hair.

As a matter of fact, Derrill just finished cutting my hair before this last summer. He just moved back to Wyoming because his wife inherited some land or something, some property. He moved back up there, he's still coming down here and Derrill's ten years older than I am.

Sheryl Koch: So he would have been here in the 40s.

Laura Hutton: Derrill, we actually interviewed. I was going through his transcripts, that's how I knew that you - -

James Cameron: Oh Derrill, as a matter of fact, when I was going to get out of high school, Derrill, he said - -- because I thought about being a barber and there's a barber college in Salt Lake City and he was going to give me all the equipment I needed. He said, "You don't have to buy this, Jim." But I went to work at TIMET.

James R. Cameron

Sheryl Koch: And that all the changes. So, just anything else that you could think of that you want to share about Henderson that - -- so many things, I know we got get you with those pictures; we have to.

James Cameron: Yes, because that's the jogger.

Sheryl Koch: Yeah.

James Cameron: That's the jogger, those pictures.

Laura Hutton: Did you do any racing out at the Henderson drag strip?

James Cameron: Oh, Thunderbird Raceway?

Laura Hutton: Is that what it's called?

James Cameron: Yeah.

Laura Hutton: Okay.

James Cameron: That was Thunderbird Raceway.

Sheryl Koch: Where was that?

James Cameron: It was down where Henderson Hyundai now.

Sheryl Koch: Oh okay.

James Cameron: See that was a deal way back - -- now the drag strip - -- before Vegas did. It was called Thunderbird Raceway and I remember when I was on the fire department, of course you had to have an ambulance there, so we would come up from the Pittman Station and our ambulance was an old 1964 Ford Panel Truck with 292 thunderbird engine and a 3 speed call shift and it was so top heavy because when I would be up - -- sometimes we go up to Townsite Station and be sitting around shooting the breeze and watching TV and it be in the evening.

So we get an ambulance call and I get to go with the firemen you know. Well, he's the guy that if I had to stay back -- -they pick up somebody on the gurney and put them on the back, he stayed back there and I would drive him. I remember we took a woman to Boulder City one time. Man, I'm doing a lot of red lights and sirens, when up over [Inaudible] from the road tracks, went across the railroad pass. And I went up over them tracks, boy that thing, swayed, because it was so top heavy.

James R. Cameron

Laura Hutton: Why did you take her to Boulder City?

James Cameron: That's where she wanted to go, I guess.

Laura Hutton: Oh!

James Cameron: But that's where we took her.

Sheryl Koch: So, did you ever race there at the Thunderbird?

James Cameron: No. But I went on an ambulance duty there. Well, I loved it because I get in free and we got the best show. We was right there at the starting line. I was still like seventeen - - I didn't have a car then, you know. But I raced out of Stardust Raceway.

Sheryl Koch: Oh yeah.

James Cameron: Picked up three trophies. One of them in that blue car.

Sheryl Koch: Oh yeah.

James Cameron: Turn at thirteen, thirty-two a quarter mile, I had a 426 max wedge, 410 horse.

Sheryl Koch: I see. I have to write that down. When we record that picture, we want to put that - - that was your championship car.

James Cameron: I post it out on Facebook.

Sheryl Koch: So we have to - -- yeah.

James Cameron: But I got - -- let me see if I can - --well, that's Park Village, that's - - somebody asked me if that's the BMI pool, I said, "No it's not." BMI pool had two dividing board, it was ten foot deep on the deep end, they had a small dive and a high dive and they go, "Oh yeah, that's right, that's the one with the golf course." There's the Arctic Circle. That's on the corner of Victory Road - - Water Street and Victor Road. That's the Arctic Circle.

Sheryl Koch: Now was it - -- did you go up to the window? Was it - --

James Cameron: Well this was before the drive-up window. Oh, wait a minute. Yeah, this is before the drive-up window was there. The drive-up - --they put a drive-up window over on this side then you drove

around here and went around this side to come in to get your to go orders.

Sheryl Koch: So you can eat inside?

James Cameron: No. Well, yeah, there was just a little bit of a space in there not much. Most people got their stuff to go, you know.

Sheryl Koch: They had ice cream too?

James Cameron: Oh yeah! They dipped ice cream in the chocolate. Oh yeah! And they had ranch fried chicken. I take that any day over KFC.

Sheryl Koch: What's ranch fried chicken?

James Cameron: It's just a way they cooked it. Arctic Circle came out of Utah, I don't know - -- somewhere out of Utah, somewhere around Salt Lake is the home office. And they still have some in St. George and [Inaudible 1:10:33]. But they had some here. Had one in Henderson and a few in Vegas, but they're all gone from here know, you know. McDonald's and all those fast food places came in and this is the Swanky Club⁴.

Sheryl Koch: What's the Swanky Club?

James Cameron: That is - -- see it says "Smorgasbord"?

Sheryl Koch: Yes.

James Cameron: The Swanky Club was down in Pittman where Jokers Wild is now.

Sheryl Koch: Oh, okay.

James Cameron: And it set off back the highway a little ways. And they had - - they had a smorgasbord and it wasn't like buffets now. I remember me and Lenny Scrivener went in there one night, cleaned them out of ribs. Oh, man, that was the - - I mean, that had all this - -but they had ribs too. We killed them ribs.

Sheryl Koch Lauren: You and who?

⁴ Sandquist, Allen. Photograph of Swanky Club postcard, 1960. From Facebook: *You Know You're From Henderson If*. <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1270868929102&set=o.305204853951&type=3&theater> (accessed April 23, 2014).

James R. Cameron

James Cameron: Lenny Scrivener. He was two years ahead of me in school, but we would run around together. We worked together at the lab at TIMET. We worked together [Inaudible], PEPCON, the one that blew up. We worked together at the Mill Rights Union, we traveled around, you know all around the country [Inaudible] when we was working construction.

Sheryl Koch: Now is his name Scrivener or Scribener?

James Cameron: Scrivener, S-c-r-i-v-e-n-e-r.

Sheryl Koch: Okay, want to make sure we have it spelled right.

James Cameron: Yeah, he graduated in '63. His sister Sharon graduated the same year I did.

Sheryl Koch: Do you remember when they built the Skyline?

James Cameron: I remember before the Skyline was there. That was the original place where [Inaudible] Johnny Lagoria. He had, hands down, the best ham sandwiches, you could buy.

He had them like it was real thin, wafer thin slice ham and it's kind of a brine. And he gets a kummelweck roll and pulls it up and this stuff just dripping, you know, like soup. He piles it that thick on that sandwich and of course I put a little spicy hot mustard and stuff like that and give you all the jalapenos you wanted.

And later on he moved up where Dotty's Casino is now, there in Pittman. That was Lagoria's other spot. And he continued those sandwiches there and you asked anybody who's been around here for a while, they were hands down the best sandwiches you get anywhere.

Sheryl Koch: Now, you're down there in Pittman. Were you familiar or did ever see like any remnants of Whitney Ranch or the Jericho Ranch or anything? Is that way before you time too? I can tell by the look on your face.

James Cameron: Whitney Ranch, that's a street ain't it?

Sheryl Koch: Yeah. Well it used to be - - it was a real ranch.

James Cameron: Oh no, no.

Sheryl Koch: But I didn't know if you were familiar.

James Cameron: There was a [Inaudible] ranch out on Sunset you know. I was working at the fire department, but I was off that night that the plane flew into the Alibi Bar.

Sheryl Koch: Where was the Alibi?

James Cameron: It's where Mugshots is now, down on Pittman.

Sheryl Koch: Oh okay, I've seen that.

James Cameron: It was called the Alibi Bar [Alibi Club] and I got up to go to work one morning and I stopped by Market Town to get some cigarettes - -- I was seventeen - -- to get some cigarettes and I had my uniform on, people going, everybody come to me and ask my about this - --I'm going, "What are you talking about?" Plane flew into the bar. No, man, I got down by there and they had it all roped off and the place was burned up, all the cars and everything. And I get down to the Pittman Station and you had to be up at six in the morning because the shift changes, you know.

Back then the shift change in the evening, but you had to be up at six in the morning, you pull the trucks out off the apparatus floor, hose down the bay area, squeegee them down, that's part of the routine. You kept everything clean, you know. You didn't lay around sleep in, you was up at six. I went down there. I wasn't going to go down there till [Inaudible 1:14:37] Saturday and I didn't get down there till ten, eleven -- man, these guys were like all falling out, there's [Inaudible], there's dirty hoses everywhere. I'm going, "Whoo, what is going ---." Well, that plane was - - - that plane flew into the bar around one o'clock in the morning.

Sheryl Koch: Wow!

James Cameron: This guy had gone in and my understanding is, this guy had gone in, and him and his wife or ex-wife or whatever - -- had a fallen out anyway. He told her he was going go out and get in the plane and fly it into a bar. She goes, "Go on, you're drunk."

Well, he went out and got in a twin engine Cessna. Apparently, he was a pilot. Must have been a pretty good one too because it was a night, it was about twelve-thirty, one in the morning and had been sprinkle a little bit rain and he came down low enough, across Boulder Highway, that when he went across the propellers cut a couple of gouges in the black top and there was a you know, eight or ten cars parked directly in front of the building and then a space

and two or three other cars come in low enough, that he hit that first line of cars, shoved it into the second line of cars and then couple three cars through the front building.

Of course the plane exploded and burned and he was the only one killed. And just turned out the bar was right there and she had - -- from my understanding is that they had a country western band in the corner and they had just got through playing a number and she come back there to go take some drinks out and when they happened. Because one of the off duty fireman Louie Jaramillo was in there that night.

Sheryl Koch: Wow, so he was the only one that was hurt? Were other people hurt?

James Cameron: Well, I figured a couple of people got burned a little. They had a swimming pool out back too, but it was empty. But there was some water at the deep end from the residual rain water and stuff. But I guess a couple of people got burned.

I know that later on, when I got to work, all of sudden the [Inaudible] goes off and everybody's loading up. We had to go back up there again because they're were going to start tearing that wreckage apart and those [Inaudible 1:16:49] on the ground and we had to go in there and hose it down, tore it apart so sparks would not ignite the fuel you know.

Sheryl Koch: Wow!

Laura Hutton: About what year was that?

James Cameron: Around '64.

Laura Hutton: '64 wow!

James Cameron: That was - --I remember this girl I knew from Germany, she come out of there and she goes, man I rather [Inaudible] in Germany.

Sheryl Koch: I've never heard of that.

James Cameron: Oh yeah! There was Alibi Bar. And when it was rebuilt - -- they built it - -- I mean they totaled the building. When they rebuilt it, it became something else and I know for a while - - I think it was the VFW for a while and after a while it became the Tack Room because I used to hang in there once in a while. And then years later it became Mug Shots. That's what it is now.

Sheryl Koch: I've seen that. I've seen that.

Laura Hutton: I have a couple of questions. My first question is when you were talking about working at TIMET, you were talking about ore and you said a word that sounded like rutilite.

James Cameron: Rutilite [*sic*].

Laura Hutton: Rutilite, what is that?

James Cameron: R-o-u-t-i-l-e. It's an ore. It's an ore used to make titanium. Rutilite ore. You know all the streets down here in old Henderson are named after, you know there's Ilmenite Way, Rutile Way, all the streets are Manganese, Magnesium, Copper. You didn't know that?

Sheryl Koch: No.

James Cameron: All those streets in old Townsite are all - -- everything is geared around World War II. Atlantic, Ocean, Pacific, Victory - -

Sheryl Koch: Major, Army - --

James Cameron: Yeah, Major, Army, Panama, hell, Water Street, Market Street, I don't know where they got that from. And all the states - - all the streets - -- got side of Water Street are named after states.

Sheryl Koch: Oh yeah?

James Cameron: Idaho Way, Utah Way, California Way, Arizona Way, all those way streets and then some of the thru streets are like Nebraska, Oklahoma, Kansas, Texas.

Sheryl Koch: Because that one book that we looked at the museum, how are streets are named. But it didn't have all the streets. It had several but it didn't have like those.

James Cameron: And then up further where Atlantic and Pacific come together, those streets are like Gold, Nickel, Platinum - -- I can't remember, Lead- - yeah, all those streets.

Sheryl Koch: Oh, is Rutile - - -I didn't know that.

James Cameron: Rutile was down off Victory Road, those are the ones that go off- - - because they're not Townsite houses. Townsite houses - - '40s on

the opposite side of Victory Road, those are houses that were built in about '53 or '54.

Sheryl Koch: I drove down Basic the other day. I ended up on it and I looked up and I was on Victory Road and I was like, "Wow!"

James Cameron: I would love to go into my grandparent's old house. Because my granddad, when he bought that house, he added onto the back and he built a bomb shelter in there. He dug a big basement down in there, yeah. I love to go up to the owners, God I like to look at that house, I just -- old memories because he put -- my granddad was -- my granddad could do anything with his hands. He build everything, he just did everything.

Sheryl Koch: So what was his -- if you had an occupation or title ---?

James Cameron: He was an operating engineer at the test site.

Sheryl Koch: Oh, in your grandfather?

James Cameron: Yes. He came down here. He owned a place and I remember when I was a kid going to the farm, up Circleville, Utah you know. And there was just no work in Utah. You had a lot of people, you had a lot of Hispanics from New Mexico coming out here and when those plants first started up, they hired a ton of blacks from Mississippi, Louisiana in that area to come out here because they were working in that heat. That heat in those smelters, you could not imagine, you could not even fathom. It's hot!

Laura Hutton: Wow!

James Cameron: And -- so that's why you have the black community here you had and then the Hispanics come here -- there was no work and you had a lot of people from Utah that come down here because there was no work in Utah at the time. And in Nevada you had the test site going from '50 to '63, you know what I mean, they was having an atmospheric testing and after that it was underground testing.

Sheryl Koch: So have you been to the Atomic Museum there on --

James Cameron: Yes, I have -- awesome!

Sheryl Koch: Is it pictures of your grandpa there?

James R. Cameron

- James Cameron: No I didn't see him. He was an operating engineer - - crane operator. I didn't see any pictures of him.
- Laura Hutton: So when you moved down here from Utah, did you move in with your grandparents initially with your brother?
- James Cameron: Yep, well I had two brothers. But one brother was only like a year and half old, he's my mom -- my mom kept him up there till they finalized - -- whatever they was doing with their - - split up. We came down here and stayed with my grandparents. That was in July. By September, I'm wanting to say September, we were in Carver Park.
- Sheryl Koch: So what's your other brother's name?
- James Cameron: Huh?
- Sheryl Koch: What is your younger brother's name?
- James Cameron: His name is Noel Lynn Cameron. N-o-e-l, because he was born on Christmas day.
- Sheryl Koch: Oh! Now does he still live here in Henderson or somewhere else?
- James Cameron: No, he lives in Salt Lake. He graduated from Basic and then he left. He's been in Salt Lake for years. I don't think you'd ever get him down here again.
- Laura Hutton: What year about was your brother Robert born?
- James Cameron: He was born December 17, 1948. So he's a year and a half younger than me.
- Laura Hutton: Okay, so you came down here together, you had a friend.
- James Cameron: We came - oh yeah!
- Sheryl Koch: So when you lived with your grandparents, were there other kids around there that you guys fight with?
- James Cameron: First person I met, because you know, I remember coming down from Utah and I remember shooting off roman candles off to the side of the road so it must have been 4th of July when we was on the road. Of course those were real roman candles back then, you know, the real deal.

James R. Cameron

But when I got down here, I went on a couple dates for my birthday. I turned eight. And the first person I met was Sue Green. She lived down the street. Her dad worked at the plants down there somewhere. And my grandmother was trying to hurry up and scrounge around a birthday party for me and you know, also I knew Sue.

I got introduced to Sue Green and a couple of other - -- Leroy - -- he lived across the street, he was older than me - -- a couple of years - - a year or two older than me but I remember he got an eye put out. He was changing breaks on a car and it popped out and a screw driver stuck him in the eye and put his eye out.

Sheryl Koch: So you think he'll - - -

James Cameron: Leroy Davis.

Sheryl Koch: Leroy Davis. Do you think he'll be there Saturday night? For the -

James Cameron: I loved to - -- it starts at 6?

Sheryl Koch: It starts at 6.

James Cameron: I loved to -- - I talked to Sonya too because she's heavy into this thing about the reunion thing, you know.

Sheryl Koch: Is she in your class? Oh okay, then we'll get to meet her. You're going to be there?

Laura Hutton: Yeah, I plan to.

Sheryl Koch: Okay.

James Cameron: Oh yeah, Sonya. Sonya is a lot different know. [Inaudible] she doesn't take no crap from nobody. She is funny. She is hilarious.

Sheryl Koch: Do you have another question, Lauren?

Laura Hutton: I do. What was that address your grandparents house on Victory?

James Cameron: 147 Victory Road. And love to see that - - - see my granddad would come back and he would sleep down there because that was the coolest place in the house.

Sheryl Koch: Oh, I can imagine.

James R. Cameron

James Cameron: Huh?

Sheryl Koch: Yeah, I said, I can imagine.

James Cameron: My grandmother and my great grandmother - - my great grandmother used to baby sit us. She used to live with us.

Sheryl Koch: And what was her name?

James Cameron: Nellie Bell B-e-t-e-n-s-o-n.

Sheryl Koch: Benson, B-e-n-s-o-n.

James Cameron: B-e-t-e-n-s-o-n.

Sheryl Koch: B-e-t-e-n-s-o-n, Betenson. Now was she - --

James Cameron: And all her, Grandma Nellie, she had arthritis in her hands. It used to crack me up because she point her finger at you like this--- and her finger be going this way- - -

Sheryl Koch: Do you know where she was from? Did she live here in Henderson?

James Cameron: Oh no, no, no. She lived in Utah. All from Utah.

Sheryl Koch: All from Utah.

James Cameron: Her husband had Butch Cassidy's sister were married to brothers. Butch Cassidy is my great, great, let's see - - -that'll be - --my great, great uncle my marriage.

Sheryl Koch: Oh okay. So have a whole another history - --

James Cameron: My son, you know, [Inaudible] into this stuff you know, when I was forty-one so I took a little twelve - -I was going to spend the night and I took him up to Kanab to show him the old cemetery where the Robinsons and stuff, and I said, "Well this is my great, great, great, great, grandfather, Richard Robinson."

He's buried with three of his wives because he was a polygamist and he was the [Inaudible] and that's all the history there and I took him up to Circleville and showed him where little grandma was buried and I took him right over and I said, well this is his sister Lula. Aunt Lula, I have a book at home signed by Aunt Lula.

Butch Cassidy and my brother and I bought three of them and had one for my mother and one for me.

Anyway, I took him up there and showed him where Aunt Lula was buried and I said her husband and little grandma husband are brothers. And I showed him where Maximillian Parker, Butch Cassidy's father and mother are buried out there. In fact we went out the old Parker Ranch, just south of Circleville and why they haven't made that into a historical site, I don't know, but - - -

Sheryl Koch: I didn't know that.

Laura Hutton: Me either.

Sheryl Koch: I didn't know that.

James Cameron: That's just south of Circleville. And the old Parker home is still in Circleville, but it's abandoned. I don't know why people don't make monument out of that or a historical site.

Laura Hutton: Funding!

James Cameron: Huh? Well - - -

Sheryl Koch: Well I - - - is there anything else you can - - - this is just been great. So thank you for your time.

James Cameron: Tops Market. Know this is - - - they got it torn down. Lake Mead Lounge out there, when they started tearing the façade off and they see this whole thing, Tops Market. Oh, I remember Tops Market, Harold Gary owned that, you know where Lake Mead Lounge is? Go out to Lake Mead Parkway on the way to the lake, it's off - - fenced off now.

Sheryl Koch: Yes, yes, I seen it.

James Cameron: I think Peppermill or one of those outfits bought it, closed it up but that used to be Tops Market and before that when we went to the old Carver Park, when Royal Ream and Harold Garrish worked there and that's when you had the old meat counter as you go in, you saw both sides before they wrapped it, freezer paper you know. And then he broke away and started Tops Market and it was one of the few places in the Valley that still processed deer meat.

Sheryl Koch: Oh!

James R. Cameron

James Cameron: Deer hunters would go hunting [Inaudible] here cut it up. I want so much hamburger, so many roast, so many steaks.

Sheryl Koch: Now, that's on Facebook too?

James Cameron: Yeah, that's Facebook.

Sheryl Koch: Now there's a good variety on there.

[Crosstalk Inaudible]

James Cameron: Boy, do I remember this; a long line on Saturday going to Victory Theatre.

Sheryl Koch: Oh wow!

James Cameron: Yeah, a lot of kids go clear down to the Rexall Drug Store waiting to get in. And they had a guy there -- when we moved to Vegas - - my parents were still - -- because they bowled on leagues out here and stuff you know and they would bring us out here. Our whole social life was out here in Henderson.

Sheryl Koch: Even when you lived in Vegas?

James Cameron: Yeah, because they both worked at TIMET. And they were on -- at one point they was like three or four bowling leagues a week. They were up at the bowling alley constantly. But they would take us out there and drop us off at the show and that was the baby sitter. And we would go into the show and they had a guy there called Uncle Earl—they guy that run the show. And he -- when you went in you got your ticket with a number on it and the other one went into a drawing.

And midway, you know, like after the cartoon, they have a drawing and the first prize was, you could take - - you got your choice of taking six of your friends and a free pop and a free popcorn for six of you to the movies next week or you can have a case of Sugar Daddies. So, I got drawn one time. Boy, friends come out of the woodworks! You know I hadn't been in Vegas very long, boy I got some friends they wanted to go -- well - - because I picked the show thing.

Well then a few months later, my brother got drawn and whoever - - he got drawn second. The first person took the six friends and my brother got the Sugar Daddies. Of course I helped him eat it. But then during Christmas, this Uncle Earl, because they get up on

the stage there and he'd have a drawing for kids for Christmas and he was giving away a lot, like an electric train sets, bicycles, all kinds of stuff for the kids for, Christmas.

Sheryl Koch:

Wow!

James Cameron:

Henderson was very kid friendly then, you know. We had to -- We had to pretty much do -- we didn't have Facebook and we didn't have a phone. We had a TV with three stations in black and white. And so they didn't have to tell us to go to play because it was nothing to do in the house.

We take off -- when I was fourteen, fifteen, we take off and get a back pack and a hotdog and a can of corn and some other stuff in there and take our .22 and go off in the mountains there by the lake and shoot things up and make a little camp fire, roast some hotdogs because we just -- we made our own fun.

I remember one time when I was fourteen and, man, these cop cars come flying out through Carver Park. That's the big thing, what's going on, what's going on, so we take off on down there and there's those dikes, all run down there in the desert, south of -- below Carver Park and we heard, oh, there's a dead body out there. You know, kids, like standing by me in the movie. We got to see this, you know.

This guy had gone out there and committed suicide. He gone out there in his car -- and this was like in August because I had my new school clothes on. I wasn't supposed to have them on, school hadn't started yet. And I was fourteen I remember and when we go out there and this guy had parked his car, run the hose tailpipe out the window, that was it. He had been out there for a couple of three days and those windows rolled up in that car. And we were walking.

I remember one time we were walking this dirt road and a cop comes out, "Where you kids going?" "Oh, we're just going --." "You turn around and go back." So we turn around and so as he got outside -- so we go on the other side of dike and all of a sudden we could smell something. What's that and also we hear these radio calls and stuff you know, well that's were that guy was.

And you know that guy I told you about Glen Bibby that took us up to Duck Creek? He was one of the cops that responded to that. When he got home, they lived over in Manganese Park, those brick homes and they're kind of L-shaped. She run a clothesline out

there and made him change his clothes outside. Made him throw them away, "Gee, I'm not even gonna wash those" because they smelled so bad.

Sheryl Koch: Oh yeah, it was way before CSI.

James Cameron: This was 1961.

Sheryl Koch: Wow!

Laura Hutton: I think I have one last question, when you worked for TIMET, you said that you worked in the something recovery department?

James Cameron: Magnesium Recovery, mag recovery, we call it.

Laura Hutton: Perfect, okay.

James Cameron: Now realize, I worked there till '73 and I quit and I went to Mill Right's Union, did a four year apprenticeship in the Mill Rights.

Laura Hutton: Okay.

James Cameron: And I worked twelve years in the Mill Rights and then worked kind of [Inaudible 1:3414] out there so I went to work for Southern California Henderson. And I worked at Mojave Generating Station in Laughlin for twelve and a half years. And then I took an early buy out there and - -- because I had bought a house up here and I was commuting back and forth for about thirteen months and that wore me and the new car out so - --

Sheryl Koch: I can imagine.

James Cameron: Oh yeah because I was on four, twelve hour shifts. That was a nineteen hour day for me and that's when they was doing that highway construction through the Canyon, nice timing. So I rented the house out and moved back down to Laughlin for three and a half years until Edison offered the golden handshake. So I took that and I came back up here and I went back to work at TIMET in '96 it was right after they got over that ugly strike and a buddy of mine was a supervisor in the lab and he said we need lab techs and I went in there, eight months later I was - - he offered me the supervisor job.

Sheryl Koch: Oh, that's cool. Well, did you - - I was going to ask you something right there with that and I lost it. Well, I don't remember what it was, I apologize. But you made me think about it when you were

talking about the Manganese and the different things, but I should have written it down while I was talking. But that's - -

James Cameron: This is the only thing that's left of Basic High School. That building is still there, they kept it.

Sheryl Koch: Part of Burkholder?

James Cameron: Yeah, back where the- - I don't know - -- I think it's a lunchroom now. But that was the gymnasium then, they kept that. Victory Village.

Sheryl Koch: Okay, so our next -- now are those houses, they're not there now?

James Cameron: No, that's where Wal-Mart is, where Wal-Mart is, all the way up to Texas Street. Victory Village was a lot bigger than Carver Park.

Sheryl Koch: Oh okay.

James Cameron: Victory Village was huge and it went from Lake Mead all the way up to Texas Street where that 76 Station now. They made it a 76 Station.

Sheryl Koch: Now I have a question, since you guys didn't go to school in Carver Park, how did you get from Carver Park to where you went to school? Did they have buses for you?

James Cameron: Park Village was just up by Valley View, but they had us ride the bus. Remember one time I walked and the guy got ticked off - -- while - --

Sheryl Koch: Now that's what it looks like when you lived here right?

James Cameron: Well, let's see. There's the water towers, this is track two, this is -- and all these streets up here, because Ocean Street was where the trees are. So this is fairly new here, this area. This is what they call track 2, above Major Street. And these were built in the early - -- probably '53 or '54 and these are named like, National, Federal, you know.

Sheryl Koch: I know what I wanted to ask you, did you ever- - because I know we talked about the Railroad Pass⁵ and you said you never seen it

⁵ Sandquist, Allen. Photograph of Railroad Pass postcard, 1970. From Facebook: *You Know You're From Henderson If* <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1277473894222&set=o.305204853951&type=3&theater> (accessed July 24, 2014).

open, but did you ever hear about, like just pass where the casino is back in there somewhere where there was some turbine stored or sold or anything, the ones from the like - -the extra ones from BMI?

James Cameron: No.

Sheryl Koch: No, okay. I just read about that the other day. I was like - -

James Cameron: The old '57 Oldsmobile in front of Carver Park Market, that's the old store in Carver Park - -that was, I'll show you exactly where -- - well, that's right here. That's Carver Park Market right there.

Sheryl Koch: Now, that's on Facebook too?

James Cameron: Yeah.

Sheryl Koch: Okay. Well I think that's exciting and to be able to access them. I think Saturday night is going to be exciting.

James Cameron: That is - - his last name is Perry. He - -sometime he was a band teacher, sometimes, but he owns Perry Men's Shop, which was on the corner of - - where the old Bank of Nevada building on Pacific, it was in the very corner on the left hand side. Perry's Men Shop and that was the only place we shopped to get Levis. That was - -- well - -.

Sheryl Koch: Did they have other department stores here in town?

James Cameron: No.

Sheryl Koch: Or did you have to go to Vegas or Boulder City?

James Cameron: There's the Bank of Nevada building. That's - - it don't show it too much, but that's Perry's Men's Shop was over on this corner of the building. Now this here is a parking lot now.

Laura Hutton: And where was the Men's Shop in this picture.

James Cameron: The Men's Shop is on the left hand side. All the way- - it wasn't very big, it wasn't a very big store but I got some old pictures of the old hop sack bell bottom- - big bell bottom pants - - wild colors from the 70s, oh yeah!

Sheryl Koch: So did you - --that's what I was asking, were there other department stores?

James R. Cameron

- James Cameron: I went to school with that guy. He's a judge now, somebody said -
-for the United States - - oh, US District Judge. I went to school
with him, Bill Scoopa.
- Laura Hutton: Neat.
- Sheryl Koch: If you know you're from Henderson, if you recognize this guy.
- James Cameron: Yeah. There's Baldy's Tavern.
- Sheryl Koch: Oh, that's the one you were telling us about.
- James Cameron: Yeah, that's a dark picture.
- Sheryl Koch: Okay, you have anything else that you want - - I think we pretty
much - --
- James Cameron: That's the old grotto. It's torn down now, next to St. Peters
Catholic Church.
- Sheryl Koch: Is that the one on -- -
- James Cameron: People were ticked when they tore that down.
- Sheryl Koch: Was that the one on Boulder Highway?
- James Cameron: Yes, St. Peters on Boulder Highway. It was off to the left side and
then when they rebuilt St. Peters, they tore that down. People were
ticked.
- Laura Hutton: What is this?
- James Cameron: It's like an old grotto. It's shrine area. I've seen them down in
Arizona where you have a lot of Catholics you see a shrine on the
side of the road.
- Sheryl Koch: That's beautiful. Do you know who built it? Just - - the church
built it?
- James Cameron: Yeah, I'm sure. It was there when I moved here, yeah. There's
McKee's Shoe Repair. And that was on Army Street, later became
Dom's Shoe Repair. That was one of our classmates - - just now - -
old.
- Sheryl Koch: When's your reunion? You said it's this summer?

James R. Cameron

James Cameron: Yeah, no, next year.

Sheryl Koch: Next year.

James Cameron: Well --fifteen -- it'll be fifty years. Because I graduated '65.

Sheryl Koch: When you guys have your reunion meeting, ask them if any of them would be interested in some oral histories.

James Cameron: Oh, okay.

Sheryl Koch: Okay because some of them may have lived here before you did or after or whatever.

James Cameron: Oh, I'm sure.

Sheryl Koch: And you know just get them in contact with me or Lauren [Laura] and we be glad to do that. I think that will be nice to get the rest of your class on oral histories.

James Cameron: Now this is Market Street. Back in the day and it shows -- it's going to take -- it's not loading up.

Sheryl Koch: That's okay. I have another question for you. When we were there at the Eagles Club that day, the --

James Cameron: You know the Eagles is older than Henderson?

Sheryl Koch: Oh it is?

James Cameron: Yes it is.

Sheryl Koch: That club.

James Cameron: Yes, it is. The city's wanted that land years and years and years and we're grandfathered . They can't take it away.

Sheryl Koch: So who built it? I mean how was it --?

James Cameron: Well, it was Basic Township. This was called Basic Township before 1953 and the Henderson Eagles Lodge was established in 1948.

James R. Cameron

Sheryl Koch: Okay, because I knew - - because when I read about the American Legion that's BMI Post 40 because I knew it was built for the employees at BMI.

James Cameron: Well, before - - that building before it was the American Legion was the Henderson Jaycees.

Sheryl Koch: Oh really?

James Cameron: Yes, it was.

Sheryl Koch: So where was the American Legion originally?

James Cameron: That I don't know where it was here in Henderson.

Sheryl Koch: Oh okay. So if the Eagles was there in 1948 - -

James Cameron: There's the original Mormon Church on Ocean Street before they tore it down and built the one that's there now.

Sheryl Koch: That might be something interesting for Jessica.

James Cameron: That was built in '56, no '55. The Ocean Street Chapel and then they tore it down here not too long ago. They built a brand new one there. And I noticed somebody posting some event there or something they said the address 101 Water Street and I'm going - - "- did that thing - - become - -changed to a Water Street address when they rebuilt it?" Because it was always Ocean Street. But the church is situated a little bit different now so it does actually face Ocean.

Sheryl Koch: Do you remember when - -- bless you - --do you remember when they built - - or was the post office in Pittman there whenever you-

James Cameron: Right next to the store.

Sheryl Koch: So it was there when you moved.

James Cameron: I don't know if it was Market Basket or Rancho -- I think it was Rancho Market was the name of it. And right behind that was Taylor Steel and that's where I saw the guy get electrocuted.

Sheryl Koch: When was that?

James R. Cameron

James Cameron: Oh, I was driving this car. I was going up Boulder Highway and Jimmy pulled in front of me [Inaudible 1:44:20] back in those days you knew all the cops, you knew all the firemen. Henderson was small, you knew everybody. And I was going up Boulder Highway; I was coming back from Vegas. I was driving that car.

Laura Hutton: And that's your, which car is that again?

James Cameron: '64 Dodge.

Laura Hutton: Perfect.

James Cameron: And he comes across in front of me [Inaudible] red lights and sirens. So I come back in there and he bailed out of his car and I could hear this guy screaming and in pain. And he was - - but we couldn't see him. That gates were locked they had a chain around them. So he bailed over the fence and I bailed over and went got a - - because he had already called in for the ambulance and stuff, you know, and we got a pair of bolt cutters to cut the chain and when the fire department got there with the ambulance, this guy was on the ground. He was running a crane and swung it into a power line. And I don't know if it blew him out of the crane or if he bailed out and fell back into it or if he didn't have his outriggers on - -- I can't recall. All I know I will never forget that as long as I live. I mean, blown all his clothes off him, it was almost translucent and we loaded him on that gurney and Jim [Inaudible] back in the day, you know, we only had one fireman.

So a lot of times if he was by himself, a cop would drive the ambulance and all the fireman because he's the one with the first aid training. So, Jim [Inaudible] got in the ambulance and said take my car, so I drove the cop car. You never see that in this day. But I drove the cop car [Inaudible] Jim [Inaudible] drove the ambulance, the fireman was in the back and took the guy up there, and I believe his name was Burt Cole because they was tied in with the Coles that owned the Texaco Station on Texas and Boulder Highway and he lived for seem like a week or two and then passed away I guess. [Inaudible]

Sheryl Koch: Did they take him into -- I'm sorry- -- did they take him to Henderson Hospital, St. Rose or?

James Cameron: Back then it was just Rose De Lima. When it was Rose De Lima it was just single - - of course back then they had the three stories there then, that was brand new you know.

James R. Cameron

- Laura Hutton: Where was this gentleman at when he was electrocuted?
- James Cameron: Taylor Steel.
- Laura Hutton: Taylor Steel okay.
- Sheryl Koch: And that was in Pittman.
- James Cameron: That was in Pittman behind that store on Athol Street, A-t-h-o-l.
- Sheryl Koch: Athol, okay.
- James Cameron: But Taylor Steel - --I went to school with Mary Taylor; her dad owned it and he later was killed in a plane crash back as I recall. But I had posted something about that on - -it jogged my memory, somebody posted the old picture of that Texaco Station. It was over by the Coles - - and I say, I remember an incident like that you know one time and all of a sudden this girl had called me and it was her dad's dad and she said, "Would you mind talking to him because that was his dad and he was quite young when his dad died you know." And so I called him up and talked to him and he wanted to come to the house and interview me. I haven't done it yet because a lot of things [Inaudible]. I got to put the cat down, I had teeth ripped out, I got to give him a call. He wants to do a taped interview about that because when I told him everything word for word he's going, wow! I was there so - -
- Sheryl Koch: Well, I look forward to see you Saturday night, seeing everybody else that's going to be there too, I think that's going to be great. You need put this on the recording. That we're doing the recording and this interview and Melissa Stoner's office at Nevada State College and Melissa is the coordinator of the Nevada History, Nevada State College Oral History Project.
- James Cameron: Oh okay.
- Sheryl Koch: That's a mouthful.
- James Cameron: If you had more picture man I mean I would see that I would go that's this, you know because people throw stuff on there and I go, oh, this corner over here - - I said you know, they say the first carnivals up on the football field at the old junior high, no they weren't. They were in a vacant lot on the corner of Atlantic and Water Street for the first two years I was here and then they moved them up there, later on they put an Arco Richville Station there, Fred Horton owned it because I worked for him. Me and Bob

James R. Cameron

Freeze worked for him. After we get off work at TIMET you know, we worked straight days in Transportation and we get off work and all work every other night for a few hours and close up the station and across the street was [Inaudible]Station. And then when they tore it down they built the Winchell's donut shop, I got a memory like a [Inaudible]. You better get it before I get old.

Sheryl Koch: Well, that's what we want to do, but I - - -

James Cameron: I'll be 67 in July.

Sheryl Koch: What I was going to --- when we were talking about there at the Eagles Club, the lady mentioned a couple of people that were older than you, but she didn't know if they would be available to do an oral or be interested, but if you can help us connect with them or with anybody else, Melissa has this project going on and that would be amazing if you have any contact - - -

James Cameron: See Sonya, her dad, the friend of mine, her dad used to have Merrill's TV & Appliance, they're on Water Street. I remember when I lived on Platinum Street, you know, he had a color TV on display. Nobody had a color TV. And he would close up shop at night. When he closed up and he turned that thing on and that of course you had the volume up because you couldn't hear it anyway - - he close up shop and go home and I walked down there and sat in front of the store and watched that - - because you get the Peacock, next show is *In Living Color*, it be Disney or *Bonanza*. The only thing I couldn't understand was why it would have Mitch Miller in color or they could pick a better show than that. But I stay out there and just watch that thing because it was in color.

Sheryl Koch: On the street corner watching color TV.

James Cameron: Color TV through a showroom window and I can't hear it.

Sheryl Koch: But it was something new in town.

James Cameron: Well, when I was a reserve on the fire department. We had color TV at both stations and we didn't have color TV at home, nobody had color TV back in '64.

Sheryl Koch: Yeah, just, just - - -

James Cameron: Or a remote.

Sheryl Koch: Or cell phones.

James R. Cameron

- James Cameron: Yeah, yeah!
- Sheryl Koch: What kind of phone did - you had a phone - did you have phones at your house? Or did you have to go use somebody else's phone?
- James Cameron: We had to go use somebody else's phone. When I lived at Carver Park we didn't have a phone. When I lived in Victor Village, I didn't have a phone. I mean even - -
- Sheryl Koch: Now did y'all have, in your phone systems here, did y'all have party lines?
- James Cameron: When I had phone—I was renting a house from my uncle on Basic Road, 314 West Basic Road and I had a phone. And it was a 4 party line. Because I gets a little old lady -- couple little old ladies get on that phone want to gab, gab and gab and gab and I wanted to use the phone. Of course they were on there first and you practically had to say, "Hey, I have an emergency" and they had to hang up and let you use the phone.
- Sheryl Koch: So did you have phone numbers? Or did you have to call the operator and ring them?
- James Cameron: No, we had phone numbers, but we only used 5 digits. 2-8-6-2-7. And Henderson prefix was Frontier.
- Sheryl Koch: Oh, Frontier Road.
- James Cameron: Our number was Frontier 2-8-6-2-7, but you didn't have to dial the F-R. Now in Vegas they had Dudley and a few others, they had several so you had to dial all seven numbers, but here in Henderson, you just call in Henderson, and you just dial the five numbers that was it. Now if you called Las Vegas back then, Las Vegas was long distance.
- Sheryl Koch: What about Boulder City?
- James Cameron: You had - -- yes. You had to get - - and back then there was no straight through dialing. If you called long distance, you had to call the operator and it was long distance call to call Las Vegas, the operator had to hook you up with that exchange.
- Laura Hutton: As it will be again in about two weeks.
- James Cameron: Well, yeah, we have to dial seven numbers.

Sheryl Koch: Did you know anybody that worked for the phone company?

James Cameron: My mother worked for the phone company in Vegas.

Sheryl Koch: Oh she did? Was she an operator or - - -?

James Cameron: PBX operator.

Sheryl Koch: PBX. Did she - -

James Cameron: She also worked PBX [Inaudible]. She also worked PBX for Sunrise Hospital when it was brand new then on Maryland Parkway; it was the only thing on Maryland Parkway. And it was just a single story ranch style, you know, like a couple of wings. Yeah, she was a PBX operator.

Sheryl Koch: Did you ever – I know you said you guys cruised Fremont Street, y'all were cruising Fremont Street because you were teenagers but did you have any observations about the like the casinos or the people going in and out of the casinos or - - -?

James Cameron: [Inaudible] too busy - - -

Sheryl Koch: Chasing girls.

James Cameron: [Inaudible] Fremont Street around the old train station and then back down - - you know about the old train station.

Sheryl Koch: I know it's there but I don't know anything about it. It's where the Union Plaza is now right?

James Cameron: And I got these saved in my pictures. Let me get into my pictures. That is looking down Fremont Street. I don't know what year this was but that's the train station and the bus depot next to the Greyhound bus station next to it and down Fremont Street toward up -- - back towards Henderson, you know. Train station is where, we go up Fremont.

We cruise around that park and come back down Fremont and go to the Blue Onion and get an order of fries and a cherry lime rickey. And the girls would come out on roller skates, you know, and they had car hops and they had trays on the windows and they had air conditioning. I don't know how they do that.

Sheryl Koch: Yeah, they brought you to your car?

James R. Cameron

James Cameron: Yes. I'll show you. This is Lake Mead in 1955, the campground.

Laura Hutton: Look at that.

Sheryl Koch: Now is that Boulder Beach?

James Cameron: Yeah, that's down by Boulder Beach, that's a huge overgrown tree now.

Sheryl Koch: That's funny. Wow!

James Cameron: Somebody took this picture of people watching a mushroom cloud go up in Vegas.

Sheryl Koch: Yeah, I've seen that in the - - my girlfriend grew up in Vegas - I don't know if she grew up in Vegas, but she remembers when they would take them from the classroom and go out and watch them.

James Cameron: Oh really?

Sheryl Koch: Yeah, I was like - - and then all the - -- particles went to Utah.

James Cameron: This is Nelson Landing.

Sheryl Koch: Now that's before - -- okay -before it flooded because we - -

James Cameron: We used to ditch high school and go down there and get a fishing boat for \$15 all day, and five of us splitting \$15 is nothing, we go fishing and drink beer.

Sheryl Koch: Now do you remember the flood?

James Cameron: Oh yeah. I was on my way to Mojave Generating Station and I was hitting - - I had the cruise set for 90. Well, Henderson - - Nevada didn't have a speed limit before '74 so we did - - and this was about '75 when that happened, '74 or '75, right around there when that happened. I had a '73 Buick Electra 225 Limited, had the cruise set for ninety and zipping along there going down for night shift down there to be in that five-thirty.

Sheryl Koch: At Nelson?

James Cameron: No, in Laughlin.

Sheryl Koch: Oh, oh, when you were working - - -

James Cameron: I was going down the power plant. And I'm zipping along and of course back then it was a two lane road and I come over this one little dip there and it was full of water, I go , woo, I had just enough time to take off brakes and the car just [Inaudible] skidded out across that water till I got to the other side. I go man, where did that come from, over the mountains, it was just black as could be and that rain had come down and gone down to the east side of those mountains and funnel down through two or three canyons into that one narrow thing and wiped - - pushed everything out on the lake. I think it killed thirteen people. It killed the ranger and his wife --

Sheryl Koch: We were talking about that the other day and I was like, "Wow!"

James Cameron: Have you ever been down there?

Sheryl Koch: To Nelson, yes.

James Cameron: And - -

Sheryl Koch: But I didn't know that was there and I didn't know that it flooded.

James Cameron: That's what it look like. They had a boat storage there, they had mobile homes there, they had - - I mean this little place here was like a big tackle shop, there was a little bar there and a - - there was a woman name Socks, we called her Socks. She was the waitress.

They served hamburgers and stuff, you know, and that was a going concern. And the year before that happened, the government wanted to close it down because a study, oh, yeah, flood and they wanted to shut it down. And I remember a guy passing around a petition not to have them shut it down and I signed it. I don't want them shutting it down, boy a year later that happened.

Sheryl Koch: Wow!

James Cameron: And that's why till this day, Willow Beach was the same way, they didn't even ask them, they shut it down. It's open again now but everything is different. The campgrounds are way up high and they've taken flood control to no account. People didn't think about that stuff back in them days, you know.

Sheryl Koch: Wait, are we good? Alright, we're just checking to see how we are on our recorder here.

James R. Cameron

James Cameron: Well that's Vegas. That's Rancho Vegas Hotel.

Sheryl Koch: Do you ever go there?

James Cameron: Did I ever go there? I was only eleven years old when it burned down. I was a paper boy and I remember the fire that's all single -
-

[phone ringing]

James Cameron: Declined, that's my wife. When the fire burned down, I remember delivering the paper and I mean on the front page and all the subsequent pages, they had pictures of stacks of silver dollars melted together and stuff. And that was real silver dollars then, it wasn't what they are now. And these weren't Ike silver dollars either, these were the old Morgan - -

Sheryl Koch: The liberties, the Morgan --

James Cameron: Yes, yes.

Sheryl Koch: Wow!

James Cameron: Because they were a pain to me. When I was a paper boy, paper was fifty cents a week and I delivered in Carver Park and so I go down there and some people wait and pay for a couple of weeks and I'll pay for a couple of weeks and I go around and give you a dollar and I give you a silver dollar. Well I had one of those coin bank bags and they were paying. I take them to the bank to get rid of them and get paper money. Wish I had them silver dollars now.

Sheryl Koch: They get heavy after a while.

James Cameron: Oh yeah, here's another view of Rancho. That was their trademark, is that windmill thing on the top. There's a picture in front of the train station.

Sheryl Koch: Why didn't they ever have a train come up to Henderson?

James Cameron: No, Henderson was for the plants because they had - - when I first lived here, up until 1961 train tracks ran right down the road to the damn, right down to the top of the dam.

Sheryl Koch: Oh you could take a train - - -?

James R. Cameron

James Cameron: No, no, no, no, you couldn't take a train. That train was for bringing parts down because they didn't put the last generator in the Nevada side until 1961. That dam was completed in 1935 but they didn't install the last generator until 1961.

Sheryl Koch: I didn't know that.

James Cameron: Because they sold them generators as they needed them. You got to realize in 1935 there wasn't that big of use for that --

Sheryl Koch: Right.

James Cameron: And the same operator that, you know, if you ever seen the deals up at Boulder City, the construction of the dam and stuff and they would say - - here's a good color picture of the railroad station in the park.

Sheryl Koch: That's there in Henderson - - I mean in Las Vegas?

James Cameron: Yeah, that's where Bellagio is right now.

Sheryl Koch: Oh wow, that's nice. Wow! Well, I know we don't want to keep you all afternoon but I appreciate your time and I appreciate you coming out here and I know I'm going to be there Saturday night. Are you going to be there? So we'll look for you and you know, be able to maybe meet some of the people that you know and Dr. LaChapelle going to be there isn't he? Is Melissa going to be there? Okay, so that way - - and then like I said, if you check with your classmates or any of the people, like the lady there at the bar as talking about—anybody that we can help participate with the Oral History Project, you know, they have different ones. And the ones that they're going to be talking about there, but it's just important to, you know, record it.

James Cameron: Yeah, keep the facts straight before I'm dead.

Sheryl Koch: That way you can tell them how it was.

James Cameron: Yeah, I see so many things - - I'm a little foggy, I'm not foggy yet. I know what I know. That's like that Dante's Drive-in. "Oh you mean Dante's Supper Club?" "No, I mean Dante drive-in."

Sheryl Koch: Now where was that?

James Cameron: That was on - - there was a Texaco Station on the corner of Water Street and Lake Mead. And right next it was a little drive-in. In

fact, I posted that last night when I was trying to clarify some things with some guys and a guy goes, "Hey, I remember that," and if you look down this side of the photo, I think you'll see a picture posted to that.

Dante's Drive-In, it was a little hamburger joint and, you know, it wasn't much and they never - - they wasn't opened that long after I moved here, but then later on, let's see Joe Williams, Woody Carducci and somebody else had a lot do with the bowling alley up there and they - - and Joe Williams built Dante's Supper Club and that's the one people get mixed up with. Bill Dante Supper Club then later became Nick's Supper Club and Nick's Supper Club was the place to be in Henderson. Great lobster, I mean, wonderful food. Well the little building that used to be Dante's Drive-In, Woody Carducci, Fred Hartle, and somebody else bought that place and made it a beer bar, called it the Quickie Quickie bar⁶.

Sheryl Koch: Quickie Quickie.

James Cameron: Yeah, it was just a beer bar only and then later on they got their liquor license, but their-- they had always served the coldest beer you can get - -they always had their mugs frosted. You get a frosty beer and their matches said, "Our beer is twice as good, twice as strong and twice as cold, so for twice sake have a beer." But anyway, they had - - they got a liquor license and they built it a little bit bigger, not much and they added food. And they started delivering food to plants for the overtime meals [Inaudible].

They had Quickie Chickie that was good, chicken fingers and fries; they had the best hamburgers in town.

Laura Hutton: And Dante, how do you spell that?

James Cameron: D-a-n-t-e.

Laura Hutton: Okay.

James Cameron: Like movie Dante Peak or - -

Sheryl Koch: That would be interesting.

James Cameron: Dante's Drive-In and Dante's Supper Club.

⁶ Sandquist, Allen. Photograph of Quickie Quickie Bar matchbook. From Facebook: *You Know You're From Henderson If*. <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1283307040047&set=o.305204853951&type=3&theater> (accessed July 24, 2014).

Sheryl Koch: So it was two different places, it wasn't the same - - -

James Cameron: Two different -- totally - - one' a little tiny square building and the other one is big. It was a supper club, beautiful. And Nick he had-- - when you went in there, it wasn't soup or salad it was soup and salad.

Sheryl Koch: Let me ask you, down here on Sunset and Boulder Highway, it's the - there's a -- it's been a restaurant, it's been different things.

James Cameron: Oh, that -- -

Sheryl Koch: It's on the right hand side?

James Cameron: Yeah, it's -- there's another place on Stephanie that had the same name. It's closed too. Right hand side on Boulder Highway, when you pass Sunset it's on the right. The Road House.

Sheryl Koch: Yeah, the Road House.

James Cameron: Before that it was a Stuckey's. You know what a Stuckey's is?

Sheryl Koch: Yes, yes.

James Cameron: Oh you remember the old -- when you went to California in the middle of nowhere you see a Stuckey's - - sold the [Inaudible 2:07:17] rolls. It was a candy shop. Yeah, that was a Stuckey's when it was first built, that was a Stuckey's. Now later it became The Road House but then - - and later on there's a place on Stephanie called the Roadhouse Grille that have awesome food, but it's closed now. They had the peanuts and buckets and you ate them and threw the shells on the floor.

Sheryl Koch: You're making me hungry, Jim. You're talking about all this food, okay. Anything else you want to add before we shut off.

James Cameron: No I can't think of anything but - - -

Sheryl Koch: But if you do, just let one of know okay?

James Cameron: Okay.

Sheryl Koch: And then we'll see you Saturday night.

James Cameron: Alright.

James R. Cameron

Sheryl Koch: Okay, this is Sheryl and Laura and we're signing off.

James Cameron: Alright, this is Jim, bye!

Sheryl Koch: Bye!

[End of Audio]