



ALICE “DINKY” SNELL
1932

Honored as a Historymaker 2008
Philanthropist and Civic Leader



The following is an oral history interview with Alice (Dinky) Snell (**AD**) conducted by Pam Stevenson (**PS**) for Historical League, Inc. and video-graphed by Manny Garcia (**MG**) on June 5, 2007 in Phoenix.

*Transcripts for website edited by members of Historical League, Inc.
Original tapes are in the collection of the Arizona Heritage Center Archives, an Historical Society Museum, Tempe, Arizona.*

PS: [Please] introduce yourself.

DS: I'm Dinky Snell. My mother named me Alice, but my brother named me “Dinky.” And he won.

PS: Okay. We were going to ask you how you got that name. I figured you were very small. But you're not.

DS: No. No. Maybe for that first month.

PS: I see! Tell me about when you were born and where you were born.

DS: I was born in Los Angeles in the California Lutheran Hospital in 1932. And went directly back to Silver City, New Mexico, until...well, with a few other trips while, when the other kids came. And then we, we moved back to California in...I guess it was probably 1942. When my father joined the Army.

PS: Now, if you lived in New Mexico, why were you born in Los Angeles?

DS: Because my grandfather was a doctor and he just was sure there wasn't a hospital good enough for my mother in Silver City.

PS: Of course, she had to travel all the way to Los Angeles.



DS: So he could supervise.

PS: So he lived in Los Angeles. Okay. Tell me a little bit about your first 10 years or so you grew up...in New Mexico?

DS: When we were eight we moved to San Gabriel, California. And from there to Hemet for high school. Hemet, California.

PS: Why was your family, or your mother and father, in Silver City, New Mexico?

DS: He was a lawyer. In Silver City. And then when...was it Roosevelt? Franklin Roosevelt packed the Supreme Court...which offended my father who was a good Democrat. And so, when he stopped being a Democrat in Silver City, there was not much sense in going back there to practice law, in those days. So we moved to Hemet.

PS: Why was he in Silver City? Pretty small town.

DS: Well, he had...both, both my mother's family and his had ... My father's family was, was in Silver City when he was born. And my maternal grandmother's family had lived in Silver City.

PS: What had brought them there?

DS: Well, my, my great-grandfather was an Irishman looking for a new way to live. And he went to...I guess first to St. Louis, and then he saw the Wild West as a place to start. And be whoever you wanted to be. And he met my great-grandmother. She was a teacher there.

PS: So...you then moved, you said, to San Gabriel?

DS: Hmm. From Silver City? Yes. And then, then when the war ended and my dad came home, he, he found a practice in Hemet. And we moved there.

PS: So, what, what do you remember about the war years?

DS: Oh, I remember being up on the...first, the black-out curtains on the windows. And going out on the upstairs deck and seeing the lights scouring the sky for planes that didn't belong there. It was...I had no sense of how dangerous it was to be there. But people were all cooperating. Working together to try and get it over with.

PS: And your father was in the military? What branch was....

DS: He was in the Army. He was in the Judiciary. What do they call it? Anyway. He was a lawyer.



PS: Do you know where he was stationed?

DS: He was in Chattanooga and then he was in Battle Creek, Michigan, and then he went to the Philippines.

PS: So most of the time he was in fairly safe places?

DS: I think probably by the time he got to the Philippines things were pretty hot.

MG: When he got to the Philippines, the war was still...

DS: Oh, yeah! He was on MacArthur's staff when the war ended.

PS: So he probably had some interesting stories to tell.

DS: Yeah. I don't think very many of them wanted to talk about it. Or at least ours didn't.

PS: So what did you think of moving to California?

DS: Oh, we had gotten so used to moving. I, I found it kind of adventurous. It made it easier for me to adjust as an adult to, to going to different places and meeting different people. I thought it was, I really think it was very enriching.

PS: So...when you went to San Gabriel did you...you were there for a couple of years then?

DS: Oh, let's see. Third, fourth, fifth, sixth grades probably. Seventh maybe. I think I stayed. The family moved to Hemet and I was just about to graduate. The big graduation from the eighth grade that my mother let me stay with a friend.

PS: So how did that compare to New Mexico?

DS: Well, there was paving on the school ground. I used to think that the schools in, in (clears throat) in New Mexico were, were segregated because, because it was all, all Anglos here and Hispanics here. It turned out it wasn't. It was all, all girls here and all boys there. But, but I missed that. I missed that detail. I was much relieved to find out they weren't such bigots.

PS: In, in California, was that different?

DS: Hmm?



PS: Was it different in California?

DS: Well, by that time I had better sense.

PS: Were the boys and girls still separated?

DS: Uh, uh. No.

PS: Was it public schools you were...

DS: Uh, huh. All of them.

PS: So why did your father decide to start a practice in Hemet?

DS: Well, there was, there was a man there that he had known who wanted a partner. And he had let him know that he was welcome if he wanted to come there.

PS: So you went there for high school?

DS: Hm, hmm.

PS: And what did you think of Hemet?

DS: It was fun. It was small and everybody knew everybody. Even more so than here. Couldn't get in much trouble though because someone would tell on you.

PS: What was there to do in Hemet?

DS: Oh, I imagine we could find the...the same kind of trouble everybody else was finding to get into. I don't... Leaving school early, for instance, when it snowed, I kind of think. Once it snowed. I remember.

PS: Don't think of Hewet as getting a lot of snow.

DS: No, we didn't get a lot of chances to do that.

No, we were, we were pretty good students. And we, I enjoyed it. I liked school. We had some great teachers.

PS: Well, what was your favorite subject?

DS: Well, I had an English teacher that was incredible. And one, one biology teacher that was very good.



And then I had a math teacher that was, that was determined to whip it into me. And it's probably a good thing she persevered because I needed it. Needed the push, I mean.

PS: What were you thinking you were going to do after high school?

DS: Well, I'd always...we were all going to go to college. We'd always, always been told that that was the next step. So that's what I was planning to do. I hadn't really thought much about what I would study until it was almost time to graduate. I thought I might like to be a lawyer.

PS: Your father was a lawyer.

DS: Hm, hmm.

PS: What about your mother. What did she do?

DS: Well, after my father died, she, she ran the office for the other partner. And so...she could have been a lawyer, too. But my younger brother needed her at home. And she couldn't, she couldn't just take the bar because she was capable. She had to have some formal schooling and they wouldn't let her take it. Which was too bad. She'd have been good.

PS: Well, when did your father...

DS: I was probably...it was probably after my freshman, sophomore year, maybe. At Stanford

PS: That must have been a difficult time for you.

DS: It was. But by that time my grandfather was willing to help. And I, I was working. So...we managed. I was always a little self-centered about doing what I wanted to do. So I managed to continue to do what I was doing because I liked it.

PS: What made you choose Stanford?

DS: Well, my father had said there was no way I was going to have anything to do with sororities. And I found out that Stanford was a good school and didn't have any. So I applied. And...of course, that was not in the cards as far as he was concerned, but we worked that out, too.

PS: Well, why was that not in the cards?

DS: Well, because financially...there were five of us. And I was the second. So. And my brother was by that time in the service, and so...he wasn't a drain. But I think that they saw me as one.



PS: So how were you able to go to Stanford?

DS: Well, I, I got a couple of scholarship loans from the Hemet businesses. And, and got several jobs at Stanford. Room and board. And, and side jobs. Doing research for a minister in town. And reading to a blind law student. And that sort of thing. Kept busy.

PS: Plus your studies.

DS: Uh, huh.

PS: So did you go there intending to, to study law? Or what was your.

DS: I, I wasn't fixed on anything. It was a whole new world, as you can well imagine, from Hemet to Palo Alto, And I was just growing up. So, I had no mindset about that. And I really didn't think I should be planning on an extra three years of school at that stage of the game.

PS: So what was your major?

DS: Political Science. I could really read the newspaper!

PS: And when did you meet Dick?

DS: Well, I roomed with Barbara Wheat. Who was from Phoenix. When we were freshmen and sophomores up there. And she introduced me to Dick. We borrowed his car.

PS: Tell me about that!

DS: Well, he and...his friend...his family and Barbara's family were very good friends. And so, he loaned us his car. And that's how I met him. It was...He was not terribly enamored of me at that time. And then I came down here to Phoenix to, to see her at one point. I can't even remember where it was in school. And they took us to the...the Wheats took us to the old Green Gable's Restaurant on Thomas and 24th. And they had dance music. And Barbara's parents were just bugging Dick to ask me to dance. And he said he just couldn't because a horse had stepped on his foot. I hadn't seen any limp. But...that was it for a couple of years.

PS: So it wasn't exactly love at first sight?

DS: No, I would not think so.

PS: When did that change?



DS: We didn't really get together until, till both of our last years. We started going together in maybe February or March. And when we... We started off to a movie in San Jose and, and he took me all the way to Hemet to ask my mother for my hand. Now is that nice?

PS: That's a long trip!

DS: It was! I had a little tough time explaining when I called. That I wasn't, wasn't going to be back that soon. But she liked him.

PS: Was that a surprise to you?

DS: Yes. It was. Oh, by the time we go there, of course, I knew where we were going because I had to tell him where it was.

PS: Did you know that the relationship was that serious at that point?

DS: Well, I, I hoped it was. And... I don't know. I, I... it's hard to go back that far and see whether, whether... yeah, I was interested. And I was pleased to find out that he was, too.

PS: So... that sounds like kind of an impulsive, romantic... what was that?

DS: Well, I don't, I don't think anybody who knows Dick would think he was impulsive. So I figured he had it pretty well figured out before he asked me.

PS: He had the trip planned already?

DS: Well, I don't know if he was planning to go to that movie or not! I don't remember what the movie was, but we didn't see it.

PS: So then how long after that were you married?

DS: As he told you, he, he had the graduation, the bar exam, the wedding. The Army.

PS: So how long... from the time he proposed till the wedding, how long...

DS: We were married on August 1st.

PS: And was it a big wedding?

DS: No. Were... there were a few hardy souls that drove over from Phoenix to, to Hemet for, for our wedding? And a few hardy souls... and we had, we had the reception at my grandmother and grandfather's



house which was not large. But it was fun. We had a good time. Nice wedding. Nice reception.

PS: Was it a big wedding with bridesmaids and all that?

DS: Well, I had my...I had two little sisters. And Dick had a sister that I hadn't met until then. So I think...my, my middle sister and Dick's sister and Barbara Wheat were my attendants. And my brother was Dick's best man. And then there were two of his Stanford friends.

PS: And...so he went into the service. And what did you do after the wedding?

DS: Well, we, we went to Georgia to live. At Bennings' School for Boys. And, and then ... in I don't, I don't think it was until the next maybe...May, that he was sent to Germany. We went home to, to Phoenix for Christmas and then went back to Georgia. And maybe it was February or so when he got his orders. And it was... He went to Germany. And then as soon as they could figure out a way to get me over there fast enough. Because they didn't let you travel, or in those days they didn't let you travel when you were on the verge of having a child. But we made it.

PS: So you were quite pregnant?

DS: Quite pregnant. When, when he left, I didn't look like that.

PS: So when did you go over?

DS: It was probably May.

PS: And when was the baby born?

DS: The end of August. So...not too bad.

PS: Well, was that what you had expected from married life? Was to be traveling all over the world?

DS: I certainly had no expectation. And certainly not that. I never thought I'd go to Europe. I mean, lots of, lots of people that I knew were going here...to Europe...after graduation, but I wasn't one of them. And this was, this was better than that. It was a wonderful experience.

PS: What was good about it?

DS: Well, both, both being, being alone...being apart from the family. And so we had to, we had to learn to get along. And not...you couldn't call Mama. I couldn't. And we did fine. And it was...and we had...Karen was born and we were, you know, we were again just our little nucleus. And we did fine.



PS: No mother to help with the baby.

DS: No. No.

PS: Was that kind of scary? Having a baby in a foreign country?

DS: Well, no...it was an Army Hospital and we...they take very good care of us. There was one interesting story leading up to that. My doctor here had, had told me that my baby was due in July in order to get me over there faster. And I had no reason to think he wasn't right. So, uh, about...when I, when I thought I was about 10 months pregnant, Dick got appendicitis. And I took him to the hospital in Frankfurt. And drove back and forth. When we walked into the hospital, they said, maternity ward's that way. And...no. So anyway, back and forth every day for eight or nine days. And then he came home. And the next night, in we went again. So it was an, it was an interesting time.

PS: At least you knew the way by then.

DS: Yeah, we did!

PS: So how long were you in Germany?

DS: Almost two years.

PS: And when did...when you came back, where did you come to? Or...what...how was your life different then?

DS: I'm trying to...we came here. And my mother had been keeping our dog, so we...I...I remember going over there to get the dog. My poor mother. And we just... Then we came back and started life here.

PS: You had just one child at that time?

DS: Hm, hmm. Hm, hmm.

PS: Well, what did you think of Phoenix when you came here? What year was that?

DS: That was 50...late 55 or early 56. It was...They were so kind. His family was lovely to me. And introduced me to people. And, and they were just, they were just lovely people. We all lived in the house, the house that Dick grew up in on Palm Lane until his mother and dad moved out.

They had just developed, his dad had helped develop, uh, Paradise Valley Country Club. And, and had represented Camelback Inn who had a, an interest there. And use of the course. So for that little while we got to know each other very well. And we still liked each other. So that was nice. And then we stayed there. There was no...at that point there were no children, no young families in Palmcroft. And so we got



a little house out on Rancho Drive and 19th Street. Lived there for a few years. And then, then moved out here to Arcadia when they developed Allied Homes.

MG: When that...was that Palmcroft...I mean, Palm Lane home... that? I love that street.

where on Palm Lane was

DS: 2928 West. It was a beautiful little house. And it is again.

MG: It is. All of those homes are...

DS: There's a professor at ASU that, that bought the house and I guess it was in bad repair. And somehow he tracked Dick down and wanted to know if he had any pictures of the house when he was a kid. And we talked about getting them, getting them together. And getting together. And I don't know if he's talked to him since. But...it's a nice house.

PS: People fixing up those houses

DS: Oh, it's nice. Really nice. That neighborhood. One of his friends from when he wa a child...a girl that he'd known since he was about two probably...was in town a couple of months ago. And she had grown up in the neighborhood, too. So we took her down to the Art Museum and to Palmcroft and Botanical Gardens. And it was just...it was fun seeing it through her eyes. And she was pleased with what had happened to the neighborhood.

MG: We ride our bikes through there. We live on 17th Avenue. But, you know, we just take our bikes and just drive on through there. We love it. And it's gotten better and better and better.

DS:It has. And in the days when I was here in Phoenix and Dick's dad was trying to finagle a way to get me to Europe, he used to... We used to walk every night after dinner. And we go all over through, through Encanto. And it was lovely. A good time to get to know each other.

PS: So what did you do when you came back to Phoenix and Dick, of course, was working. At the law firm. What were you doing?

DS: Well, at first I was, I was just concentrating on unpacking and, and, and taking care of my baby. And, uh, when she got a little older, Dick's mother Betty was taking me around and showing me what she, what things she was involved in. And I finally realized that what she was doing, she was getting me to pick some, something I could do. She said, we always give back.

So I got down to business and picked something. I worked at the, on the Auxiliary at Good Sam because they had a nursery. And Karen could go there. And we, we...I did that for years. That was the beginning of my volunteer career.



PS: Why did you choose that?

DS: Well, because I, because I had been around hospitals with my grandfather. And because, and because of the situation. The young people...the young women were doing that. And there were kids in the nursery that Karen could be with and I knew she would be safe. So...it worked out nicely. I didn't do that every day. Maybe once or twice a week.

PS: But you got to know people that way?

DS: Yeah, I did. A lot of those people are still my, my close friends.

PS: What were some of the other things that you got involved with?

DS: Oh, it's hard to remember at what point...I got involved with being a Brown leader and a Girl Scout leader and a room mother. And that sort of thing. And when all the kids were in school, I start...I learned to play tennis and that was another... That was not a volunteer effort. But I sure enjoyed it! And I read for the blind, recorded for the blind. I think that was a highlight. And worked for...When Dick left the YMCA he willed me to them and I was there for a number of years. I was Chair there. I think on their 90th birthday I was, I was made the first woman Chairman of the Metropolitan YMCA.

PS: YMCA rather than the YWCA.

DS: Right. Right. Right.

PS: Well, what, what was Phoenix like when you first came here? What was your first impression of the community?

DS: Well, to me it was a big city. Even though now...I can remember that Thomas was sort of the edge of town. And on the, on the north side. And the east side was probably 19th, 18th, 19th Street. And I, I had never been beyond the downtown. And I'd only been West when we were driving to California.

MG: Grand Avenue and...

PS: Yeah, how did you get to California in those days? Interstate 10 wasn't built yet.

DS: Hmm. I think we went out Buckeye. And Gila Bend. I don't know. I don't know when those, when those...there were some highways.

PS: 16th went through Wickenburg and that way.

DS: There was, there was a road to...there was a highway to, to...over to Palm Springs and Los Angeles



that way. That's probably the one we took. That went through Beaumont. Banning.

PS: You said you'd studied Political Science. Did you ever get involved with politics here in Phoenix then?

DS: Not till somewhat later. I ran for public office once. I ran for Superintendent of Public Instruction. In 1990. I think that was the time that Dick went to Pinnacle West.

PS: Why did you decide to do that?

DS: Well, I had worked there. I had gone into business first in 80. Had a public relations firm with my friend, Charlotte Buchen, Buchen Snell and Company.

And then after about five years it became clear that with two strong-willed women, it was the friendship or the, or the business that was going to go. And I persed...I preferred to, uh, preserve the friendship. So she, she took over the business and I went to work at the Department of Education. And I worked there for five years. And, uh, I thought that there were things that I could do as well as the person who was Superintendent at that point and that I would like to try.

So I...at the last minute...jumped in. And, uh, by the time the election came I, I kind of knew what I was doing. And I could, I could almost tell people what I wanted to do. But it was too late then. I didn't get through the primary. So I learned a lot. But I had not intended to do that twice. And never did. I knew...I found out a lot about...it was a state-wide job, so I went all over the state. And met a lot of people. It was, it was nice. Nice, nice experience. All except for losing. At first there was this jolt because I'm competitive. But then it was, whew!

PS: Yeah, politics are a lot of work. Well, tell me about your PR firm. How did you get involved with doing that? Did you have other jobs besides, you know, all your volunteer work?

DS: Not, not before, uh, Charlotte and I went into business. I did take the LSCT. I hadn't lost sight of that inkling, inkling that it might be fun to be a lawyer. But when I took the test I realized that they were trying to confuse me and it was working. And so, I did great in the English part, but I would not have made a good lawyer. I'm not...my attention to, to detail is somewhat limited.

So Charlotte had asked me to go into business with her. And we did. And...My principle job in the firm at first was, uh, was to urge our clients into community efforts. To introduce them to...by that time it was becoming pretty clear in Phoenix that there was one of those leadership vacuums that happen every once in awhile. And the old guys were really getting old. And so we, we tried to encourage our clients to urge their young people into the community and into community service. And also I did some writing.

PS: Pretty challenging running your own business, though.



DS: It was...it was. It was a challenge. And it was, it was a real learning experience. She had, she had never run a business before either, so we, we learned together. And it worked well. And she, she didn't leave it for... And I went back when I lost the election, too. They took me in. They took me back in so, I had a home to go to. So it went on for quite a while. And she did a good job.

PS: Did you get involved with some of the things that, that Dick was involved with? I know you talked about going along with him to Litchfield Park and the Wigwam and things like that. But those were more social things. Did you ever get involved in the boards and things...?

DS: We were never on boards together or in, in a, in a...effort together until, until much later. , we co-chaired a, as Dick told you, the, the last campaign at ASU with the Coors and with Ed and Nadine Carson. And that was successful. And we worked together on things at the church. Uh...have we...I don't know that we've...what else we've done together. Probably some things at Y...if I didn't say that before.

PS: You said he kind of willed you to the...

DS: Yeah, he did.

PS: Well, what were the biggest causes and things that you've been involved with that you're proudest of.

DS: I'm proud of the, of the work I did at the, at the...at Samaritan. I was, I was one of those token...I was at the age to be a token woman in a lot of things. So I was a token woman on the Board of Trustees at Samaritan. I...They weren't quite ready to let me be one of the guys. But I did, did always have an opinion. And I enjoyed that. I enjoyed the recording for the blind very much. And after I got involved at ASU I was really hooked. I'm on a couple of advisory committees. Dean's Advisory Groups. And was on the foundation and chaired it. And that's been a big part. It's been a very enriching part of my volunteering career.

PS: tell me about recording for the blind. How did you start doing that? When did you do that?

DS: It was...it was in between...when the girls were all in school. Here. And, uh, and I... I had time. And I found out that I could do it. I practiced and then, they, they made you, make you try out. Audition. I can remember the one...the scariest time I had doing that was once...do you remember Denny Kitchell? He was a good friend of Barry Goldwater's. And a very prominent lawyer. And he was reading for the blind at that point. So they needed a monitor. And I had to sit out in that little booth and if he made a mistake, correct him. Oh! The very idea that I would correct Denny Kitchell! Fortunately, he was good enough so I didn't have to. Every once in a while, we'd stop while I got my breath. He was, he was doing fine. But I, I enjoyed the reading more than monitoring. Once again, the detail. And I felt as though I were doing something that would help somebody. And we often met the people we were reading for. I'd started doing that when I was at the law school in Stanford. That was one of the jobs I enjoyed, too.



PS: And you've got a very pleasant voice for it.

DS: Well, thank you.

PS: They must have thought so, too. Uh, let's see....So, did you feel, throughout the years, that your primary job was being a mother? Or community involvement?

DS: I thought that if I was a good mother and a good wife, the, the rest is icing. And it was. And I tried...the first things were the most important.

PS: You, you mentioned, um, the first daughter. When did the others come along?

DS: Karen was born in 1955. In August. And Marilyn in January of 1959. and Sarah in September of 1960. So, at one point there were three teenage girls living in this house. And I ran away from home. I went to Tecate and played tennis for five days. And all of them, even, even the father that was supposed to be the apple of their eye, were glad to see me when I came home. I never did it again, but it worked.

PS: That was a smart thing to do.

DS: I was lucky he let me do it.

PS: Was he an involved father?

DS: Well, he was awfully...he was always driven. He worked very hard. But we always had our Sundays. Going to the river and taking the kids on picnics. That was sacrosanct. And...but he was a very good father.

PS: What were some of the things you liked to do with the kids?

DS: Well, the Sunday picnics were, were, were just standard. And we took vacations...all of us took vacations together. And that was fun.

PS: What kind of...

DS: We went, we went camping in the older days. And then we...when Dick's parents...and...Dick's dad had a, an interest in a ranch up on the Mogollon Rim. On the base of the Rim. That was a great place to take the kids. And then the...when they sold the ranch, they bought a little house in La Jolla which we could go visit. And that was great. So we've been, we've been very fortunate to have places where we could all go together.

PS: Did you see a lot of Arizona? With the kids?



DS: Oh, yeah. Hm, hmm.

I can remember taking them up to...the first time I saw Glen Canyon Dam. I can remember...there's a picture we have of Sarah. She was probably about this big, and she was on the edge, leaning over. And there was I, holding her. I was scared to look over the edge. And I sure didn't her to! So they did see a lot of the country. Uh, of the state.

PS: What about the Grand Canyon? You talked about involvement there. (ds – Hm, hmm.) Did you go there?

DS: Yep.

MG: But when they were teenagers they didn't want to go anywhere, right?

DS: Well, they were still stuck with us on Sundays. (mg – Oh, on Sundays...) Yeah. Cause my teenagers, they thought I was so square, they wouldn't go anywhere with me. Well, by this time we had them sort of indoctrinated that that was what we did on Sundays. After church, pack...clean out the refrigerator and go on a picnic.

PS: What were your favorite picnic places?

DS: The river. The Verde and the Salt were great places to go. Then.

MG: Oh, yeah. They were so much fun. Did you guys go to Blue Point? And to the...Oh, yeah. I liked it there.

DS: Yeah. And then we used...we used to go...well, there were several very good spots on the Verde, too. And the Salt. It wasn't so crowded then. Or so dirty.

MG: Yeah, well, now people just go there and they're, they're drinking so much. And it's not fun. Not for me, I mean.

DS: No...there are some spots where people just take their everyday garbage out and dump it.

MG: Oh, I know.

DS: So...but it was great then.

MG: Oh, it was beautiful. We did, too.



PS: Did you ever go tubing on the, on the river?

DS: Sure. Almost lost one of the girls and one of the dogs on one of those trips.

PS: Oh, dear. Tell me about that!

DS: Karen, I think it was Karen that was opposite me. We caught her. She was still in the tube. Yeah.

PS: I was going tubing with a group when they had little bitty tubes that lost their air. And that was a mess. Then we had more people than we had tubes.

MG: Just the other day I cleaned out our store room, which I had not even looked in in about 10 years. And there were the tubes. They had, they had deteriorated.

DS: I bet they had.

PS: Well, looking back, how do you see that Phoenix has changed over the years?

DS: Well, obviously, it certainly has grown. I think it's remarkably, still friendly. A friendly place. There are enough people that are coming in and moving in and out, that, that people still welcome them. I think. If you're willing to work in Phoenix at any kind of a job, volunteer or...anywhere. Uh. You're welcome. They want people that will. So, I've never, I never... Of course, I've never lived anywhere else as an adult either. But, I can't imagine that every place is like this. That, that it's so open to new people. I hope we still are. We try to be.

PS: It seems like it's always been a city that had a lot of new people.

DS: Yeah. Yeah.

PS: Did you always spend the summers pretty much here, too?

DS: Well, Dick loves it here in the summertime. And I don't. They keep saying I'm going to get use to it. It's only been 52 years. We spend a lot of time here, but we also...we can go to Greer or we can go to the beach. We still have the house that the folks bought. So, we, we do.

MG: So you have a house in Greer?

DS: You know where the Greer Lodge is? And then there's that big hill that goes up right by it? We're at the end of the road.

MG: That's nice.



DS: Yeah, it is. Nobody can get behind us.

PS: How long have you been going up to Greer?

DS: Oh. Mid-80s, I think. Or maybe before that.

PS: Has that, has that area changed, too?

DS: Not as much as this has. Because there's not a whole lot of private land. There is some on the outskirts that's being developed now. And I don't know where all those people are going to go. But I hope they go to Springerville.

PS: Do you have concerns about the future of Phoenix. What do you see as the biggest challenge facing the Valley and the state?

DS: Pollution. And water. Sufficiency of water. It's a...it's big problems. There's nothing picky-une about what's a problem here.

PS: What about education? You say you actually ran to be Superintendent of Public Instruction. How do you see that that's changed over the years?

DS: Well, I keep hearing about how terrible our schools are, but there...It seems to me that they're really trying hard to, to, to raise the levels of, of, of the education. I know that issues with language are a problem. If you can't speak English in the...I mean, if you can't speak Spanish in the classroom, with a classroom full of Spanish-speaking children, that doesn't make a lot of sense to me. There are some things I would approach differently. If I could. If it wasn't legislated against. But I, I think, I think every kid can learn. And if there are lots of people coming out of the universities that, that care, care enough to, to find a way to teach them.

PS: What about...you know...they say though teacher salaries aren't keeping up. That, you know...

DS: They never have. They never have. And it's just...How can we expect them to, to raise our children to these wonderful levels if we're not willing to pay them a living wage? I mean, a lot of those, those teachers, male and female, are single parents. And they can't, they can't live on the average salary of a teacher. I, I, I feel strongly that that's, that that's an area we need to do something about. And there are lots of people trying.

PS: Need more tax money?

DS: Well, they haven't been turning down issues when it means teachers salaries. I haven't seen those fail.



PS: Did you ever think about being a teacher yourself?

DS: That's one...I have a regret in my life. And that's one of them. I, I think, I think I could have and I, I should have.

PS: Not too late!

PS: Well, maybe not full time!

DS: Now that I have someone to play with, I don't want to go off and leave him.

PS: And that would be...

DS: My husband.

PS: Oh, okay. Well, what are your future plans?

DS: Enjoy the time we have. Continue doing the things we're doing. Read the books I've been gathering up. Just continue doing the volunteer things that I'm still doing. I have a very good life and I appreciate it. I've been very fortunate.

PS: Looking back, what, what things have you been proudest of. That you've done?

DS: Well, having three daughters that are terrific is one thing. A, a major thing. Which I did not do alone. And...Oh, I, I...generally I think that I've served the community well, And I'm, I'm proud of that. I've received more than I've given, but people don't always see that, see it that way.

PS: So many of the volunteers do say that.

DS: Hm, hmm.

PS: What advice to you have for young people that are trying to decide what to do with their lives?

DS: Get as much education as you can. Work hard. Be kind to others. That ought to, that ought to be a good start.

PS: That the advice you gave your daughters?

DS: I remember Dick's advice to them. It was, you can be anything you want to be. And I agreed with him. Both of forgot to say anything about being a mother. So, that's one thing I might have said sooner. But



not too much sooner.

PS: So you don't have too many grandchildren.

DS: We have two. Our youngest daughter has two. And they....the, the aunts love them a great deal. And we, we have them coming home a lot to see them. So that's good.

PS: Do you think that's a choice that women have had to make with their lives of...to have a career or to be a mother?

DS: It's interesting. Sometimes it's not an either-or. And sometimes...uh...by the time you...if you go into a challenging career and you're good at it, sometimes that time doesn't come. And sometimes you're too much of a challenge to the males in your circle. And I think that made one of my daughters marry quite late. And probably is, is one of the reasons the middle daughter hasn't married. Because they're both very accomplished. All three of them are very accomplished.

PS: But you made the choice to, to have the children and not...

DS: I hadn't really thought about a career at that point. At that point what we did was to, was to take first things first and then... There was an opportunity to do something else. But not when they...not when they were babies. I wouldn't have been able to work that out. I don't know how the women do it today. I think it's nice that they can.

PS: So you made some sacrifices, too.

DS: Hm, hmm.

PS: Was there any things that you wanted to talk about that I didn't ask you about?

DS: I don't think. I can't think that I had this much to say.

PS: Well, Dick, have you thought of anything that I should have been asking her. I'm sure she's much too modest about her accomplishments.

RS:(Dick Snell) Well, she is.

DS: Let's just keep him thinking that!

PS: What should I have been asking her about?

RS:(Dick Snell) She was Woman of the Year one time.



DS: I was.

PS: When, when was that?

DS: It was right between Ramada and Pinnacle, as I remember. And I remember his saying, when he was going to the Ramada, that were going to go somewhere. We were going out six months on a trip. Three days later, started in the Pinnacle. The, the world just didn't work that way. That six months off thing.

PS: So who, who was it that made you the Woman of the Year?

DS: The Phoenix Ad Club.

PS: Is that when you had your, your PR agency?

DS: I think it was probably while I was at the state. I'm not sure. Yeah, it could have been. It could have been in between.

PS: So, I was just wondering, what, what you were doing that they...

DS: I was doing my professional volunteering probably.

PS: Because the Phoenix Ad Club...well, I guess.. they name people that aren't in advertising particularly, I guess.

DS: Oh, yeah. It's mostly, it's mostly community service.... And he was, he was Man of the Year. He didn't tell you that.

PS: He's got a long list of honors I've seen. But I haven't seen yours all printed out. So.

DS: It's not as long.

PS: Any other projects or, or causes that you want to talk about?

DS: No. I'm still involved in some of the same old things. And I will continue to do that. No. I don't think there's anything new.

PS: Like which ones?

DS: I'm still on a...what they call a Resource Board at the YMCA. And still active at ASU. And I stepped down from the Foundation, but I'm still on a couple of Dean's Advisory groups. And I'm active at the



church. Prince of Peace.

PS: Which areas, which Dean's...

DS: Education and...hmm, hmm, hmmm....help me.

DS: I was for a long time on...College of People program.

DS: Oh, the, the Liberal Arts and Sciences. Yes. I knew there was one I was official on.

PS: I know they keep changing the name of the colleges over there, too.

MG: Well, I wanted you to tell me a little bit about your favorite places.

DS: My favorite place...

MG: Places to go and places in Arizona and things like that.

DS: Cochise County. How about Navajo? Gila?

MG: Oh, that's beautiful country up there.

PS: Well, tell me.

DS: My favorite spot is, is our house...is our place in Greer. I love that place. Because we can go out the back door and go clear up on top. And, when the colors are changing, it's just spectacular. It's spectacular anyway. And, uh... That's my, that's my most favorite place. We can get to a lot of it. We can get to the Indian country from there. And to Canyon de Chelly. We used to go to the snake dances before they closed, closed it to the public.

PS: Hopi Snake Dances?

DS: And I love the Grand Canyon. The North Rim. That's the place to go.

PS: How did you get to know the, the Hopis and the Navajos?

DS: Well, I can't remember that we had any direct connection. Dick went to high school with one of the...the...

DS: Are you, are you talking about Bob? Bob Ames was one of his law school...



DS: He's, he was a...Lori Pe, Pe, Piestewa's uncle. Anyway, I didn't know about that connection when we started going up there. We just loved the country. And we'd go and see what things were happening up there on the mesa and go up there with the kids.

MG: That really is a beautiful drive to go up. Isn't it? Spectacular.

DS: Yeah. Yeah. Helen said she woke up in the night thinking about Toledo. About El Greco's Toledo. And that's hers. The Hopis.

PS: When did you start going up to Hopi...

DS: Oh, gosh, years ago. Ever since, ever since we've been going around the state.

RS: Sarah was sitting on my shoulders at the dances.

DS: 45. 46. Baby Sarah. Dick had always...we...before all the first time I came down here we started exploring Arizona. That was long before, before kids.

PS: Did you make friends with the Hopi people when you went up there?

DS: I don't remember meeting anyone. They were very welcoming and very kind. But they, they were doing their thing and we were staying out of the way. Right. And John Lincoln. No, but...but traveling around Arizona we've been doing always. Sonoita and down in there. Benson.

MG: Have you guys been to the Caverns yet?

DS: Yes! Kartchner! Wow!

MG: My, my son just went last week. He, he said it was spectacular.

DS: If you've not been down there, Manny, you really should. Oh, it's wonderful.

PS: I got a real treat. I was working for Channel 8 and we, I did a piece before they opened, I got to go in and video tape in there before they had opened. They had just...

DS: And you can still see the...

PS: ...the lighting and everything. And then I had all the old tapes that they had when they were exploring. And they took Bruce Babbitt down there. And...Have you ever heard Ken Travers give the talk about how they kept the secret and...



DS: Yeah.

PS: He's a great story teller. But he tells the whole story and it's very... But that was one of the best jobs I had at Channel 8 was to go do the piece on Kartchner Caverns.

DS: Oh, that's a beautiful, beautiful place.

MG: There's some new things down there. They're over at Lake Mohave and all that stuff on the other side. One thing about Arizona, we've got so much and so different. Sonoita. The whole border area down there is absolutely beautiful. But it's a secret. and in a way... good.

DS: Did you see that piece in the paper the other day about the wineries down in that area? And I thought, don't do that! Don't talk about it.

PS: You mentioned Cochise County, too. I think Chiricahua National Monument and some of the areas down there that are so little visited. And they're so spectacular.

MG: Cause otherwise you'll end up with the hordes like Grand...the Southern...I mean, the South Rim of the Gran Canyon is just...

DS: Ruined.

MG: Jerome. And even Sedona. I don't like what's happened to Sedona. I don't like that at all.

PS: Prescott. Prescott was such a nice little town. Now it's Wal-Mart and Costcos. Looks a lot like Phoenix.

DS: It's almost...

PS: I know one person who does that. Well, If there's nothing else you...

DS: No, I don't think there is. I think you guys have put in quite a long day.

PS: Yeah, we have. But that's good. We got a lot done.

MG: We've got a lot of good stuff.

PS: And, you know, we'll be probably coming back looking for your pictures. Your wedding.