

The logo is a large black circle containing a white silhouette of a person's head and shoulders. The text is yellow and positioned above and below the silhouette.

**Nevada State
College**

**Undergraduate Oral
History Project**

Oral History of James Edward Smalley Jr.

An Interview

Conducted by

Angela Garbarino

May 14, 2014

Nevada State College Undergraduate Oral History Project

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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 Edward Smalley Jr.

An interview conducted by Angela Garbarino on May 14, 2014

Biography

Ed Smalley moved to Henderson Nevada at four months old in 1950. Growing up in the “red brick era” which about four or five new buildings was made of red bricks. While growing up during this era, Ed hung out with his friends in the gymnasium, where there were pool tables, ping pong tables, and a room that had two baskets where they played whiffle ball. There was also an area for a swimming pool where he and his friends spent most of their time. After graduating high school Ed joined the Navy and served in the war in Vietnam. After returning to the states, he decided to go to college with the G.I. bill, so he went to school in Oregon.

Ed became a school teacher, and taught at Von Tobel, and Rancho High School for about fifteen years. A retired teacher, he sometimes substitutes for elementary school special classes, such as music and art, but secondary education was his specialty. He also strongly believes that Nevada can do more for higher education; a few people that he knows went to school out of state, came back and became some important people. He believes that if Nevada put more into higher education for students who want to go to college shouldn't have to go out of state to become something important in Nevada.

Narrator: James Edward Smalley Jr.
Interviewer: Angela Garbarino
Interview Date: May 14, 2014
Location: Henderson, Nevada

Angela Garbarino: I'm Angela Garbarino. I am interviewing Ed Smalley for the Undergraduate Oral History Project for Nevada State College.

Tell me a little bit about where you were born and raised and what your parents did for a living.

James Smalley Jr: Well, I was born at the old Las Vegas Hospital, on 8th and Ogden, in Las Vegas. We moved to Henderson when I was four months old, so that would be March of 1950. My dad was a school teacher and my mom, she was a stay at home until my youngest sister started school then she became a nurse. She worked at Rose de Lima originally and then she got on with the Clark County School District and became a school nurse and she was a school nurse for--. I'm still running into people who worked with her over the years.

Angela Garbarino: Tell me about your education.

James Smalley Jr: Well, you know, I went to kindergarten through twelfth grade here in Henderson and then I went into the Navy. And then after I got out of Navy, I went to college in Oregon. I got my Bachelor, Bachelor's Degree in 1975. I had a double major: English and Social Studies. It took me five years---that it wasn't---you know, I didn't have the draft pressure and I was getting the GI bill and I was enjoying it.

After college, I got a job in Salem; I was living in Oregon. I married my college sweetheart, got a job in Salem. I worked for the state for two years and I decided that wasn't going to be the job for me, so I went and went back to college and got my---the rest of the credits I needed to become Secondary Certified. And then I substituted and just about the time school started in the fall of '79, I got a job and I taught for eleven years at Seven Oak Middle School in Lebanon, Oregon.

And both of my boys were born there and then my wife ran off and then things got really ridiculous and then an opportunity opened up in Laughlin; down in '91. They opened up a brand new high school and I got on the staff there and after three years I came to

town here---to---because Laughlin was kind of a ways away. My dad was starting fading in health.

So I came up here to help with that because I got a job out at Von Tobel there was a principal there that I really liked and so I worked for him then he got a job at Rancho. He got the principal's job at Rancho and he took a bunch of us with him and I stayed there for fifteen years until I retired. Okay, did that answer your question [laughter]?

Angela Garbarino: One of them [laughter]. What were your home and the neighborhood like?

James Smalley Jr: Well, you know the old Townsite houses?

Angela Garbarino: The Victory Village---

James Smalley Jr: No, not Victory Village. Victory Village was across the highway.

Angela Garbarino: Oh okay.

James Smalley Jr: Townsite was those wooden houses and there's still some out there. They're basically three types of Townsite houses. And I could be wrong and there could be another type, but you know, wandering through these neighborhoods all my life really.

There was the two bedroom site entrance; you had a two bedroom house and you come into the carport and go in on the side. Then there's a two bedroom with a front entrance and the carport was on the side. And then there's a three bedroom, which was a side entrance. And I think there was even a three bedroom front entrance, I could be wrong, but I think---that's kind of the houses I remember. And I could tell you some of the people that lived [inaudible] [laughter] over the years. But there's still some of them still out there. I was just driving through the neighborhood today.

Angela Garbarino: Oh okay.

James Smalley Jr: And I---you know, my neighborhood, but some of the other neighborhoods, it's all one neighborhood now. But that was [pause] that was the town. And Wyoming Street, we had, you know, the states there, we had, you know, Atlantic and Pacific, Texas Avenue comes through to highway and then Atlantic goes one way, Atlantic goes south, Pacific goes north. And they cross again, here at the corner of Atlantic and Pacific out there on, you know, as it goes towards, what is now, Burkholder Middle School?

Angela Garbarino: Oh, right, right.

James Smalley Jr: That's what the high school was, but before that the high school was down on the city center. Are you familiar where the city hall? That's where all the schools were.

Angela Garbarino: Is that the downtown Henderson on Water Street? Or---?

James Smalley Jr: Yeah.

Angela Garbarino: Okay.

James Smalley Jr: Right down there. That's where I went to kindergarten through third grade and then I went to sixth grade through eighth grade there. Fourth grade and fifth grade, I went up to, what's now Gordon McCaw, it was called Basic Elementary at the time.

Angela Garbarino: [laughter] how funny.

James Smalley Jr: And I remember when that was built. And I remember Mom and Dad driving by on that old dirt road up above town, of course now it's swallowed up by town, but drove right by it and said that's the new Basic Elementary. Well, the second year I was there, the guy who came to be principal was Gordon McCaw; now it's McCaw Elementary from what I understand, so---.

Angela Garbarino: Can you tell me about who your neighbors were?

James Smalley Jr: Okay, now this is an interesting story you know, the Henderson and the cultural diversity. Now, years later I started to find out more about these families. But in Las Vegas and New Mexico there a group of people who are of Hispanic heritage, it would be wrong to call them Mexican because they were there in the Rio Bravo Valley around Las Vegas, New Mexico before the United States was the United States, but there's several families there and they came to our valley and a lot of them settled in Henderson.

Right across the street from us is a family named Ortiz and there were seven of them, eventually. When they came there was--- Mark was my age. He's still around. I go see him once in a while. Connie---Mark was a year older than me, Connie was my age, Dolores was my younger sister's age and then there was Helen. Dolores and Helen are gone now. And then Vickie was born not long after they were over there.

I saw something on the---you know, you're from Henderson site about her, born at Rose de Lima and I typed in, "Yeah, I was over at your house when you came home from the hospital."

And then there was Betty who was in my youngest sister's class. And then there's one after that I call Patricia; she was born when I was in the sixth grade. But we knew the Ortiz; I mean the families were in and out of each other's houses all the time. We grew up together, we know each other.

And then next door, a family, hot O'Neils. Okay, I think if any of them heard me use that word hot O'Neil they would be impressed because they were the Jaramillos. Aurora and Jecca Jaramillo lived next to us, hot O'Neil, okay? To be truthful. And they had their grandson, Joe, living with them. Now, Joe's parents and the rest of the family lived in Victory Village. And a lot of the Hispanic families lived in Victory Village at the time. And I knew all the Hispanic people. There's one of those guys that lives up in Oregon now. And I see him every now and then when I'm up there. I get a hold of him, Duke Leroy Sanchez. But I grew up with these guys. The guy that lived next door Joe, little Joe's the name he came. You can't find anybody my age who grew up in this town, who doesn't know who little Joe was. He passed away in 2000; he was only fifty years old.

Angela Garbarino: Oh my goodness.

James Smalley Jr: You know, [pause] when you know somebody that well and then you watch them all start to die away, that's when you start to, you know, looking over your shoulders saying, who's next? But you know, I can name some of these people and they're gone. Well, two of the seven Ortiz children are no longer with us and then sort of kept---right next to the Ortiz's there's a group that moved in, the guy I knew was Eddie O'Learis, Leo Montoya was his younger brother and Dickey Montoya. Dickey Montoya owns this flower shop up on the end of Water Street here.

Angela Garbarino: Oh okay.

James Smalley Jr: The Leo and Eddie are both---since are no longer with us. And then there's several girls. They lived there for maybe a year. But when they left, a family called Describins moved in there and I knew them. There was Victor; although Victor was hot O'Neil. I didn't know that until years later. And then there was Nita, Mayna, Ollie and Jojo and then there's Jim Sanchez and ---well we

called him Jim, but his name was Santiago and Michael, out of those, only one of them still alive.

Angela Garbarino: Oh my goodness.

James Smalley Jr: That's you know, kind of sad. As a matter of fact, Pete, the---one of the younger brothers, the younger brother there, he went in the Army and he served in the Army with a good friend of mine who's grew up on Arizona Way, a guy named Dave Wheat. Now the Wheats moved here in---when I was in the second grade and Dave was in the second grade. And I knew him from Cub Scouts. I knew who he was; there's a family on that street, the Alzibrooks.

They came here out of Colorado when---I got to say '53 or '54, it's one of those families I don't ever remember not knowing. But they bought a house in 1955 on Arizona Way and as a matter of fact, I passed by it a little earlier today and looked at it, but the Wheats moved in one house over from them. Are you familiar with the Ways over there? There's Arizona Way---

Angela Garbarino: A little bit.

James Smalley Jr: New Mexico Way, Montana Way, Colorado Way, Idaho Way then on the other side, on the Victory Road side of it. You know, this is---come off of Atlantic then on the other side there's Nevada Way, the Walgreens' is ----

Angela Garbarino: Oh yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah!

James Smalley Jr: See Victory Road comes into Lake Mead. I can remember the day when they called that the Frontier Highway, so I remember that, but anyway, there was Nevada Way, California Way. A guy I knew, I grew up with name Dick Winget lived on California Way. I saw him up in Montana, two or three years ago. He served as undersheriff of Metro for twenty-eight years or something---well, he served on Metro for twenty-eight years, but he retired as the undersheriff too.

Angela Garbarino: Oh ok!

James Smalley Jr: Jerry Keller and then there's Utah Way and Oregon Way and Washington Way and I might be leaving one out. But they were all there---they're all little cul de sacs, they still are, but---so I knew a lot of the families over there but the Wheat brothers, well--they're five of them. They're from Montana and they moved down here and Dave Wheat and I started running around when we

were sixth grade or something like that. We still see each other all the time. He lives in Idaho.

Angela Garbarino: What part?

James Smalley Jr: You know where Pocatello is?

Angela Garbarino: I'm from [inaudible].

James Smalley Jr: Just on, well Napa is over on the western part, Pocatello is kind of out in the southeastern corner and he went to Idaho State. Now, if I'm giving this interview, I want to put my little commercial in here. One thing Nevada needs to do, is do more to give post secondary education in this state. I mean, you're lucky, you got another college.

Angela Garbarino: Yes.

James Smalley Jr: When I graduated from high school there was University of Nevada, that was fairly well established and then down here we had, was then called Nevada Southern, just about a dozen buildings out there on that lot. That of course eventually became UNLV. Now it was a big vacant empty spot and these things would grow, the tumbleweeds would grow and get bone rotten and so we gave it the scornful nickname of "Tumbleweed Tech." There's some people from my age group that would probably remember that nickname and that's all it was. You go to Tumbleweed Tech or Reno, that's why I wound up in Oregon.

Now Dave's brother, Mike Wheat, he was about three years older than me and Dave. He graduated from Basic. He worked at the plant for a couple of years and then he went into the Marines and served in Vietnam. And then of course, you know, at that time, we got out of service we had the G.I. bill paying us to go to school. Well, not paying us to go to school, but helping subsidize our education and Mike went to Montana State there in Bozeman.

His parents, of course, moved away to Arizona---Montana too. But Dave got out of the Army and he went to school up there and Dave came back a couple of summers and worked at the pool, the old pool, not the one that was there now. That's red bricks, if you'll allow me to get into that in a few minutes.

Angela Garbarino: Of course.

James Smalley Jr: But [cough] excuse me. Anyway, while Dave was home in the summer working at the pool, another Henderson girl, Pandora Schmidt, who was going to school at Idaho State was working there and they got together and they got married and Dave went to school in Idaho, Idaho State; that's where he graduated from. Okay, now, Mike Wheat is on the Montana Supreme Court, he's one of the justices there, that's one of our people that took a job out of state and became somebody really important. Now that could have been here.

Angela Garbarino: Yes.

James Smalley Jr: Okay, now Dave. Dave graduated from Idaho State. He got a Masters in Educational Specialist in Idaho and he became a principal for the Marsh Valley School District, he was in several of the schools there and he was twenty years or so or like thirty years there. He stills lives up there, but Pandora was at dental assistant and she worked in Pocatello. Those are local people that could be here.

But no, we don't account for it, give anybody an education so there they go. You know, it's an investment and we don't do it. You know, like you go to Oregon there and there's University of Oregon, there's Oregon State, there's Portland State but then there's Western Oregon, where I went to school, it was called Oregon College of Education then, Eastern Oregon, Southern Oregon, so that's you know, that's colleges for state supporting--- colleges for the people. And they don't have to run all over the country recruiting. You know, because they call the recruiting--- the placement office at my school and she gave them my name and so that's how I got my job there, through the placement office. They didn't run around recruiting. So there's another thing we could do if we invest in higher education, but that's my opinion.

Angela Garbarino: You mentioned the red bricks. Can you tell me about that?

James Smalley Jr: Okay, you see when I first came to Henderson it was the Townsite area and there was the Victory Village and Carver Park. Are you familiar with Carver Park?

Angela Garbarino: A little bit, yes. [laughter]

James Smalley Jr: Okay. Carver Park has been gone for a long time. Originally back before the Brown versus the Board of Education, are you familiar with that?

Angela Garbarino: Yes.

James Smalley Jr: Okay. Carver Park was sort of the segregated part of the town and when they're building, you know, for World War II, when they build those plants, they moved the African American---African American workers lived out there and there was a store out there and there was a school out there, a little four or five room building. But you know, when the war ended [pause] there's more integration in the town, but right about that '53, '54, '55 that's an ad, what I told you earlier, was track one.

Angela Garbarino: Yes.

James Smalley Jr: The triangle, most stucco houses, then track two came along. Before I was in school, track two was being built. And at the edge of town, the town kind of ended up there on Basic Road, okay? They started to build some municipal buildings and up there, Lead Street, you know Lead Street and Basic Road come together.

Angela Garbarino: Yes.

James Smalley Jr: Now, you're right across the street there. There's a ---I think it's a recreation building; it was a new one there and the pool. But they were built out of these red bricks. The Henderson pool and the recreation center, now the high school was built---the high school opened---they built the new high school. The original Basic High School is right down there in the city center. All the school buildings were there. And they opened that in January of '54.

Now as it was my understanding, I was talking to a guy here the other night and he was saying that he was in that class, the class of '54, but they started out the fall of '53 at the old Townsite area where the school was and then in January when they came back from Christmas break '54, they went to the new high school and that was a red brick high school. And those started to become the buildings that kind of defined the lives of the generation of this era. Because in the summer you go to the pool, every kid in town was at the pool in on summer days.

It was just amazing just zillions of us. And I look back and I wonder, was it really that many kids? I mean, but it seemed like it was an awful lot of kids at that pool and we're all swimming and playing tag and then the life guard's blowing the whistle and putting us on the bench if we were running or violating the rules. [laughter]

Angela Garbarino: So you were a trouble maker?

James Smalley Jr: Well, it was kind of a thing with a lot of the kids, you know, it was kind of a game they're having. And then the other one, the Youth Center, on days you didn't go to the pool, you go to the Youth Center. Now originally they had the pool tables over there and a couple of ping pong tables.

Now to play pool you had to be as tall as the cue or they wouldn't let you play. But they had kind of a gymnasium there and they really didn't do much with it. They put baskets in it---my sophomore, junior year of high school, somewhere around there, they put baskets in it and you were able to play basketball there, but originally they gave---they had a plastic ball and bat and so we play whiffle ball, indoors in the Youth Center and we go up there and spend hours doing that---till we got old enough to go in and play pool. And the guy who ran the---well, there's a guy name Dalby Shirley who ran the Youth Center, I think he was in charge of the whole complex, the pool and the Youth Center.

He was a boxing referee for some major fights, I guess, that happened here in Vegas or scorer or one of those things. I know he was big in the fight game. But he hired the---this guy's name, Charles Swift; now the Swift family has been around here forever. As a matter of fact, one of the families that grew up next door me was the Swift family.

There's a guy name, well---Chuck Swift is what I knew him as, Chuckie, we all called him and---but anyway, I think that Pap---this guy was his grandfather and they called him Pappy. Everybody knew him as Pappy Swift and I was in my 30s and I was home one Christmas and I ran into him and he was in his 90s then. Because he was---he really seemed old to us then, I mean, I sit back and think about it now, it didn't seem like that long, he might not have been that old, but he's the guy that ran the Youth Center.

Angela Garbarino: Oh okay.

James Smalley Jr: And he kept us playing and kept it in order. You sit there and play pool or sometimes he'd be playing pool with somebody and we sit in there on the bench and he go into some of the stories about his childhood and things like that, you know, which was obviously someplace else. Because you know, when I talked about the "red brick generation," there's only one generation. Because our parents came from someplace else, by the time our kids came of

age, it was gone. I mean it was still here, but it was a different town.

And then the fourth of the red brick buildings---and its still stands. If you go---you know where those two buildings I referred to as the Youth Center and the pool? Alright, as you go down on Basic Road, there's a little off road, I can't tell you what the name of it is but it will run you right into McCaw. Now there's a church there, an old Lutheran Church, that was one of the red brick buildings too. From what I understand, it was the same contractor who did all four of them.

And then when they remodeled the high school in---well, I guess the whole school year of the '62-'63 school year, they were remodeling the high school because they were going to make it a four year high school. And when I went into junior high, Henderson Junior High at the time was at the old, what is now the city center. We had three classes: seventh, eighth and ninth. And it was crowded. I mean gazillion of kids all the time. And after that year, the ninth grade went up the high school to become the sophomores and the eighth grade went up to become the first freshmen class at the new building, since like '53 or '54, somewhere back in the early fifties. And---the next year, we went up on the first freshman class to go up by ourselves.

Angela Garbarino: Oh wow!

James Smalley Jr: And then that class that went up there in ninth grade, you know, the ninth grade class when I was in seventh grade, it became the sophomore class the next year. One of those guys in that class, a guy name James Gibson. He's ---his father is who this library is named after and, of course, Les Charles, ever heard of him?

Angela Garbarino: I don't think so.

James Smalley Jr: Glen and Les Charles? You ever watch the TV series, *Cheers*?

Angela Garbarino: No.

James Smalley Jr: They were the writers of *Cheers*.

Angela Garbarino: Okay.

James Smalley Jr: There were again, we didn't have college opportunities, they went to school in L.A. and they're teaching school down there and they

were writing these scripts and see what we can do and they finally got through---they did a *M-A-S-H* episode. You ever watched a *M-A-S-H* series?

Angela Garbarino: I did.

James Smalley Jr: The one where Hawkeye was---they told Hawkeye's parents that he was dead?

Angela Garbarino: Oh yeah.

James Smalley Jr: They wrote that one.

Angela Garbarino: Oh wow!

James Smalley Jr: And there's a couple of other ones that they wrote and then they got their own TV series and so now they're local legends. Again, talent we could have had, but went to school someplace else and we don't have them anymore.

Angela Garbarino: If only---

James Smalley Jr: Well, yeah, of course I don't know how many jobs or screenwriters we have here, but you know, it's just an example of the brain drain that we have. But anyway, he was in that class, among others, I don't know, I'm just kind of rambling here. But I can remember, my dad---he came out here in the summer of '49. My mom was from Caliente, do you know where that is?

Angela Garbarino: I do.

James Smalley Jr: Alright. She was from Caliente. They came there---her father came there in 1915 with her grandfather when they bought a ranch. Okay, her father became---my grandfather became the Sheriff of Lincoln County. Well, my dad is from Southern Ohio, now how in the heck did a guy from Southern Ohio and a lady from Southern Nevada get together and they met in Colorado, of course.

Well, how does that work? [laughter] Well, the war was going on. They graduated from the same year high school, '42, I believe it was. And my mom went to college at the University of Colorado in Boulder, got into the nursing program and they sent her to Denver to the nursing school and that's where she was working and then my dad, he went into the Army---the Air force, the Air force and they were out there in Denver training. Well, one of the guys one his crew knew one of the nurses in moms little group.

And so, they called up and said, “Hey, can you set my friend up,” so his girlfriend set my friend up with this other lady. Well, this other lady, at the last minute, backed out, so Mom stepped in and there we go. So when the war was over, Dad came out and saw Mom in Colorado and he went back to Ohio and then they’re correspondence---they decided to get married. And she told me this story and said, “We’ll get married if you do it right now.” So, she jumped on a train and went to Ohio.

Angela Garbarino: Oh wow!

James Smalley Jr: And---let's see, he got out in December of '45 and they were married in February of '46 and he was trying to get several jobs around there she was ---as far as she was concerned she as living in Ohio. And dad was working in a cement factory where they were bagging cement and hurt his back. And she was saying, “You shouldn’t be doing this. You got the G.I. bill, why don’t you go to college?”

So they went up to Ohio State in Columbus and Dad finished in two in a half years. And it was right there towards the end of his two and a half years when mom decided that she go back to Colorado and get her ---finish up her nursing degree and then, of course, she got a chance to go home to see her parents and everything and there’s these newspaper articles I was reading about having a little get together for her.

But anyway, they went back to Ohio and Dad graduated in December and he got a job in someplace in Virginia, I can’t tell you where. But anyway, he finished out the school year and he applied to all eighty-eight counties in Ohio and several of the school districts around in Virginia and he wasn’t getting any results. So Mom got a hold of her dad, like I told you, he was the sheriff of Lincoln County at one time.

One of the guys was on the school board down here in Las Vegas; that was before they came to Clark County School District. And he talked to him and so dad got a job. So here they are in the August of 1949, dad and my pregnant mother with me [laughter] coming across the country and come to Las Vegas and dad taught at the old Fifth Street School.

Here’s an interesting little side light on that, I got a Facebook question from somebody, who had him as a teacher in the 40s, “Are you the Mr. Smalley that was a teacher in the 40s?” “Uhh,

that was my dad. [laughter] If you had him as a teacher in the 40s you're older than I am." But dad came to---finally got a job in Henderson I think, '52, fall of '52, I think it was. You know, they're looking for a place and they came out to Henderson. Henderson was doing something, trying to move these people--- you know, move these houses, but you know after World War II, there's a huge housing shortage. And that's when---but mom got us into that place on Wyoming Street and that's where we were for almost forty years.

Angela Garbarino: Oh my goodness!

James Smalley Jr: But my dad got in Henderson, I think in '52. That's when he got the job there. And so he would walk to school. Because from that house on Wyoming Street to the school is a real short walk. Seemed like a long walk to me when I was a kid. But it was a real short walk. And I remember he would come home at lunch and then he would go back to school and my mom put me down for a nap.

Well, I got up one morning, one night, one afternoon there, after the nap and I was going to go see where dad was, because I driven by the school a couple of times and I knew where it was. And I walked up to the school and I remember walking up there and there was people everywhere. I was just a little kid, I was scared. And this little girl comes up to me and says, "Are you lost little boy?" And I had no idea, "I want to find my daddy."

And they passed me around to a couple of people, next thing I knew, here comes Mom and she's breathing fire, "What are you doing over there?" [laughter] Because I guess---that's Jim's kid and called home and---but I remember how intimidated I was. I was kind of intimidated by that school until I got older. But there was---everything was in such easy walking distance. The downtown, you know, everybody talks about Water Street.

Angela Garbarino: Yes.

James Smalley Jr: They don't remember that the downtown originally was Market Street. Do you even know where Market Street is?

Angela Garbarino: No, I can't tell you.

James Smalley Jr: It's one street over from Water Street.

Angela Garbarino: Really?

James Smalley Jr: Yeah. It ran between Pacific and Atlantic. And it ended at the school, only the school's gone now. Now the Eldorado moved out and took over part of Market Street and---but anyway, on Market Street we had Food Land and Prime Meats; that was our two grocery stores. And there was several shops, you know, Prime Meats---Food Land almost had a shopping centers. Food Land and several different stores and then they had the sidewalk that went down---like this guy, I remember we used to ride our bikes down there and spin around the corner.

And then there were businesses around the corner and I think that is---I think that's Army Street. It goes like this and it makes a little [inaudible] down on Market and then goes by what is now the Rainbow, which is Prime Meats then and over there where the Wells Fargo Bank was---is, you know, right, that was a post office; an old brick post office that was there. And during Christmas every year, they put up a Christmas tree and the Fire Department would bring Santa Claus down and all the kids in town get in the line to see Santa Claus and got sit in his lap and he'd give you candy cane. And all my friends in the neighborhood were up there and, course you run into everybody; because you knew everybody from town, you know everybody's in school with you. And that was one of the big events, I remember. But you know, we walked to town, walked to the stores. And then you know where the movie theater was?

Angela Garbarino: The new one or---?

James Smalley Jr: No, the old original---it was originally called the Victory Theatre.

Angela Garbarino: Oh, okay.

James Smalley Jr: And it closed down and it came back as a Henderson Theatre. And---but anyway that was---you know, there on Market Street and Army Street goes over there and the Eldorado parking garage is down there now. The old drug store, you know where that was don't you?

Angela Garbarino: No.

James Smalley Jr: On the corner of Market and Army Street.

Angela Garbarino: Okay.

James Smalley Jr: Kind of like across the street from the Rainbow Club.

Angela Garbarino: Yes.

James Smalley Jr: That was the drug store, Rexall Drug. It was there for years. And then you go down Army Street and there's several other little stores there. I don't know if you hear, the other night, you guys talked about Bill Burns?

Angela Garbarino: No.

James Smalley Jr: Bill Burns was the mayor of Henderson for a while. And they had that little store there. But then the movie theaters was over---right there and I'm trying to think---that's Panama Street that goes down this way, connecting Atlantic and Pacific before Atlantic and Pacific come together or cross each other.

But the fire station was up there and the police station and that's all there was; no other police or fire stations in town at the time, its right there. And then the Show House was over there, the big building, the old Victory Theatre and that was another thing, on Saturday afternoons, every kid in town was in there for the matinee and you know, of course, going to school with everybody, you knew everybody. And during Christmas they have a big feature there with all the movies and everything.

But one of the interesting stories, you know, my dad, he'd go up to the movie on a movie night and he take me with him. You know, just walk up to the street to it, you know, from bottom of Wyoming up to the Victory Theatre, it's not that long of a walk, but at the time it seemed like it was. But he'd take me up there and we go walk up there and watch the movies and I eventually nod out during the movie and he have to carry me all the way home. [laughter] That was one of the stories I remember. I talked about with him years later.

But that was---their generation, there was no television, they would go to the movies and all the towns had these movie theaters, you know and you would be---they have two features a week. They have a Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday movie or a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday movie, and not have a Thursday, and Friday, Saturday, and Sunday with a matinee on Saturday. And that was the entertainment in towns all over the country, you know, Dad's town and Mom's town. So anyway that was Dad's idea of a night out.

We didn't have a television. I remember our first television we bought; it was 1955, I was five years old and we finally got one. But I remember when the Ortiz's moved in, they had one and I go over there house and watch TV [laughter] and so Dad decided it was time to buy a TV and---. But anyway, walking up town was just a standard thing. Now what we would do as neighborhood kids, you know, we're going to go to the Saturday matinee, so we get a little money and it didn't take a lot of money, like for thirty-five cents, you could do all these things. You stop---it's Porteals II, you know where that is?

Angela Garbarino: No.

James Smalley Jr: Alright, you go up Water Street and its right across from the Eldorado. It's go an old unimpressive looking brick building there.

Angela Garbarino: Oh okay.

James Smalley Jr: I remember when they built that as the Arctic Circle and it was built in '53 or '54, somewhere around there. But anyway, by the time I was old enough to go to the movie, you know, we go there and buy a ten cent Coke, which was maybe twelve ounces or so, I couldn't remember, can't remember, but seemed like a lot at the time.

And the movie was going to start maybe at noon or one or something like that and we buy the Coke and we go into the Rexall Drug store and they had a big lunch counter. Now, are you familiar with the drug stores with the lunch counter?

Angela Garbarino: Yes.

James Smalley Jr: Right Cross Drug had on up until just---even in the last decade, I remember them having one but that was a big feature is the old---well anyway, they had the lunch counter and the comic book stand. And so we go in there, we get the comics, read the comic books [laughter] without paying for them, of course, drinking sodas that we bought down at the [inaudible] and we read the comic books until it was time to go to the movie. And then we go into the movie and we get in the movie and buy popcorn for, you know, that's a thirty-five cent day there.

Angela Garbarino: What other activities did you do when you were younger?

James Smalley Jr: Well, we used to have---you know, well I remember---they now call it Heritage Days, but it was Industrial Days and that was a big

deal. Up where the Eldorado is now, there's a lot of vacant lot there and that's where the carnival would be and that was a big deal to be able to go to the carnival. And the Industrial Days Parade, a lot of people don't know this, but originally it went down Market Street, which is a lot shorter walk if you compared it today. But it was back in the fifties somewhere that eventually it went down Water Street, but that was a big deal. And then---and I told you about the Christmas and Santa Claus and summer at the pool and the Youth Center.

The old gymnasium at the high school, the first high school, it's a real cracker box kind of thing. But I remember, I went to a basketball game there so---because the high school was playing. And you had to sit in this little bleachers that at the end of the---end of the gymnasium, there may be forty people at the most may be. But I went to a game there or so but when they opened that gymnasium, what is it now? Burkholder?

Angela Garbarino: Yes.

James Smalley Jr: That was the town---the big thing for the town. The big auditorium and we went up to---basketball and football games are a big deal and people went up there to see those games. You know, every kid in town was there when we were playing football. Every kid in town was there when basketball was being played. And that was really, really something. We used to have a Christmas program---Miriam Burkholder, who is the wife of the guy that the school is name after because he was our first superintendent. She directed the elementary kids in a Christmas program in the fourth, fifth and sixth grades because sixth grades was still elementary in those days.

Angela Garbarino: Right.

James Smalley Jr: And we had four elementary schools in town. When I reached fourth grade, we had four elementary schools: Townsite, which is gone, that's in the original city center, Basic Elementary, which is now McCaw, Park Village, which is now Robert Taylor, and Valley View; which opened when I was in fourth grade; that's now C.T. Sewell. Those were the four elementary schools in town. And we packed all the kids up to the high schools for the big dress rehearsal and they put us in a fourth, fifth, and six graders and we sing in this program.

I remember going there when I was in second grade and third grade, I believe. I can't remember, it's been a while [laughter].

And we watch the performance of the elementary kids and---for the Christmas program. And then I was in it in the fourth, fifth and sixth grade myself. So that was a big deal.

And Titanium Field, which is kind of over---was over there in this--the shopping center it's long gone now. That was where the little league would play, and in the summers people pack in there and watch baseball. And I played---well, I was on the little league teams [laughter] for a couple years and I wasn't very good I guess, but [laughter] I was a member. One of the guys on one of my little league teams when I was in---somewhere between fourth and fifth grade year was Jim Gibson again, old James Gibson's son. I knew James Gibson by the way; as a matter of fact, they sent a wedding present to my first wedding.

Angela Garbarino: Oh my goodness!

James Smalley Jr: Yeah. Well my dad went to their weddings, a couple of theirs. David was a year older than me and Jim was two years older than me. Dave was a year younger than me and Jim was two years older than me. So I was on the teams with them. I played football at the high school; Jim Gibson was a football player. We used to have the Pop Warner; I guess Pop Warner was what you would call it.

Angela Garbarino: Yes.

James Smalley Jr: But you see when the high school was downtown, there's a big football field there and they had bleachers on each side. One side the bleachers are built into the hill. Now when they moved to the high school, they took the bleachers on the one side up to the high school to be bleachers, but those white bleachers sat there forever. As long as they're at the high school, they had that football field and bleachers well into the seventies.

Angela Garbarino: Oh my goodness!

James Smalley Jr: I think maybe even into the eighties. Because I remember I took my kids walking around town with me and we still lived---Mom and Dad still lived down in the Townsite. They were little, but it was in the eighties and we walked around and I walked to a lot of these old places. That was my last trip to the old Show House building before they turned it into a swap meet or something by then. But they tore that down not long after that.

But I remember we have our football practices there with the Pop Warner and there be---oh, you'd have five, six teams practicing in certain spots on that field and a lot of kids in town played that. I mean kids from the little league and Pop Warner and then at that old elementary school, the school in the middle town, the Townsite School; when I was in third grade, they start building what we call the new gym because the old cracker box that I was tell you about, that was still there; we turned it into a lunchroom when I was in elementary school, that's where I went to lunch all the time and even in junior high, we went through lunch there. But up on the hill, you know, because the school had a hill, you know, there's classroom buildings all over down ---and up the hill they had the shop, they had the original locker room...

Angela Garbarino: Oh wow!

James Smalley Jr: ...the football field, basketball courts, basketball court, tennis courts at the other end, which one of you were saying that you went to Gibson Library in the other location, that's where it was. [laughter] They took out those old tennis and basketball courts to put the Gibson Library in there.

Angela Garbarino: Okay!

James Smalley Jr: And then they had a bunch of buildings up there. And then they built the new gym. But it wasn't just a gymnasium, it was the home ec room and the locker rooms, arts and crafts was in there; I don't know, it's been a while. But you know, I've gone to substitute at Knudson and Hyde Park middle schools, both of those schools were built about the same time they were using---this is Henderson Junior High and I walk into those gymnasiums there and it's the same design and I could see it, it's like, wow! Back at the old junior high gym, but we hold the dances up there and of course that was a basketball, you know, a lot of basketballs play there.

We played City League Basketball out there. We had that one side bleachers and the stage on the other side so and the Henderson Industrial Days Beauty Pageant was held there and that was something that a lot of us would do, go up to the beauty pageant to see the, you know, the beauty contest. It was girls we knew and a bunch of guys sitting around making stupid comments [laughter]. And I remember my sisters were getting old enough to go into that and my mom says, "No!" My mom was [pause] quite---well, the term used to be the "liberated woman." She said that she didn't want her daughters looked at as beauty objects.

Angela Garbarino: Oh, it makes sense.

James Smalley Jr: Yeah, well you know, both of my sisters---my youngest sister stills lives in town. She taught for ---oh gosh---almost thirty years in Clark County School District. And my older sister, the one that was closer to my age, you know, she was two years younger than me, the other one is five years younger than me. But she was---worked with the Nevada Department of Welfare Child Protective Services or Child Services---Child and Family Services or whatever you know, it changed names, but she eventually was the professor at the University of Nevada, but she had cancer and she eventually passed away while she was working in the capacity. But she was up in the Reno area for a long time so, it wasn't like they were going to be stay at home housewives or anything like that. Not that I'm speaking against that, but you know, that was my mother's point of view.

Angela Garbarino: Yes.

James Smalley Jr: And both of my wives had been---had careers of their own.

Angela Garbarino: Do you remember some of the folklores and stories that people told Henderson?

James Smalley Jr: Hmmm, I've haven't put any thought into that. [pause] I'm not sure. [pause] I can't really remember any---any stories. You know, there was always the story, that if you want to climb over Black Mountain there's an old ghost town back there, which we all know is true now because you can drive behind the place. You know, there's housing development there and everything.

Angela Garbarino: Oh yes.

James Smalley Jr: And I do remember, you know, I told you about my friend Dave Wheat?

Angela Garbarino: Yes.

James Smalley Jr: Well, when I was old enough to drive, dad bought a pick-up and I drove that pick-up. He and I would go driving around town. Well you know, we go up to Pacific Avenue and this was before that freeway was in there---the interstate, 95 I guess is what it is now. But we drive up the Pacific and keep going and turn into a dirt road. Actually, Pacific there between Horizon and the railroad track was a dirt road until after my senior year in high school and I

was with the county road department and we paved it. But anyways it was an old dirt road and we kept driving one day and we drove; we went out behind Black Mountain there and eventually we came out down on that road by Searchlight.

Angela Garbarino: Oh okay.

James Smalley Jr: ...and then we came back up, yeah. So that was our exploration that night. It was a lot smaller then than it is now. I know we used to wander out in the desert all the time; that was a big thing. There was a family that lived up the alley, you know, down the old Townsite area, they have the alleys.

Angela Garbarino: Yes.

James Smalley Jr: You're familiar with those, yeah. That was---I haven't really seen those in any other place, but up the alley on the---of the side of the Atlantic Street was a family called the English's. And I guess they been here---I guess his dad originally came not long after the plant was opened under Titanium. And his dad worked for Titanium till he retired. Now Ron got a job in the summer of '69, after we graduated from high school, he tried to go to NSU, which became UNLV, and then that summer he got a job working at the plant and he's still there.

Angela Garbarino: Oh my goodness!

James Smalley Jr: Yeah. But there were four boys and a girl; the English brothers. Now Ron was born in March of 1950, so I don't ever remember not knowing Ron. Because I remember they come down, they be wearing their diapers and they go down the alley and they go out---there's chunks of desert by the you know, between the two lanes of Boulder Highway, I don't know if you know this but there used to be an underpass that went under Boulder Highway that you could walk under.

Angela Garbarino: Oh wow!

James Smalley Jr: Those are have been gone for ---forever. [Laughter] But they were there---then a flood came in the fifties sometime and kind of filled them in. But people would walk from the town, walk under those and you'd get into Victory Village. But anyway, you go over there on the other side of the highway and there was desert everywhere and what they now call Morrell Park, that was out in the desert.

Angela Garbarino: Oh okay, I know where that is.

James Smalley Jr: We used to call it the New Park because there was a park in Victory Village and so it is now Morrell Park was the New Park and I remember them building that. But the English brothers go out there and they catch lizards and snakes and they always had these boxes---because the furniture and appliance stores are always throwing away these boxes away, there big boxes and if you're quick enough to get by, you could get one of those and they make great toys. [laughter] We all played in them. They have dirt in them and they put snakes and lizards, you know, it was a boys' household there.

Angela Garbarino: It sounds like it.

James Smalley Jr: Yeah. Well, I knew those guys all my life, so-- But anyway, those are some of things; wandering around the desert and then when they---when the water district---well, you know the---when the city was built and they built those---the water plant, which is right there, the head of Ocean and Water and then, of course, Ocean crosses Water and goes up at the time became just a dirt road up there and there's nothing up there after that, you know when you got up that far. But that's where the water supply was and hence the term Water Street because it went up to the water tank.

That was even before track two was built, but track two was built shortly after that and water went on into it. But the water would come down through a wash and out there by the bowling alley. Are you familiar with the bowling alley over there off of Boulder Highway and Major?

Angela Garbarino: Yes.

James Smalley Jr: Yeah, okay. In between Major and the bowling alley was a wash and the water would be purged from the---from the water system up there, come down there every now and---the [inaudible] bushes and all that other stuff and we play up there. One of my friends called it white wash. And that was one of the places where we go up and play. And of course the big concrete conduit that went back there and we play in there, but we didn't want to get in there too far, we didn't know what we were going to find.

Angela Garbarino: Can you tell me about the early politics in Henderson?

James Smalley Jr: Well Bill Burns, I told you about his---he was the mayor. That's one of the first mayors I remember. And there's a guy name French, he was a councilman and that's what I remember. Jim Gibson he was elected into the Assembly when I was in the second grade I think. I remember, you know, the triangle over there where it comes into Boulder Highway; that used to be the Dodge dealership.

Angela Garbarino: Oh okay.

James Smalley Jr: And there's the---the building is still there. But you know, they had a political rally there one time and I met this guy, I was eight years old. I met this guy who's running for senate, his name was Allen Bible. You ever heard of him?

Angela Garbarino: Roughly.

James Smalley Jr: Yeah, he was a senator for a lot of years for Nevada. He knew my grandfather, but I remember meeting him there. And then I remember one morning, my mom went to school with a guy name Ralph [inaudible] up there in Caliente, he lived in Boulder City and he was an attorney for years.

Well he came over one morning with this guy he wanted my parents to meet and they were sitting there talking and I went out there and that guy that they wanted him to meet was running for Governor, his name was Grant Sawyer. So I met Grant Sawyer [laughter] and I remember running around town passing out handbills for Grant Sawyer. Mom gave it to me and couple of my friends a dollar for passing out handbills. [laughter] Those are some of things that I remember.

My dad ran for the Assembly. I was gone. I was in the Navy and it was the election of the 1970 where he ran for Assembly here in Henderson and he won. Of course I was over in Vietnam and they tried to send me a telegram and they couldn't get it because---I don't know what happened but it wasn't as easy just---hey, here's an e-mail, your dad won the election.

Angela Garbarino: Right.

James Smalley Jr: But they sent me a letter saying that Dad won and I was happy to hear that. And then the next year I was out of the Navy and I was home for a while in the summer of '72 and I helped Dad campaign and he won a second term. And then '74 campaign, I wasn't here I

was---kind of got my life up in Oregon at the time, but that's when he lost the '74 campaign.

A guy name Morry Zenoff, he was a publisher of the Henderson Home News and he kind of wrote in a cheap shot article about my dad. You know Dad was---Dad was always saying this over and over again, "I'm going to be known as an honest politician, I'm not going to fix a ticket for anybody." And every time they give him campaign contribution he says, "You know, this entitles you to is good honest government?" "Oh that's what we want." But you know, he was a politician that couldn't be bought.

Angela Garbarino: Yes.

James Smalley Jr: Well, we can't have that. So, they go buy his opponent and you know, if I've learned one thing over the years, yeah, that's one thing, but there's that politically correct thing you have to do.

Angela Garbarino: Yes.

James Smalley Jr: I know when I was umpiring soft ball. I got myself in trouble time and time again because I wouldn't make the politically correct call. I was making the correct call. Now the team that's putting the tournament on and it's close call and goes against them, they get mad at you and they hate you for the rest of your life [inaudible 0:59:10]...

Angela Garbarino: Oh yes!

James Smalley Jr: ...attack your---you know, that's not fair, but that's the way it is.

Angela Garbarino: Oh yes!

James Smalley Jr: You know and that's one of those----that was one of the bones in my head when I was teaching is all students are the same. There is no [pause] variation for you because your dad's on the school board. Well, now, [pause] I could feel that way, maybe the parent would even feel that way, but when the parent got upset, then now they talked to the principal and of course [noise], yes sir, whatever you want. You know, with ---those are other issues, but yeah, I first really started my political awareness here in this town and like I said Dad was there, we were Democrats and I still am. [laughter] And that kind of gets me in some arguments with some people [laughter] but now that I am a retired teacher, I don't really have to bend to political wills or anything like that.

Angela Garbarino: Of course.

James Smalley Jr: What's that?

Angela Garbarino: Said of course.

James Smalley Jr: Yeah, yeah. Michael Callahan, you know who he is, was.

Angela Garbarino: I heard the name.

James Smalley Jr: I'm just--[inaudible] Callahan Middle School, was governor of the state of Nevada. Well, he ran for governor--he taught at the high school here.

Angela Garbarino: Okay.

James Smalley Jr: Well after---just after we got the red brick building. And we was there for a couple of years and then went someplace, but then he ran for governor. And he was the governor when Dad was in the Assembly.

Angela Garbarino: Oh okay.

James Smalley Jr: And I remember whenever I see Michael Callahan, I shake hands--he knew who I was and I shake hands with him, even into the last year of his life...

Angela Garbarino: Oh wow!

James Smalley Jr: He was a real personable guy. You don't get to know the governor of a state like that any place but Nevada in those days.

Angela Garbarino: Right.

James Smalley Jr: It's probably not the same now.

Angela Garbarino: I doubt it.

James Smalley Jr: But you know the school district was a pretty political place, it always has been and always will be.

Angela Garbarino: Of course.

James Smalley Jr: And Dad knew all the people and they knew him, you know? It took a while to get that school named after him. My youngest sister made the attempt to try to get a school named after him because it

was both of them because his mom was a school nurse for a long time. She had---she helped establish the first nursery school here in town, that old Youth Center that I told you about?

Angela Garbarino: Oh yes!

James Smalley Jr: Yeah, they were starting to take preschool kids up there and spend some time with them. Doris Reed Elementary, you've heard of that?

Angela Garbarino: Yes.

James Smalley Jr: Oh okay. Doris Reed came from England after the war. Her and her three kids, and of course, since she didn't have her green card she ran a nursery school. And I was one of the students in that nursery school. Another one of those students in that nursery school was a guy by the name of Les Charles. [coughing] Excuse me. But among others you know, there's just a bunch of us and it was over on ---let's see where my bearings back up there would be. You know where Manganese swings around like this....?

Angela Garbarino: Yes.

James Smalley Jr: Okay, it was over on Manganese, I think it was the last building taken before the two that are still standing.

Angela Garbarino: Okay.

James Smalley Jr: And that's where she had her nursery school at one time. Now my uncle who's only nine years older than me [laughter], he was staying with us one time and Mom had to work and Dad had to work and so he put us in the wagon and pulled us across town to the nursery school. And we still talk about that every now and then. Not that I ever remember it but mom told us the story about that but then Doris got a house up on [pause] Basic Road or Tungsten one of the two. I'd recognize the house right away if I saw it...

Angela Garbarino: Okay.

James Smalley Jr: But---and she start holding her nursery school there. And then of course she got her green card and she got out there [pause] junior high and she lived well into her nineties.

Angela Garbarino: What kind of things happened in Henderson that didn't happen anywhere else?

James Smalley Jr: Well, like I told you, the one generation. You won't see that where [pause] a town is only one way for one generation. You know, the parents that came someplace else and like I said, by the time our kids came along it was a different town. So, the one generation of the red brick era, I guess. But the growth, I remember how it just kept growing and growing and growing and growing and old dirt roads and trails all of a sudden became roads, like the high school. The old red brick school now Burkholder. You know that gym still up there?

Angela Garbarino: Yes.

James Smalley Jr: That's the only part left and they made it a lunchroom. I substituted up there one time. I couldn't believe it. I walked into the gym and I go, "The lunchroom, this is the gym---this is where---the cultural center of the town!" But [pause] that was---that school just really started to grow. But originally and I could remember for years, we go out to the high school and that road you know, you'd go up Pacific and then what is Van Wagenen, you know, Pacific end and then you go out there on the dirt road, which eventually became Van Wagenen and drive right into the high school, that's where it ended. There's nothing else out there. You know, they built a housing development over there, they called Hillcrest. I don't know if you ---if they still refer to it that way.

Angela Garbarino: I'm not sure.

James Smalley Jr: Well you know Burkholder baseball field is?

Angela Garbarino: Yes.

James Smalley Jr: Okay. Now there's a housing development right down there.

Angela Garbarino: Oh yeah!

James Smalley Jr: Yeah, but the only way you can get to it is to go down the B&P Road is the other---part of it was Frontier Highway and the other part was B&P Road; it's now Lake Mead Drive, okay. But you have to go out on Frontier Highway and then there was a lumber company there on the corner of, what is now Van Wagenen and [pause] Lake Mead and there's a road on the other side of the lumber company there and that road will take you back into Hillcrest. That was the only access other than that you know, it was out there isolated. Now, the high school with the football field there, there's a road that went over to the other side and you can

drive through---kind of through the desert to it. But it was kind of isolated but that community over there---that's how you got in because there's was no Van Wagenen then.

Angela Garbarino: Right.

James Smalley Jr: Now, as I was in school, they put Van Wagon in but it only went to Victory Road. And you know, that's another thing about the town you know, you can tell how old---it's the war, Victory Road and then you get into the interior of the town, you know, there's Atomic Street, Marine Street, Army Street, Navy Street.

Angela Garbarino: Yes.

James Smalley Jr: The you know----there's a ---and the theater was originally the Victory Theatre and did I mention Victory Village?

Angela Garbarino: Yes.

James Smalley Jr: Yeah, that was---but that's--- I don't know, that was kind of ...watching it grow. I [inaudible] totally obliterate Victory Village and Carver Park because I can walk over there and the slabs are still there and I can look around and kind of somewhat envision where it was. But I remember Park Village Elementary, Robert Taylor now, on the other side of Victory Village.

Angela Garbarino: Okay.

James Smalley Jr: And you couldn't see it from Boulder Highway and Boulder Highway was pretty empty too. You had St. Peters there, St. Peters was a school in town too, K-8, a lot of people I know, a lot of the guys in my neighborhood went to St. Peters. They go to St. Peters and they go to Townsite and back and forth. A lot of people did that, but after eighth grade, ninth grade, they went to school in Henderson.

Angela Garbarino: Okay.

James Smalley Jr: One of my best friends, Mike Thorpe went K---well, first through eighth at St. Peters and I didn't even know him till he got to high school. We became friends after high school. I can name a lot of people who went through that era with me. A guy name Stu Barquist, he's back in town now. He's not doing too well, but his grandmother lived down on the corner of Texas and Pacific and so Stuart was always spending time over there. So I don't ever not knowing Stu. And then he moved to Oregon several years after I

did. He lived in Oregon for a while and we see each other up there and then we see each other down here. He's still one of my best friends. I'll go get him and take him to something every now and then. Those are some of the guys that I grew up with.

Angela Garbarino: Is there anything else you would like to share about your experience in Henderson?

James Smalley Jr: Oh, I'm sure I can ramble for quite a while, but you know [laughter]. That particular era, one thing I remember, Henderson didn't have a graveyard...

Angela Garbarino: No?

James Smalley Jr: ...until [pause] I think it was '64 they built Palm Mortuary....

Angela Garbarino: Oh my gosh!

James Smalley Jr: ...and the graveyard and of course, you know, now it's a fixture.

Angela Garbarino: Yes.

James Smalley Jr: But for years, you know, they bury them--- you know, they're in Las Vegas over by Rancho High School---they had that graveyard there.

Angela Garbarino: Oh okay.

James Smalley Jr: That's where---from what I understand, I could be wrong but that was the old [pause] on the Helen J. Stewart Ranch and I guess it was started by burying their family there.

Angela Garbarino: Oh okay.

James Smalley Jr: I could be wrong, but I---seemed like that's what I heard. And I read that book about Helen J Stewart and the development of Las Vegas, but [pause] I'm trying to think of some of the other stuff that we did here. It is a unique town and the history is so short and the growth was so incredible. Just to see that much growth happening.

Angela Garbarino: Oh I bet.

James Smalley Jr: And you know, seeing them build---well, like when I started school, well I guess it was those three elementary---I remember those two elementary schools being built, you know, Park Village,

which is now Robert Taylor; Basic Elementary, which is now, McCaw. And Townsite that was the name of the school, you know, I tell people, "Yeah, I'm at Townsite Elementary," "Where's that?" "It's gone." [laughter]. As a matter of fact, the only building, out of all the buildings I went to school in this town, the only building still standing is that gym up at the Burkholder. None of the other buildings are standing, they're all gone.

Angela Garbarino: That's amazing.

James Smalley Jr: And [pause] but I can remember what an event that high school football and basketball games were and the Titanium Little League, Titanium Field Little League games. And the afternoons at the pool.

Angela Garbarino: That sounds like you had a good life.

James Smalley Jr: Well, [pause] I might have been able to do better, but I certainly know I could have done whole heck of a lot worse. But you know; I share as much history as this town as I can. I mean you got my ramblings here, you can put them together---well, I thought about writing a book about the red brick era---because if you ask a lot of people my age, that kind of defines our era.

Angela Garbarino: Right.

James Smalley Jr: Because a lot of hours in my life are in those buildings and a lot of other kids lives too, if you count being out in the pool as being in the building [laughter].

Angela Garbarino: There was only one. [laughter] That concludes our interview.

[End of Audio]