



## ELISABETH RUFFNER

Honored as a Historymaker 2008  
Historic Preservationist and Community Activist



The following is an oral history interview with Elisabeth Ruffner (**ER**) conducted by Pam Stevenson (**PS**) for Historical League, Inc. and video-graphed by Bill Leverton on July 21, 2007 in Prescott, Arizona.

*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] give ... me your full name.

**ER:** My name is Elisabeth. My maiden name was Alma Friedrich. Elisabeth Alma Friedrich. And I'm now known as Elisabeth Ruffner.

**PS:** Alma Friedrich? Is that one word?

**ER:** No, Alma was my middle name. Friedrich was my last name. Elisabeth Alma, A-L-M-A.

**PS:** Friedrich was...how do you spell that?

**ER:** F-R-I-E-D-R-I-C-H.

**PS:** C-H.... Good thing I asked. I wouldn't have spelled it with an "H."

**ER:** An "H." That's the German spelling. As is the spelling of my name, Elisabeth with an "S" rather than a, than a "Z."

**PS:** Right. I noticed that.

**ER:** Oh, have you? Very few people do.



**PS:** No, I did notice that. I try to spell people's names correctly. And I thought that seemed to be the correct spelling.

**ER:** Good

**PS:** Do you get it misspelled a lot?

**ER:** Doesn't make any difference. Actually, I had a flash of, I guess, historic, déjà vu some years ago. I had to even sign my name formally, legally, with my nickname which was B-E-T-T-E. I'd been nicknamed Betty by my mother very early on. And then changed the spelling from "Y" to "E," ala Bette Davis along the way. But I decided about 15 years ago that I should end up my life with my real name. And I like Elisabeth much better than Bette.

In fact, a woman who came into my life when I was married, an aunt of my husband's....when I took her to meet my new daughter said, I hope you're not giving her a name you can nickname. She had been named "Mary" and had the nickname of "Molly" all of her life which she dreaded. She really didn't like it. And so, I went back to my real name.

**PS:** But you prefer Elisabeth.

**ER:** Yes.

**PS:** Okay. Because I'd wondered about that because I had seen Bette a few places, but mostly I know that you're Elisabeth.

**ER:** I have told several people, especially Marshall Trimble who will never call me Elisabeth that it's all right. He need not stumble over trying to remember over any kind of impediment to good communications.

**PS:** Well, I mentioned to Terry Goddard that I was going to be interviewing you, and he called you "Bette."

**ER:** Yes. A lot of people do. And, it's fine. I have no problem at all. My older friends all have that name for me.

**PS:** So let's go back to the beginning. Tell me when you when born and where you were born.

**ER:** I was the third of three children, of parents who had had their parents, all four, German immigrants, into the Cincinnati area. Cincinnati, Ohio. My parents, of course, immediately were taught, learned English from the very earliest time. I can recall my grandparents speaking German in their homes... both, both pairs. But my parents never were fluid in German at all. My older, eldest sister was eight years old,



eight years older than I, and my brother was four years older than I, so I grew up this special...pet of this older family. And, actually, we had a real generational split, because my sister was in school, in grade school, during World War I. And she changed the spelling of our name from the German spelling to the English spelling Frederick. Because of the terrible feeling she had of discrimination and being German was just not acceptable, even in a German city like Cincinnati, in those years during the First World War. I grew up in a wonderful loving household...

**PS:** When were you born? You didn't tell us.

**ER:** Excuse me. I was born September 17<sup>th</sup>, 1919. And grew up in a lovely, loving, wonderful extended family. I believe when we gathered at one grandparent's or another, for holidays, there were 15 or 20 nieces and nephews. Grandchildren. And we did have a lot of family involvement with both sides, all over those years of my childhood.

When I was about four my parents decided that the area where they had first settled in Cincinnati as newly married, a newly married couple, in the apartment house built by her, my mother's German parents upon their arrival in Cincinnati, was too confining to raise a family. And so, my father built a house in a, a summer resort area northeast of Cincinnati. We were the first permanent residents in that summer resort area.

And I can recall his, the years it was under construction, he was employed full time in a business which he called Queen City Blueprint Company. And there's more to that story as time goes on. He would, he hired all the, all the...he got an architect friend...he served architects in his business.

In those years, the blueprint business was taking tracings architects drew of construction. And making them into a blueprint. You're too young to know what a blueprint is ...

**PS:** No, I'm not.

**ER:** ... but today they're quite a different method. And quite a different system. But my father enticed one of his architect friends to design a home for us in Kennedy Heights. And he supervised the construction. Every day after work he would go to the site. And, he actually kept a little notebook in which he counted the number of nails he purchased, and the lumber he purchased.

As a young, youngster, his first job had been in a lumber business with a relative. And he suffered from, what we decided later, was rheumatic fever as a child of 17. And spent a year in bed. There was no penicillin to treat the strep throat which was known later to cause rheumatic heart disease.

And so, then he didn't have any employment after that. And about, I believe when he was 22, my mother and he were married. And he was working for someone else then.



Then he started his own business. The Blueprint Company. And at 27, he had rheumatic fever again and spent a year in bed. My sister was already four years old when he spent that year in bed. And the result of that incarceration was the birth of my son, my brother...his son. His second child. And then, four years after that, not another bout of illness, but, affecting greatly his early demise when I was only 13, from this weakened heart from those bouts of illness which are not even threatening in today's medical world.

He was, he's a dear man, and one of my strong recollections is of this marvelous house where I grew up. In those years, sleeping porches for air conditioning, not any kind of central systems. And one Fourth of July, my brother and I, sleeping on the sleeping porch, were awakened by firecrackers. And looked out to see my father, this businessman who wore a business suit *every* day of his life, with his pair of trousers cut off and his skinny white legs showing below, shooting off firecrackers on the lawn.

It was, he was a, he was quite a guy. He died at only 44, and so, my recollection of him is all of those earlier years. But I do have wonderful family photographs. My sister, being older, and I guess because she had this desire to record this family, has done a great deal of writing and recording through photographs and through her albums which I now have. Of family beginnings and collections and gatherings and all the kinds of things which have a great deal of meaning as you grow older.

**PS:** It's a wonderful treasure for your family to have.

**ER:** A wonderful treasure. Yes. I'm very happy I've married into a family of historians and have become one myself because I've lived so long. I found how important it is. It isn't awfully...always important to younger people.

**PS:** So, what about your mother? You mentioned your father quite a bit, but your mother must have had a hard time when he was ill.

**ER:** My mother must have been a real saint. She was that to me in her later years. All of our years, of course. Nursing this man and then having another child. My father, knowing his early demise was probably a fact of life, after his business began to thrive, taught my mother how to take care of the bookkeeping end of the business.

And I can still recall them at home on weekends, he brought a suitcase home with the ledgers and records of the business. The checkbook and so on. And taught her how to take care of those aspects of the family business. So that...

She was only 42 when he died. And the very next day...well, actually, the custom was to have the family as a place where the deceased person was in casket in the home for several days. So that, from the day of his death, which was a Sunday, until the following Sunday, we were doing funeral business. Part of it with him in his casket in our home. And family and friends gathering.



And then the following Monday, my mother went to the business which had been closed that week. Found that there was a total of 75-dollars in the checking account and she had a payroll to make. And so, she got her, her feet wet very quickly. Went to the creditors, mostly architects, designers and artists who used the service of this business in reproducing their work in a variety of ways. And called on those creditors and got enough money to make the payroll. And 30 years later, she retired from that business.

My brother had not finished high school. And intended to, but never did. He went to work with her as a kid of 17 that Monday after my father's demise a week before. And he never left to finish to finish an educational career. He became the owner and operator of the Queen City Blueprint Company after my mother's death. And then, unfortunately, died at a rather early age as well. But he married and had three wonderful children. And had a good life.

I can recall also, his particular occupation away from work was sailing. And, in those years, the Ohio River was a swimmable body of water as were all of the little lakes and rivers and streams all around that part of southern Ohio.

My father's most enjoyable occupation in his, my growing up years, had been taking the family on automobile trips around the countryside on weekends. Into Kentucky, into northern Kentucky, here and there, almost every weekend during winter, during summer season, when travel was fun and possible.

We went off on family trips. And, as a matter of fact, it was in preparation for one of those trips when he died suddenly. My brother and sister, being older by that time, by the time I was 13, had their own friends and their own occupations and their own automobiles and so on.

And that particular Sunday, the kids who were visiting the house had, as was our house always filled with visiting other kids...there were automobiles parked behind my family's automobile in the driveway. And so my father backed out of the garage which was built underneath the house in the back.

And pulled around the back of the house, across the terrace, and up the other side of the house across the lawn. And asked me to get out to move some lawn furniture which I grumblingly did. And when I returned to the car, he had died. He simply put his head back on the back of his seat. And my mother recognized that he was gone. And asked me to call the neighbor, which I did.

And I never forgot being dismayed at myself for being a 13-year-old reacting in a typical way, of grumbling about doing something at the last moment of his life.

But the kind of a guy he was has always consoled me in knowing that it was okay. I was okay. I was his special pet. And it worked all right.

**PS:** That must have been a difficult time for the family losing him.



**ER:** It was a difficult time. My mother went right to work, as I said, and I went right back to school. After a week. And, it was a hard time.

By then my sister had married...or very shortly after that, my sister had married. And she and her husband lived in our home with us. And all four of them...my brother and mother and sister and her husband went off to work every day.

Work for all of them was downtown Cincinnati which was, as I recall, 23 miles from our home. So it was quite an adventure. Especially during that winter. For them to leave home and drive to work. And often in the dark, and often returning in the evening after dark.

Until we were able to hire...bring a housekeeper in, which turned out to be a wonderful woman. A relative who had been widowed. And I believe that was customary in families in those years, also.

Until Aunt Lena arrived on the scene, perhaps six months later, here I was, this teenager, with...charged with the responsibility of getting some food on the table by the time these four weary workers returned at night. And that was not always a smooth operation.

I had a particular friend in the neighborhood whose home was a block away from ours, on the way home from school. And, of course, I won't bore anyone, as I have my children, of how far it was to walk to the public school which I attended. One entire mile. Winter or summer.

But, the way home with my friend was often engaged in stopping at her home. And she had a younger brother who was my special idol. And so it was often my arrival in the house the same time the family arrived, expecting dinner to be ready, and I was just peeling potatoes!

So those were rather, um, cumbersome years for me. And it never ended, as far as my sister was concerned, that she became my mother. And I resented her really a great deal over those growing up years of mine, because she thought perhaps...I'm sure she thought my mother was much too much of my friend, and not my overseeing parent. And so, my sister took that role.

We ended up our lives in very good friendship when they moved to Prescott, Arizona, quite a bit later. And, her daughter, her only daughter, is now my children and my almost closest relatives.

So, never any real estrangement, but teenagers and older siblings sometimes do have these difficult periods.

My sister and her husband then had a child and moved to another place in the neighborhood. This would have been my niece's older brother whom I just mentioned. And we, as always, spent a great deal of time together.



I was ready to go to...well, I think one of the important parts of my life was... Cincinnati is still one of the most cultured cities I have ever known. And I've only lived in a few places, but I've visited a number of places. And, in my long life, have known a lot of people from a lot of different places in the world.

Cincinnati remains an extremely cultured city with a municipal university program still in existence. It was the first in the country.

And also, the public education elementary system and high school had, very early on, extremely beneficial college preparatory programs. So that children in the sixth grade in the public schools in Cincinnati, as I did, could take a college prep exam and go to a junior high school college preparatory arrangement.

So that I went to a new school...a new building...it was ac...it was not actually the new, the beginning of Walnut Hills High School, but it was a new building, first year, in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade, all through high school. Latin a required course in the curriculum from 7<sup>th</sup> grade through 12. And by then, I was going away to school probably 15 miles from home. So it was a mile walk to the streetcar line, where the grade school has, had been located. And a transfer on a streetcar to get my high, to my junior high school, my 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

And it was quite a challenge for me. I had been, I'd grown up in that neighborhood, and hadn't gone very far. In fact, when I went to the University of Cincinnati, it was the first time I'd been on that side of Cincinnati.

I had, our entire collection, connection, had been with my grandparents who built the apartment house where my parents lived at first which was a couple of blocks from the high...junior high school and high school I went to.

And my father's parents who had created a farm when they came into that area, and which...where my father grew up, and they were all on the same side of Cincinnati. As we lived...same side of where we lived.

So I rode that streetcar to high school and junior high and I don't have any really serious recollections of that being traumatic. But I still have nightmares about going into a huge school building, lined with lockers, and making classes in different rooms as I entered school.

And I still have nightmares of not being able to get my locker open and the bell is ringing for the next class. And I'm sure everybody who's had that same experience in a large school has recog...will recognize that kind of...

**PS:** Of not being able to find the class or something?

**ER:** Oh, yes! That, too.



And one of my strongest recollections....well, I have two.

One in grade school with an exceptional teacher, and I think many lucky people have an exceptional recollection of one teacher, and mine happened to be 5th grade.

And then in, as I grew into high school, taking another language, I chose French. And it was only, it only lasted one year, because this little tiny bird of a woman, whom I cannot imitate, because I never learned to trill my "R"s, would scream at me from the front of the room, Mademoiselle Friedrich, will you not say (making sounds, no words). I...oh, well....I never mastered French, needless to say.

But her tiny persona, and so vigorous and so, almost violent in her speech, in trying to get us dumb kids to understand the French language and love it as she did. She being a French native.

I went to, I, I was accepted at several universities, and almost went to Brown which was my first choice, where I was also accepted. But, it, it was hard for my mother. By then my sister and brother had left home, to marriage, and...

We were good friends. We traveled together a lot. She was a businesswoman who traveled on business and took me many exotic places. Many exciting, wonderful places.

**PS:** Like what?

**ER:** Oh, San Francisco. On a ship to the Bahamas. Apparently the other part of this business, art text and artists' supplies, caused people who were in that business, not only to go to trade shows to see the newest equipment and purchase it for your business, but also to go to places where....for instance, the pencil company whose name I've forgotten, but if you've ever had a yellow pencil, a yellow lead pencil, with an eraser on the end....Faber!

The Faber Company was a German company who gave the best parties at trade shows. When I was a kid growing up, my mother went to the Faber, uh, suite and was entertained and....

I still have a drawing....they hired artists using, they used their pencils during this trade show to show how good they were.

And, that was a hard thing for her to think of, my leaving to go to college. And, although she never constrained me, or suggested that I not do it, I chose to go to the University of Cincinnati and live at home.

Except for my sophomore year when I was invited by my sorority to go to another university with a, another woman who was a member of that sorority, and help that particular chapter at Bloomington in Indiana University build up their chapter. They were having a difficult time.



And she and I spent that year there on a full scholarship. And, had a great deal of fun, building up that school. Building up that chapter of our sorority.

And then I went back to the University of Cincinnati. And that year I lived on campus in my sorority house.

My mother by then, she never married again, but by then she had enough of a social life outside the family, that it wasn't as hard a task for her when I was 20 as opposed to when I was 18, to see me going off to live in another place. Although, I had a car and I went home weekends. And...

By the time I was finished at the Indiana University I had a car. It was very difficult to get there from Cincinnati. One had to take the train into one place and then a bus to another to get to Bloomington from southern Ohio. Or to go into Indianapolis and down. But always by a bus. There was no train service in Bloomington in those years.

So, by the end of the time I was at Bloomington I had a car. And I kept it when I went to the University my third year.

And to continue with that saga, in the Spring of that year, I met a man from Prescott, Arizona. Who had come to the University of Cincinnati, and we happened to meet, primarily, through a sorority sister on a blind date. I with another man from Arizona who was there with my husband in the College of Medicine. Which happened to house the Mortuary Science College where my husband...reluctantly finishing his college degree, college career. Only two years duration at Loyola University in Los Angeles, was told by his father, it's time to go to work now, son. You need to get serious and get this Mortuary Science degree under your belt and come back to Prescott and run the mortuary.

Well, World War I...II, excuse me....was imminent. And Budge finished his career that spring. And when the year ended, the academic year ended, he came back to Prescott and enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps to avoid being drafted. Draft was imminent in those years. For...

**PS:** What year was that?

**ER:** 1940.

For people who had finished their academic career, couldn't-a manage, couldn't manage to stay in college any longer...were unquestionably going to be drafted. There was no...doubt about that. And he wished to be a flier, wished to be an airman. So he enlisted.

And started....well, actually, continued working in his family business.

And I enticed my mother to take yet another trip, and we booked passage on the Santa Fe Chief



Air...um...Railroad. No airplanes yet, really, doing transcontinental visitor...touring traffic. By train from Cincinnati to Chicago where we changed trains. As I did many times later going back and forth after I had made Prescott my home.

To Chicago, got on the Chief for three days and two nights, into Williams, Arizona.

And stepped off the train, met my hus....met my fiancé and his sister and his father. And we drove to Prescott where....and my mother and I stayed in the Hassayampa Hotel for that first week.

And by the end of that week, my husband-to-be had prop, propositioned my mother to say that he would soon be having to leave Prescott because he was a member of the United States Army Air Corps.

And, he and I had decided that it was impossible for me to return to Cincinnati. That we wanted to get married.

And that blessed woman said, I could not have denied you that because I realized that if I did and you came back to college and Budge went off to war and you never met again, it would be tragic.

And so, she promoted our marriage in Prescott in his parents' home. And she, blessed woman, went on to California and fooled around for a week, no, 10 days, while Budge and I went to....first of all, to Grand Canyon, and then the Indian country.

And this is my famous story... All my children's years of growing up, they went camping with their father and I stayed home and enjoyed my, as he said, roughing it with his....window open and a single sheet.

And he had a single sleeping bed and a coffee pot and a new bride in the Navajo reservation. And I've had occasion to recall this lately in some accounts I've been asked to write.

And one of them is, has to do with the recollection I'd nearly forgotten, but it's so clear to me now...

A part of the problem of camping on the Navajo reservation was that it was largely denuded of any wood at all. It had been over-grazed by so many years. And the nomadic Indian people tended to follow their flocks in easily accessible places....and, of course, that's where this man was taking me. Easily accessible places being, of course, sandy dirt roads and getting stuck. But, not too badly.

But also, there was no wood. And he hadn't been foresighted enough to bring enough wood for us to camp as long as we were camping.

And so, a part of the evening chore was to go out and search, search for some wood. And he actually drove away from the campsite. But he happened to leave a little pistol in my lap.



So that I, seeing all these campfires in the distance, of, of the nomadic Navajos who were following their flocks and living on their own land...if I were frightened of someone approaching me and would shoot in the dark at an arriving figure, it could well have been (laughing) that man who left me the pistol. But, it didn't turn out that way.

I was not sufficiently frightened to even take it out of my lap and got rid of it very soon. Something... Although I had been a rifle shot in college, I'd been on the rifle team, but...I never learned to use a handgun. And I, I think I never shall.

**PS:** Well, that was quite an introduction to Arizona. (laughs)

**ER:** Imagine. And that roughing it all those days, those days, caused me to prefer to stay home for a lot of years after that, when the children went camping.

I did finally go on a river trip on the Colorado River with friends and family, and that was, that was wonderful. Although I've been teased about that.

The kinds of dress that one is directed to wear was easy for me because I really never got used to wearing Levis. I never really wore Levis. Not to wear that kind of clothing, because it's really hard to dry out.

And so, although I wore shorts and other trousers during the daytime, I actually showed up the first night, after being on the river all day, in a muu muu. And I actually showed up on the river the first day with long white cotton gloves because I had a short sleeved shirt on. And they said, cover your arms. (laughs) So...

Friends have never let me forget that particular mode of dress. For a city girl suddenly being in the west, Wild West and still having a lot of city clothes (laughing) in her possession. Made use of them.

**PS:** Go back a little bit and talk about first meeting your husband in...I mean...Cincinnati at college. You never did say, what, what was your major in college? What were you planning to do?

**ER:** I was in pre-med. And we were in the same, some of the same classes. The Mortuary Science College being in the medical...in the pre-medical school. No, the medical school was in Cincinnati. The medical school in, at Indi, Indiana was not in Bloomington. It was in Indianapolis. No, the University of Cincinnati Medical School, which has become famous, the Sabin, uh, Sabin...brothers, one of the brothers, invented the polio vaccine in the University of Cincinnati Medical School. Later.

Budge was...we had a couple of classes, but I really didn't know him on campus.

One day, my dear sorority sister invited me to go on a double-date with her. She was his date. And his friend, Frank Bluer (sp??) from Chandler, Arizona, also in that Mortuary Science College, was to be my date.



And we got, in this romantic way college kids will want to do in Cincinnati, down to the wharf and onto the *Island Queen*, which was the most luxurious paddleboat going about 20 miles down the Ohio River, no, up the Ohio River, to Coney Island which was a summer resort with a dance pavilion and all of the rides and so on. But we, being 20 year olds, were not looking at rides. We went to the dance pavilion.

Had danced on the ship. The, the boat, I guess it is. Paddleboat. Paddlewheel steamer they called it. Had a calliope. The whole works. This is 1940 remember. The spring of 1940.

And so, that night, having been together for some hours, Budge asked me if I'd give him my telephone number. And I did. And very soon, he called me for a date. And, my friend never forgave me, but on the other hand it was, you might say love at first sight.

He had undoubtedly dated. In fact, a woman who had been his girlfriend while he was at Loyola, came into his life later. Many years later, again. He and Donna had been really destined for each other. Very young people. But Budge's father had insisted at that point that he come home from Loyola where he was having a lot of fun and go to Cincinnati where we met. And so, Donna was left behind and Budge and I decided that we would tie our fates together. And we were married in, on August 10<sup>th</sup> of 1940 in Prescott and then went on this trip to the Indian Country. And...

**PS:** So had you planned to become a doctor then?

**ER:** Yes. I was going to be the greatest woman surgeon who ever lived.

**PS:** Well, was that a big decision for you to give that up?

**ER:** Yes. Um. Yes, it was. But more, more than the academic decision, the social decision was heavy on my heart.

I was to be Rush Chairman for my sorority my senior year in college and, (laughs) I didn't make it. It didn't go back. But, I did give them enough warning that they were able to replace me. And so that, when we returned from that wedding trip, which was truly wonderful, it wasn't all spent on the reservation.

We had a wonderful cabin at the Grand Canyon at, at Bright Angel which, to which I have been able to return repeatedly over the years because of other kinds of conditions. Not because we were there in 1940.

And also then, returning from the Indian reservation, we stopped at Cameron. And the young Richardson's, who were about our ages, had had built for them by his parents, the owners of the trading post at Cameron, the Richardson's, a wonderful residence. With a deck on the top of the building. A guest suite adjoining the deck. With a wonderful square bathtub.



And on August 20<sup>th</sup>, I was sitting in that bathtub, 10 days after being away from Prescott. It was the most marvelous re-introduction to civilization I have ever experienced. And we slept out on the deck that night which was truly lovely. August 20, 21<sup>st</sup> I guess it was.

Also, on the reservation, we had spent two nights at Ganado with young Lorenzo Hubbell. Lorenzo's father was the famous Don Lorenzo Hubbell, who was at...not Ganado. Excuse me. He was at Ganado. Young Lorenzo was at Oraibi on the Hopi reservation. Had a family trading post there. Although he was given this...from the research I've done about the Ganado and Oraibi trading posts, and several others the Hubbell family owned around that period, young Lorenzo and his much more famous older brother, Ramon, who ended up running the trading post at Ganado, with a woman who became a good friend of mine, Dorothy, who you may have known in Phoenix. Dorothy Hubbell lived in Phoenix in her later years and was quite active in the social scene in Phoenix.

But, young Lorenzo was given this trading post, I think to get him away from the family compound at Ganado. I just got the impression that the older brother and the younger brother were not good store-keepers together.

And so, by the time I met young Lorenzo, he was a man, probably in his 50s. I didn't know until many years later, doing research about the family, that the woman who pulled the coffee pot off the back of the stove and stoked up the fire was his wife. She was a Navajo woman.

But, at the time, he was expecting us, but he was on the reservation on a buying trip, and didn't come back in to the residence until that afternoon,. But she had warmed up some coffee for us. Or made some coffee, I guess. I think the way the coffee was made just on that, in that pot, was the way we made cowboy coffee later, was just to dump some more grounds in it and throw in some more water.

I'll never forget that Leo. When, when Lorenzo finally got there, he opened, they opened a can of tuna and a can of peaches and that was our supper. Wonderful, gracious Leo.

The most astounding part of that visit...we spent two nights there as guests. His guests.

The first night we were listening to...we had a portable radio which had been given to us as a wedding gift. We took it out on the compound wall surrounding the residence and trading post. And Lorenzo had called to some of the people who lived there, Navajo people. And we were listening to Wendall, Wendall Willkie with a campaign speech.

And Lorenzo, and, and....Lorenzo was interpreting to the Navajo people, the, those words of the, the ambitious Great White Father who never got to be one. But....we didn't know it then.

The most astounding part of that visit, in that residence, was to go into closet after closet, accompanying



my host, showing us the pawn he had taken over the years which was a part of the trading post business.

People who lived near trading posts, I believe they were established as a custom the white people introduced to the na, Indian people, but which they found a mutual benefit from using that of the people who made objects, blankets and, and jewelry, trading it for supplies. For condiments, for coffee, for sugar. For orange pop. All the things trading posts supplied those.

People at that time, largely itinerate Navajo families with wagons following their crop, their, uh, sheep. With a Hogan here and there.

But anyway, that was my great introduction to the world of the trading post and the Indian people. Cause...

**PS:** That the first time that you had met Indian people?

**ER:** Yes.

**PS:** What did you think?

**ER:** I was so enthralled with the experience in all of these new parts of my, the life I had chosen. It was only a few months later I began to wonder what I had done.

Came back to Prescott. My husband, of course, busy every day. Very busy. I not really terribly involved. I didn't know anyone very well. And that first winter in Prescott, I had come from a rainy climate, and it rained all winter. It was really weird.

We had a wonderful apartment. And I had a wonderful friend. A family of wonderful friends. One of whom later, it, it turns out, is the grandmother of my now good friends, the Pfeisters in Phoenix. Suzanne, her granddaughter, one of my daughter's very closest friends.

Kay McDonald, Bobby Pfeister's sister, had an Indian store in the Hassayampa Hotel, where I'd stayed that first week with my mother. And although we lived a couple of blocks away, I, I recall that first winter spending almost every day over there with Kay. But that soon changed.

Because the women of the town came calling on me as soon as I was settled. In their white gloves and calling cards. And told me what they had in mind for me, which was that, these new young women who come to town, had lots of volunteer opportunities. We needed, they needed help with the Girl Scout Council, which was then an independent town council.

Later, during, after World War II, all of those small town councils became a private regional council. And Cactus and Pine Girl Scout Camp will still exist.



They also said, we needed a new library in Prescott. That was the major task I took on. Um. We were in the wonderful Carnegie Library on the corner across from the Hassayampa, which you've seen, I'm sure. And...it went on from there.

I did take a few times out. I had three children. But I, I became a, I actually had been a volunteer in college. That second...well, my family had always been...all of my life...taking care of other people. Sick relatives. Sick friends. Always had food delivered to them. And, many times, brought into our home to recuperate if there was something terrific going on somewhere else.

And so it was easy for me to fall into the volunteer part of my life. Back into it.

In college, at the university in Indiana, I became a volunteer unwittingly. The woman I was there with from Cincinnati had as her boyfriend in Indiana the Big Man On Campus, whom the town of Bloomington had hired to be their (phone ringing) connector, connection, with the campus residents in their city election. He recruited all us student volunteers. He was getting paid. We didn't know it till later.

Do you want to stop and wait until that phone stops ringing?

**PS:** Do you need to get it?

**ER:** It'll stop in a minute.

**PS:** (can't hear) As soon as we stop, it stops! (laughs)

**ER:** It went on the...

**PS:** (can't hear) Go ahead. So you, so you had volunteered.

**ER:** He was being paid by the town of Bloomington to help them win a city election by recruiting students, our, his friends. We were, we taught, were taught how to go door to door, knocking on doors, introducing the candidates to the residents. Telling them when the election was, and where to vote. And then, the day of the election, acting as babysitters, and driving people to the polls and so on. It was a true political campaign.

Later when I was involved in partisan politics during the Barry Goldwater years, it was the model we followed.

Then, the political parties were a great deal different from today. And the precinct committee people which our party system set up in this country, of electing local people in the party system who were then charged with the responsibility of getting to know their neighbors and getting their issues to them, and



introducing them to the candidates, and so on. Was followed, oh, quite some time. And it's really was a successful practice.

In fact, people I assist today, who seek my support and advice, I remind them that counting votes is the way you win elections. And you better just find out how many votes you need and go and get them.

Talking heads on television changes a great deal, but, as far as local elections are concerned, that's the way it's done. It really is. And those people who learn that are successful.

**PS:** So you learned it early.

**ER:** Yes.

**PS:** Sounds like...you mentioned that you were driving very early, too.

**ER:** Yes, at sixteen. Actually a friend in the neighborhood had taught me to drive quite a bit earlier than that. On, in, in...well, it wasn't a rural area. It was a suburb of...that, that summer resort where my father built this first permanent home soon became a suburb of Cincinnati. And soon a major road was built a mile away, past that school I mentioned.

But those roads around our neighborhood were small roads. We had ponds nearby, on which we would...ice skate in the winter. I suppose somebody fished. I never fished in those, in those ponds. I suppose someone did.

I told you earlier my brother was crazy about the water and sailing. He built a number of small sailboats from kits. Later owned a, a boat, a larger, much larger one, on Lake Erie in Cleveland where he went...I guess he went weekends a lot. I imagine that was a long drive for a few days of sailing, but, that was his hobby.

As I said, we also swam in the Cin...in the Ohio River. My brother kept a little boat down there a lot and we would sail on the Ohio River. Later he got really crazy and put a mast on a canoe. Have you ever been in a canoe?

**PS:** Yeah.

**ER:** It's different from a kayak. Quite different. But it still is a round bottom. And it has no outriggers, it has nothing. So a sail on a canoe is a dangerous way of travel. But it was the most fun I've ever had in my life. Part of the reason for having a canoe on the Ohio River was to ride the rollers from the steamboats.

As steam, let's see, actually, I'm sure by then the Ohio River was beginning to be a major commercial artery. And there had to have been river boats which were powered by coal and steam to carry freight. But



I don't recall that in that era. I, I felt like we had that river to ourselves. Except for those pleasure boats. Going from the wharf in Cincinnati to Coney Island. There were two of them. The *Island Queen* and...another one. I don't remember. It doesn't matter.

He put up a mast on that canoe. And it's enough for having a paddle in a canoe without something tipping you over besides the, uh, the rollers we were riding. It was a lot of fun. We were wet more than we were dry. But it was, it was great fun. And then to ride it again and, get the, get the sail back in the right position. So...it was a lot of fun.

**PS:** You were pretty adventurous. I know a lot young women didn't learn to drive back in those days.

**ER:** We had a wonderful life. Ice skating in the winter. Actually, this friend who was the person who taught me, I think taught me ice skating. No, I think my parents did that. Not on rinks, of course, but on natural ponds.

This boy had been burned horribly in childhood. And I saw this happen again in later years to a person I still see, Buzz McDaniel.

His parents had a steam kettle beside his bed to help with his croup. And it tipped over and it burned the whole side of his head and this arm and his shoulder. And he had a very scarred face. And part of his hair was never, never grew back.

He was a few years older than I, but he was our mentor and friend. He taught us...well, he helped us ice skating. He's the one who got the fire started in the barrel on the side of the pond when we went there after school. Which we did almost every night when it was, when it was possible.

He taught us to drive. He taught us how to play poker. It was totally un-sexual, asexual, un-sexual. There was no suggestion that an older boy would be in any way dangerous to us younger girls. There was a whole group of us. We weren't coupling. We weren't pairing off in those years. It was a simple and very innocent and wonderful childhood.

And Bob Vote (sp??) taught me to drive. On country roads. I suppose I was maybe 13, 14. I think a part of it, that was that fall after my father's death. As I recall now, that was when Bob was really important in my life.

My brother had gone to work with my mother. (clears throat) They drove off every day.

My father had one of the first Ford automobiles. And it was one of those, not a touring car type, but just a square box. And he loved it so much. It had a running board. It was a wonderful little car. He always had to crank it up and I can still see that. (laughs)



He decided to paint it once. And he painted it kind of an ugly brown. And they called it Mississippi Mud. And the kids in the neighborhood, you understand, there were kids in the neighborhood. Every house had kids. And there were houses maybe every, oh, I don't...I suppose our lots were on an acre., we had a pony and chickens. And I suppose there were a couple of acres. But there were always kids around.

And they teased him so much. They also teased him about those white legs under his shorts that Fourth of July. There were more than us...more than we, his own children, at that fireworks do that morning.

But I'm sure that was when Bob came into my life.

**PS:** Was that the, the old Ford, the one that you went on weekends traveling.

**ER:** Yes. Oh, yes. Those...yes.

I think we had a better car though by the time he died. I think we had a better model, a later model. That was a Model T. Then we had a Model A. That was la...yeah...much, much more...much more presumptuous looking automobile. But it was still a Ford.

**PS:** Cause all the Model T's and Model A's were black. So he had a brown one.

**ER:** Were black. He painted it brown. Took a lot of ribbing.

So by the time, one of the things that Bob Vote taught me in driving which I still teach my grandchildren, when you're entering a curve, and there were a lot of curvy roads in southern Ohio, you know. There were no mountains, but lots of hills. It was very hilly country. And as you enter a curve you slow down and then you speed up in the curve.

And it's still a great treat to have a child you're teaching to drive recognize that that's a good thing to do. I can't say that anyone I see on the roads today has ever been taught to drive. In any way! All of us say, we wonder where they learned...or were taught to drive? Maybe they weren't.

Anyway, it's always been a great joy of mine. I love to drive. I just came back from a 10 day driving trip up into Colorado. And drove sometimes 500 miles in a day. Just loved every minute of it. I do love to drive.

**PS:** That's great that you're still able to drive, too.

**ER:** Oh, able, of course. (laughs) I was so...really quite surprised though. A few months ago when I went a few months when I went to get a driver's license renewal. Just take a picture and I get one for five years.

I think the automobile laws, the automobile licensing laws in Arizona, could stand some fine tuning. But



for me, I'm very pleased it's still that lax.

My children have told me...they've promised me, two things. If it seems they believe I am not...should not continue to drive, I will gracefully accept their decision. And also they've promised, that if, anyone....I'm working very, very hard raising a million dollars. I'm the chairman of a committee. I just got over a million-two raised for the library. I was co-chairman of that committee.

I've been raising money for 60 years. And this is my last big job, to raise this money to restore the Elks Opera House.

But they have promised me, and I've told a few of my closest friends, that if there is a time that any one of them says to one of my children, I sure don't think your mother's cutting it any longer, they will say to me, okay, you stay home. And I will accept it gracefully.

**PS:** I think you're a long ways from that.

**ER:** I try to keep all of my records so that when someone steps in, it's not going to be too hard.

**PS:** Before the tape ends here, that must have been a, a big decision for you to give up all that life you had in Cincinnati and all your dreams of becoming the greatest surgeon....

**ER:** I was so in love with this glamorous man. He was so tall and so handsome and so glamorous. It really wasn't a hard decision at all.

Once I took the, got the nerve, to tell him that my mother needed to give us permission....I'm not sure I even had to tell Budge that. I think maybe he had that intuition.

When we, when we decided we would be engaged before he left Cincinnati to come home, he took my mother and me to a place in Loveland, Ohio, called the Golden Lamb. A very famous inn...restaurant kind of thing...which we had, where we had gone a number of times when I was a kid with my father. On weekends. Driving here and there.

He took my mother to the Golden Lamb. And we had a lovely luncheon and a wonderful...beautiful historic inn. And that's when he said to her, that we had thought it was acceptable, if it were with her, that he would go home to Prescott and we would be fiancés. If she gave her permission. And she did.

And then when he and I decided we would talk with her again about another big decision, he drove us up to a really remarkable place west of this residence where we are today. Where Copper Basin Road and Highway 89 are connected. And I'll have to think a little more intensely about...haven't done it for a long time. It's an overlook where there are some really ancient junipers. And it has a name, but I can't think of it at the moment. A lot of people still go up there. It's in the national forest. In those days, in 1940, you



could see the Chocolate Mountains in Southern California which you drive past when you're heading toward San Diego. When the air was so clear and before it got too smogged up.

So we drove up there that day. We had lunch at the Hassayampa and drove up there. And, Budge suggested to my mother that he had something really important to talk with her about. And so we stood around next to that wonderful juniper. And he broached the subject of my acceptance of his proposal that we be married in Prescott. And then, he would feel more comfortable going off to World War II if he knew that I was nailed down. (laughter) And, (laughs) she laughed at that. And then she said, you know, all my years in business I've always, always thought, if I had a salesman like you, I would have been much more successful than I was. You are a good salesman.

And, as you know, she agreed that it was all right to suggest that. And, so I scurried around that Friday, to find something to be married in. And we were married in Budge's home. His mother had a lovely chicken salad lunch. And two of our friends, his sister and her friend at the time, a man named Jerry Biggowet (sp??), and Bobby Pfister and...I guess that Kay was out of town or something. But Bobby agreed to be my witness.

And then we got in the car his father lent to us, from the mortuary, and a little...I think it was a Ford again. One of the newest. In 1940. Do you know, when the PT Cruiser came out, it reminded me of that car. It had a sloping back. It was really one of the first, so-called string lined cars we had seen. When you look at 1937 and 38 cars, they're all those great big boxy things. And as I recall...

**PS:** We've got so many stories you could tell.

**ER:** Who does all this wonderful editing to make this look like something you'd want to use?

**PS:** That's my job. (laughs) Well, knowing that it's there for history, too, is important. So...even though I can only share a little bit of it that evening, but...we'll have to find the best parts.

Let's see... You were talking, you know, coming to Prescott in 1940. What was Prescott like? What was your first impression when you and you mother arrived here?

**ER:** I missed the greenery of my home. We lived on a street which had trees arching over the center, meeting each other on the...in the center of the street. And the greenery. It was the first impression I had...although, look how green it is. It's not really a contrast. It's a different way that the foliage grows in the West.

My first impression of Prescott was of all these wonderful people who wanted to make me welcome. And who invited us to do things with them and become a part of the community. It was, I believe, about 7,000 people at the time.



But, to tell you the truth, it wasn't as much of a culture shock as one might expect coming from a major city. Although Cincinnati's never been anything but a, a middle-sized American city.

We lived in a very closed culture. My parents chose to live in a place which was away from the German enclave where both their parents had settled. There were German farmers where my father's parents settled. My, my grandfather had been an apprentice in a brickyard in Germany. And he started a brickyard near his farm and employed a lot of other German immigrants and people who came there. Probably had a similar background to his.

My mother's parents built an apartment house and had a grocery store in the, in the corner of the building. And, there was a whole German neighborhood.

But our neighborhood, although it was not all of the same ethnic background, was just centered around the school. My parents started a Presbyterian church halfway up between my grade school and my home. On that hill. On that main street. It wasn't a thoroughfare, it was just a neighborhood street.

And so, I had lived in a smaller setting all of my growing up years. As I said, when I went to the University of Cincinnati to enroll, it was the first time I'd been on that side of town. (laughs) I had been in downtown Cincinnati which is still a beautiful city.

My brother was famous for having, one New Year's Eve, climbed the fountain in Fountain Square. Leaving his coat behind and then being wrapped in it by the people at the bottom, after he came down all wet. And never being apprehended by the gendarmes.

Somehow pranks in those days were pranks and kids got away with them.

**PS:** And they were pretty harmless, most of them.

**ER:** Oh, yes, oh, yes. Harmless. There wasn't nearly the liability that we have today.

**PS:** When you came to Prescott...the Ruffner family had the funeral home?

**ER:** Yes.

**PS:** So they were a fairly well-known family.

**ER:** They were very well established. My husband's mother was the first public school musician...music teacher...hired in the territory. And her career as a musician had affected many, many parts of the community. Community's life.

She taught children. She had, for many years, run in the summertime a community sing. And one of my



friends from the Yavapai-Prescott tribe later said that, during her childhood, that community sing, which was on a stage...they first of all put in a (can't understand word)...in a, in a Courthouse Plaza...and then later at the ballpark at the east side of town, was the only place Indian kids were welcome. In her childhood. This was Patricia McGee (sp?) whom I later nominated to the Arizona Women's Hall of Fame.

Mary Ruffner was a great influence. And then her husband, Budge's father, Lester Ruffner, had been just like all the young businessmen of the time. He helped Sharlot Hall get the museum started. His brother was the sheriff. They...although his brother was never a popular raconteur, Lester Ruffner was. He was the toastmaster for every service club which ever met. He was the district governor for Rotary. He was...he founded the Rotary...Prescott Rotary. The oldest one. Now there are sev...a number of them.

He was very highly regarded as a master of ceremonies and speaker. Very handsome man. Very personable. And then, their oldest child, my husband's sister who was six years older than he, grew up in the town when she was the only kid who had an automobile, access to an automobile.

And where there were lots of interested...interesting families, Prescott was still, in the years she was growing up, in the teens and 20s, a mining center. There was a lot of mining...mining still going on. Jerome was pretty busy. And there was a lot of social life between the families who lived at the mines and the townspeople. And the people who were at Fort Whipple and the townspeople. A lot of social interchange...musical interchange.

And these service clubs started growing up. Started developing. And Budge followed in his father's footsteps. He was a highly regarded master of ceremonies. He happened to join the Kiwanis Club and be a part of that group. An, an influential member.

When he was president of the local Kiwanis Club, he went to a national, international, national meeting, I guess. And brought back the idea of the Kiwanis auction to Prescott, as a way of raising money for their charitable activities. And this is still going on now, in the advent of television, it's really quite a popular week...I guess 10 day long auction of people, things people have given them of all kinds. Some very valuable...

**PS:** Local television station?

**ER:** Local television station, yes. They...local public access television station.

And Budge...

**PS:** How did he get the name Budge? I've always wondered.

**ER:** His sister was, as I said, six years older and she couldn't say "brother." So she said something else and it turned out to be "budgey." Somebody wrote "budgey" down, I suppose, or just kept saying it. And



then he had a heck of a time shedding the, uh, the ending of that word which he thought was much too infantile for a grown man. So he really worked hard to get to be called “Budge.” And he was known primarily as “Budge.”

People confused him as a junior. Many times people wrote his name as Lester Ruffner, Jr., but he was really not a junior. His father’s middle name was “Lee” and his mother’s...and Budge’s middle name was his mother’s maiden name. Lester Ward.

But anyway...he was Budge. To distinguish him from Lester, his father always kept his given name.

**PS:** What did you think about the, the funeral business? You had wanted to be a doctor. And he was in the funeral business. (can’t hear rest)

**ER:** It wasn’t long until I was working in it. And I had a particular capability for not doing the funeral...not doing the mortuary work, but for, having been a part of a family business as a child, recognizing that keeping a family business going relied on who was keeping the books. (laughs) And, recognizing that that was an important role. When my son was two-and-a-half, I went to work for the business. And we, Budge and I, ran it together for...until we sold it many years later.

It was a beautiful building. It was in a beautiful building in a wonderful old Victorian...the Wells Home. They were second owners. The Wells family had built it and had glorious girls who lived in, grew up in that house. Had wonderful stories of the Wells house.

And Edmund Wells was an attorney and judge who wrote a book about the Walker party coming into Prescott. He was among, among those entrepreneurs. Everyone thinks of these first arrivals as being mountain men and, and all these rough shod...rough...rough characters. But, there were a number of very highly educated men in those first groups. And he happened to come in with the Walker party, and then wrote a book called “Argonaut Tales,” which was the story of that adventure coming into this place designated by President Lincoln and the Congress as being the place to settle the capitol. For the Arizona Territory.

**PS:** So where did you live when you first came here in 1940?

**ER:** We had...Budge had rented an apartment in a, in a...I guess could have been the first apartment house built in Prescott, on North Cortez Street. At that time, North Cortez was the commercial street of the town. The depot was two blocks down from the Courthouse Plaza. It was the banking street, the business street.

And this Harten (sp?) Apartments was built as a two-story, four, eight unit apartment house, as a very early entrepreneurial effort to have people living downtown. Many people lived above their stores at the time.



This, we rented an apartment on the top floor in that building. And then, soon, a friend had... a friend of his family... had built an apartment over a garage across the street from the mortuary.

And so we, Budge thought that would be much more handy, more convenient, for him. At the time the business still operated an ambulance service. In fact, they had from the earliest days when Budge's uncle, uncle won this business in a turn of a card, at the turn of a card. This is a famous story of the Ruffner family.

The sheriff was owner of a, of the livery stable at the time. And in the late 1800s, early 1900s. And the undertaker rented wagons and, and carriages from the livery stable. From the sheriff. And at one point, owed him a great deal of money.

And so, the sheriff said to Nevins, we will play a card game, and I'll end up owning your business or you won't owe me a bill. And the sheriff ended up owning the business.

And didn't feel it appropriate for the man who hung people to be burying them as well. I'm sure there were other ethical considerations or business considerations. Which caused him to bring his younger brother, much younger brother. Although, actually, his younger brother was here already. About 16. Budge's father came west from Mason (?), Illinois, to join his older brother who by then had established a business. And had already been elected sheriff. To Prescott to work in livery stable.

His father drove mule teams to the mines as a very young kid. Was a glamorous young, I think, 20-year-old when he met this schoolteacher who had just been, this music teacher who had just been hired to come to town from the Chicago Conservatory of Music.

So he sent his younger brother to Chicago, to Mortuary Science College. And then in 19... that was 1903, and then in 1906, Budge's father bought the business from his brother. So the business has been operating as the Ruffner Funeral Home since 1903, but operating by my immediate family since 1906.

And that's why Budge went into the traditional family business. It was some, for some reason, I don't know why. I guess farmers sons became farmers and morticians sons became morticians. I guess doctors and lawyers had a little different kind of patriarchal approach, because... well, maybe not.

Maybe there were young people who became lawyers because their fathers were lawyers. They just read with them in the business... in the office. I know that's the way a lot of doctors who practiced in Prescott early became doctors. They simply apprenticed to a doctor... or to a carpenter... and learned how to do something.

**PS:** Certainly the funeral, the mortuary business, is a critical business for any community. But it's not what you think of as a glamorous business.



**ER:** My husband was a budding actor. He had a contract with the Hollywood film company in, in the offing. He played with the Loyola's Theater Company in "Room Service" and had been approached by an agent and was working on contracting to go to work in the film when his father said, Son, it's time to go to work. And he came home and...I've related that story already.

**PS:** So, he also was going off to, to the war. What happened with that?

**ER:** Well, when he finished school, when he finished university and came back to Prescott, that's almost the first thing he did. Because, as I said, he wanted to...always wanted to fly. And had done a little bit, but nothing worth...wasn't financially able, as Lee Moore, the mortician in Phoenix, had already become.... owned his own plane.

And so, he enlisted and in about 43, then...we'd already had a child. We had Melissa, born in 41. About 43 he was en....he was....called. I don't know what the word is. He had already enlisted. He was, whatever you do to say, we're ready for you.

And he left Prescott, went to Sheppard Field, Texas, where he was in a, a barracks with a whole bunch of other young guys from Arizona and California. That whole group was recruited from this, or brought from this western area.

And those first six months he was in that airborne, Air Force base, he contracted boils, staphylococcal infection, and mumps. He was very ill. He did...wasn't sent home. He was nearly...washed out. He was nearly discharged, because of his illness.

Turns out the only effect of the mumps was he was sterile for a number of years. So that we had six years between our first two children. But, luckily, he recovered his capabilities to sire children, and we were successful in having another two.

He recovered and then, a part of the practice in the Air Co....U.S. Army Air Corps in those days. Now it's the...

**PS:** Air Force.

**ER:** ...separate service, the Army Air... Army Air Force. The U.S. Air Force. The United States Air Force. It's a separate service. Then it was just part of the Army.

He...the practice then was to take these young striplings and send them off to college for six months. And so, Budge and his whole crew were sent to Creighton University in Omaha.

And they were kept in barracks...I think they lived in dormitories. They were kept in the same regiment, in



the same uniform patterns. But they were given a number of opportunities for education which would have led them to become officers.

It wasn't, I don't think there was a formal officers training corps in those years. I think this was just the beginning of that experience.

And so, in those six months, he was in Omaha. I...very soon after he left, I took my baby daughter and went to Cincinnati, thinking I would stay there for the duration.

We had no car. We had bought a house in the Mountain Club, but I couldn't live there. I didn't have a car. It was a couple miles from town. And so, we decided that that would be a good thing to do. And, of course, my family was glad to have me there.

But I had become so inured to the beautiful openness of the West and the clear skies. And the lovely climate. That once, going out to take some diapers off the wash line, which were streaked with coal sludge, I decided I was a Westerner.

And so, at that point I left my daughter, my baby girl, I...she was about eight months old, I guess, with my sister in Cincinnati and her two children. Who were in the...similar age year, age group. And went and spent six weeks in Omaha.

Rented a house with other wives of these California and Arizona men. A wonderful old Victorian. And the only time we saw our husbands was on weekends when they had a day...sometimes they had a day or a part of a day to be with their wives or spouses. I don't think there were significant others then. I don't think there were any girlfriends among our group at least.

But we would watch, we would go out on the porch and we would watch...we happened to rent a house on the path, on the street on which they marched three times a day to go to meals. Two meals and back. And so, we could watch them go back in formation.

And we had one among us who learned...earned...ended up being an engineer with the California Highway Department. Was the most interesting man I've met.

Dick Hood, very early in this time of marching to and fro for meals, requisitioned a Red Cross box...a box of Red Cross supplies. He said it was empty when he took it. We don't know that.

He would walk in formation to breakfast with this Red Cross box on his shoulder, veer off into our house and spend an hour with his wife while the other recruits were in the mess hall. And then meet them as they came back. He never got caught. I don't know how many times he did that. But we were there cooking up stuff for Dick. The others weren't smart enough to make it.



But Dick and Sophie Hood became close, close friends. We saw them many times in California. And they came to Prescott many times, after those Air Force years.

So then he finished...no, then I came back to Prescott. I brought Melissa back to Prescott. And they finished up their time at Creighton Field and then, by the end of that period, they went into pilot training. And Budge learned that he was night blind. And he was stationed then in...I don't remember where.

He ate 30,000 bushels of carrots, trying to remedy this lack of Vitamin C, apparently. And, I don't know. Whether it's a congenital something or lack of nutritional values. But it never worked, so he was never able to become a trained air...pilot.

So he was a ground crew and he spent the rest of his three years in the service training in a low...in a high pres...a low, a high pressure, low altitude trainer. No. Low pressure, high altitude trainer.

The experienced airmen would have when they were high in the sky with the G forces, they were taught inside a pressure chamber on the ground by Budge Ruffner. And he spent a lot of time doing that and made a lot of good friends.

And, of course, envied his compadres who then went on to become pilots and officers and so on.

But fortunately, the GI Bill was in force when he came back three and a half years later and he learned to fly out at Prescott Airport on the GI Bill. Which satisfied that need to fly. And he enjoyed that very much.

**PS:** They didn't care if he had night blindness or....

**ER:** Well, he didn't fly at night. Of course, pilots going off to World...off to war, they need to fly in any circumstance. It wasn't...

**PS:** So he never left the country then...

**ER:** He never left the country. He was stationed at Kingman for quite a while. He was stationed at Las Vegas for quite a while. At those two air bases. He never left the West fortunately. So...there was a lot of opportunity for him to be home again...come home, whenever they could get gas. Or when a friend and I could get enough gas to get an automobile to Las Vegas, we drove up there.

**PS:** So you spent the rest of the war years back here in Prescott.

**ER:** Came back to Prescott, yes. We had rented our house. And I rented several apartments downtown. Actually, I didn't have a car. We never did own a car until much later in that period of time when he was away. We bought an old clunker.



In fact, a friend who owned a filling station which was located where that livery stable had been, bought us...actually gave me an old clunker. And then, I never had to show a coupon to buy any gas. Or even groceries. I would just take my coupons into them when they came and the grocer and the filling station man just took care of me.

Anyway, Bill Kline (sp?) gave us...somehow, we got a car. I think he gave it to us.

And when we decided we could go to...get enough gas collected, go to Las Vegas, he would fill the tank and we'd drive up there and back.

We had rented our house in the Mountain Club and I rented two separate places in downtown Prescott, because I had to get a job. I went to work for a group of physicians.

That's when I became close friends with Bobby Pfeister. Jack and Ted were, I think, two and four. They're...those couple of years I lived two doors away from them on North Washington Street. And Bobby was doing her radio thing at noon...I said morning, but now I recall it was at noon. She didn't have to be at work at noon.

Daughter Melissa had developed asthma and some allergies. Bobby would come over at night... sometimes rock that baby all night long to keep her upright and able to breathe. While I slept because I had to go to work the next morning.

Dr. Yount had a practice with her father-in-law, and there was only one other doctor in town during those years. All the young men, there were four of them, who had just started practice at the beginning of World War II. Harry Southworth (sp?), Ned Yount, Joe McNally, and one other person. I can't remember his name at the moment.

Had just finished medical training and their residency and had started practicing in Prescott. But they had all joined the National Guard as a way of helping along their careers. And they were all sent off immediately with the 158<sup>th</sup> Infantry at the very beginning of the war.

And so Prescott had no hospital. Mercy Hospital had burned that April while Budge was still in Prescott. I can remember his father calling him one Sunday morning and telling him this sad tale of the Sisters hospital having burned to the ground. No life, no life lost.

And Florence Yount had married shortly before that. She was pediatrician. Her husband went off to war. She went into practice, or had started in practice, with the husband and father-in-law. And I went to look for a job. I really wasn't very highly qualified to do anything, although I was interested in medicine.

But, I applied for my first job in the Masonic Temple building on North Cortez Street, with the Northern Arizona Light and Power Company. Which is now Arizona Public Service. And they couldn't find any way to use my particular brand of inexperience. And so I went upstairs to the Yount's medical office and



was hired on the spot.

And I worked for them for three years. Dr. Looney (sp?), a very colorful character, who had delivered my husband, had an office in the same area. Same second floor of the Masonic Temple building. And I did everything.

We were making do because we had no hospital. We did everything but deliver babies. We did minor surgeries. We did pneumothorax. Dr. Yount was able to hire an X-ray technician, who had worked at the hospital and then was out of work.

She and I and the two Younts and Dr. Looney were the medical system of this town for several years. A number of years.

Dr. Looney had a contract with the Santa Fe Railroad and had to examine his clients, his patients, every Monday morning to be sure they had no venereal diseases acquired on the weekend. But there was no laboratory. So we got out a microscope somebody found, one of the doctors found somewhere.

I looked at some books and they gave me some slides. And we went to the drugstore and bought some dyes, and I started becoming a laboratory technician in a closet. And I stained his slides for several different venereal diseases. And helped him make those diagnosis. And I was 21 years old. Twenty-two years old.

But I had an aptitude for medicine. And I loved the work. It was wonderful. We did everything. Florence would...

**PS:** ....some med classes, you must have had some background classes in biology or...

**ER:** Oh, yes. Oh, yes. I was...I'd finished three years of college. And we had a lot of lab work and a lot of experience. Besides that, I was a pretty quick learner.

We had a, well, in those years, with the hospital burned, a number of nursing homes and me....and maternity homes, had been set up in private residences. And it was part of our job, as the only mortuary in town and the ambulance service, to take a patient off the operating table at the County Hospital, which was the only place available, and move them to a nursing home or a maternity home.

We, as I say, did all the minor stuff in the offices. Then I started keeping their books. I used to file their income tax returns. For those two doctors. I never did Dr. Looney's.

Dr. Yount Senior was the secretary of the County and State Medical Associations. And when I finally went back to becoming a housewife, wife and mother, I resigned. And it was absolutely astounding to me that no one ever called me to come back and help them figure out what needed to be done. They got along



just swell.

But while I was training a woman to, to replace me, it was a part of our job to transcribe the minutes Dr. Yount took at both of these society meetings.

And once, when she had done it, we turned her loose to do it on one occasion, she wrote, instead of developed...developmental condition...all one word, she wrote developed mental. And Dr. Looney...or Dr. Yount...hit the roof. He was such a meticulous man. And he was so literate. And he couldn't imagine anyone making such a mistake. But, they got along without me. They never made a phone call. Never called me. After three and a half years.

**PS:** So...when did you go to work for the Ruffner mortuary business? After that?

**ER:** Yes. It was after that. I had my...let's see...by, in 47 I had my second child, Rebecca. And then in 50 I had George, the son. And when he was two and a half, Budge had been running the mortuary with the people who had worked for his father. Meticulous and wonderful older people. And as they began retiring, it turned out that this young man was pretty much on his uppers.

A woman who had worked for them quite a long time, had taken another job. Was still going in at night trying to keep things going. Budge hired a schoolgirl and graduate of the high school to keep the books. And, it didn't work very well.

He was getting into deeper and deeper trouble. And so, I had helped, by then I was really the volunteer of the town.... I had helped a woman get a day school started at St. Luke's church. And although three was the age at which she would accept a child, I had a housebroken boy and needed seriously to have him go to school at two and a half. Which she, she did and he did. So I was able to go to work and leave George at St. Luke's Day School for a few hours a day.

So I went to night school. I started taking typing at night school when I first went to that place to do this work, and I suddenly realized I needed bookkeeping.

So I took a night school class at the high school in bookkeeping and kept the records there for all the years until we sold it. And we sold the business in the 60s.

Budge had never wanted to be a mortician. He always wanted to be a writer, actor. And so, we are very fortunate that he was able to end up his life as a, an author. A writer. A paid writer. He had a newspaper column for more than 30 years. He wrote for *Southwest Dart* (?) and he was book review editor for *Arizona Highways Magazine* for a period of time.

**PS:** I know about his column with the Prescott Daily Courier.



**ER:** Yes.

**PS:** Tell me how that got started? How did that...how did he start writing that?

**ER:** He had a friend, Jim...whose name escapes me. I'll get back to it in a minute.

He had always written. He'd always written poems. He'd always written...oh, he wrote lots of letters. And fortunately, fortunate, we have a lot of his early correspondence with his grandmother. His sister kept and other people kept.

He just wanted to write. That was the way he expressed this performance kind of psyche he had.

The newspaper was, at the time I'm thinking of now, owned and operated by a Democrat named Bill Stewart. And everybody complained about the paper. It wasn't even a daily. The *Courier* has been in business, well, they say 125 years. It was something else off and on before that.

But actually, the first printing press was brought with the governor's party to Fort Whipple when they came in here in 1863. That didn't become the daily paper, but it was the first printing of material which was a newspaper.

The *Courier*...I think they can trace it reliably to 125 years ago, but as all small towns do, they complain bitterly about their newspaper.

And so Budge, with a couple of friends, started a weekly. And he...there had been an editor at the *Courier* for...he...I think maybe had aspirations, but never real consummation of this idea of writing a column for a newspaper. That name's coming to me and it'll be here in a minute.

With him, with this man, they started a weekly, and he wrote a weekly column for *The Paper*. He named it. He said, well, we'll call it *The Paper*. That's what everybody calls it anyway and, that'll distinguish it from the *Courier*. We'll call it *The Paper*.

So then when Jim...when the paper was sold, it just, you know, it's not as easy as one thinks. If one likes to cook and starts a restaurant, it's not the whole story.

So doing a daily news...doing a weekly newspaper was just beyond their capability of these businessmen who did it as, really, as a lark.

**PS:** How long did they give it?

**ER:** Oh, several years. Several years.



Then, when that closed, the, the *Courier* hired him to write a weekly column. Which was to be history. And then it became twice a week. And that went on for about 30 years.

It didn't...wasn't always history. Several times he was a....he got pretty far into politics during the times when there was something like that going on. Only once did this, did the newspaper's attorney decline to let them publish a column he'd written. And he thought that was a pretty good record.

**PS:** What was the column that they wouldn't publish?

**ER:** I can't tell you. I can't tell you.

**PS:** The most interesting one.

**ER:** I can't tell you. I have clipped all of them and put them in press...in notebooks. And then, some years ago, I Xeroxed all of those pages onto archival quality paper and put a copy at the *Courier*...at the Sharlot Hall Museum Archives. And I have a copy here.

But, I couldn't recall. If he were here, he'd tell you exactly what it was, because I'm sure it was engraved in his memory.

**PS:** Probably more memorable than the ones they did print! (laughs) So, are there any particular columns that are memorable to you?

**ER:** A number of them. He was so good at writing tender stories. He was really a poet at heart.

He wrote about his mother. And waking up in the night and hearing her playing the piano. He wrote about his Indian friends. His family had, as many did of these towns near reservations, his mother and other women of the town, of all these small towns, went to the Phoenix Indian School and brought young women home to work in their families. Live in their families homes.

He was, really, essentially he was raised by several different Indian people who were his very, very close friends

He wrote about, he wrote a wonderful column about some people in Viet Nam when Barry, when Barry Goldwater visited during the campaign. And these guys in their foxholes, yelling at each other. Hey, Barry, I voted for you! Hey, Barry, I voted for you! And the title on the column was "Running in the Wrong Precinct."

He got a lot of stuff out of Goldwater's years. Out of the years he was, we were involved with Barry.

**PS:** Well, did he know Barry growing up?



**ER:** Yes. Barry spent summers in Prescott a lot. He was 10 years older than Budge, but they were, they were acquaintances in boyhood. And the first social event I went to when we returned from our wedding trip, was out to the Goldwater family property in Groom Creek (?), which they later gave to the Girl Scout organization.

Barry and a whole bunch of Phoenix people were having a party out there, and Budge took me, his bride, and Barry kissed me on the mouth. I'd never been kissed by another man on the mouth. (laughs) It was an adventure, I'll tell you! He was a bold and brash man. And then he was a, a charmer.

**PS:** I'd heard he was quite a lady's man.

**ER:** He was a lady's man. I learned later. I...he was this lady's man, I'll tell you!

When he first ran for public office, he asked us to change our registration. Everyone, and then...everyone in Arizona at that time was one of these Western Conservative Democrats. Everyone who counted and who voted and really worked.

So he changed his registration and ran for this Charter Group in Phoenix. There was so much difficulty in Phoenix politics. They decided they would clean everything up and got Barry as their candidate. And...I guess that wasn't a partisan election though. He must have changed his elec...he must have changed his registration when he was first invited to run for national office.

And that's when he came to us and asked us if we would change our registration. Which we did.

**PS:** When he ran for the Senate?

**ER:** Say again.

**PS:** When he ran for the Senate perhaps?

**ER:** Yes. First time he ran for the Senate.

**PS:** So he'd been a Democrat before?

**ER:** Everyone was Democrat. He was...in fact, when I came to Prescott...when I became a bride in Prescott and turned 21 that next month, I registered a Democrat. I'd been raised a Taft Republican in Ohio. My father, I can still remember him, thought the world had ended when Roosevelt was elected the first time. He just couldn't imagine that the country could continue to live...to survive. He was...oh, it was amazing. As you know, Taft Republicans are pretty...hmmm!



But, Barry asked us to change our registration. We did. Budge was one of those special friends he counted on all of his life...all of his po, political life. As an advisor, as an historian. Budge and Burt Fireman wrote almost all of his speeches he gave which had to do with history.

I went to the Republican Women's Club, which had 30 members. And this was one of my biggest organizing tasks. Calling it something besides a club and making it a county-wide effort. Getting everyone to serve, elect, serve... stand for election as precinct committeemen. And getting them actually to perform as precinct committeemen.

And it really wasn't hard to sell Barry Goldwater as a Senator. He was easy. Everybody thought it was a wonderful idea.

So we had a great success. We soon had 300 members county-wide. And we, get, by county...started voting Republican with a....I don't think it's ever changed. I don't think since that first Goldwater Senatorial campaign, that Yavapai County has ever again voted other than Republican.

I was interested in the last poll I worked on. I've worked for years in election campaigns in a partisan system. But during that time, I also served on every kind of an election system there was. Election board.

There were absentee ballot boards. And there were regular precinct boards to work on.

I want to know enough about the system to be wise enough to be able to use it well. And, lately though, at the last election, last general election, in 2006, Arizona had changed the rules and we've had two extra poll workers in every precinct to check identification. And ours...I'll tell you, I'm sure everybody was hard up, but I know we were very hard up.

And so, the people at the county election board...pressed me back into service. And I served on the election board, and I was very interested in that precinct which is very conservative, by the location.

The Independents and the Democrats vote...it's near Prescott College. And a lot of their students voted as, registered as Independents.

The Democrats and the Independents totaled the same vote as the Republicans in that Conservative Precinct. So, times, they are a'changing.

**PS:** I've heard there are more and more Independents.

**ER:** Yes. More and more Independents. And it's really wonderful that they, that we have allowed ourselves, the state has allowed itself, to have a third party. It's amazing. Amazing!

**PS:** Even though it's not an organized party, it seems to be a very popular choice. So, was that really the



first you've gotten involved with politics here in...

**ER:** Well, see, I'd had this experience in college. And when Barry said to us, when it was in the 50s, and I was, had raised three children. My boy was, what, five or something. And I was doing all kinds of volunteer things. Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts. Everything.

I was hot to trot. And to start in a political campaign with this wonderful, glamorous man, was really heady wine. It was easy to do. And so, yes, I worked in partisan politics all during those years.

Budge introduced Barry from the courthouse steps for each of his campaigns, including the time he ran for president. It was, we had international press that week. Was a big deal!

His last announcement for the Senate...he chose Bob and Carolyn, his brother and sister, to announce...to introduce him. But Budge had introduced him all the other times.

Yes, that was a great experience. In partisan politics.

But then, after Barry's career, I decided that I was not interested in partisan politics. I've turned out to be kind of a renegade from the standpoint of the Republican party. In fact, the second year of the...war...I changed by registration. I should have changed it to Independent, but I changed it to Democrat.

I really don't want to be a partisan player in any sense.

But I have served as the treasurer for a number of women who have become political candidates. Including Lucy Mason who's our state representative.

And I am again treasurer for a city council candidate. I have always told women who asked if I was interested in running for office myself, but the answer is no. Budge and I decided that early on.

In fact, we had to make a big decision, being in business, when Barry asked us to work for him. And changing our registration.

We had to make a big decision about whether we would, in fact, as small business people in a small town, take on partisan politics as a lifestyle. And we made that decision based on our strong friendship and our belief in him.

But it's not an easy decision.

I have told every woman who asks me...well, to follow that line of thought.

Both of us have been asked over the years to run for everything from dogcatcher to president, and we've



always decided that we could be better servants of our community and our world, by learning something pretty well. Well enough to be consulted on a question.

And this is why I learned how to become a good partisan politician by learning how the system worked. By serving on election boards. I thought that was...

Actually, when I first went to an election board, I was the only person who'd ever even looked at the instruction manual. Which is provided at each poll. Nobody even knew what they were.

But I had made a study of it. And feel strongly that that's important to do.

So anyway, each time a woman has approached me about being a candidate, I've either encouraged them or discouraged them. But where I felt the person was worthy of my time and effort, I've become a treasurer for her. And I've done that a number of times.

Because bookkeeping is my second nature. I'm not as good keeping books on the computer as I could be, because I've never taken the time to learn it well enough. But I still do two sets of books in the old fashioned way. By turning in a journal...a ledger to the accountant for the income tax...(laughing)

**PS:** That's great. That's important.

**ER:** Well, it is.

**PS:** So what, now you're a registered Democrat?

**ER:** Yes. And I don't mind who knows. I think I'll change to an Independent though. I think that's...that'll be more fun.

When you're a registered part of a party, you know, and they're as vigorous as both the Democrats now are, and the Republicans were, they really want you to be involved. And it's hard not to when they're all good people and have great promise and really want to be influential. Not to yield to their blandishments. But I can't. I've been too busy raising money for good causes.

**PS:** You certainly have been. Uh. Let's see. We were, you were starting to mention some of the causes you guys (?) early. The library. Was that one of the first things that you raised money for?

**ER:** It was one of the first. Actually, the first...organized...oh, yes, it was the library. Because those women came calling and said, we needed to get a new library.

I became involved with it. I was on the library board. And in those years, the library board operated the library, paid the bills, chose the books, selected the librarian. It was a wonderful job. I love it. As a



volunteer.

Some really wonderful people in my life were on those early library boards. It was through one of those connections another woman and I started the art docents group in Prescott. Some years later, but I can remember getting it organized in that Carnegie Library. On the corner of Marina and East Gurley Street.

When Don Puckle (sp?), who was the associate director of the Phoenix Art Museum at the time, and they were having a big struggle. As many museums have over the years.

Decided that they would try to go statewide. And, can't figure how to go...how do you get people to give you money when they never come in your door?

And so Don came to me...we had met at a party or something, which is really where most of these things come to be. And we greeted him at the Carnegie Library in Prescott and he had this idea that if the Phoenix Art Museum could give locales, like Prescott, starting with Prescott and maybe others later, slides of their major collection. And we could study those and tell about, tell them about the Phoenix Art Museum, tell other people about the Phoenix Art Museum, it would be a way to get the state more involved.

As it turns out, the Phoenix, Prescott, Phoenix...Phoenix art docents... the art docents of the Phoenix Art Museum, docents, Prescott docents... whatever....devolved into taking a serious look at the collection and all art of any particular subject, painter, period. Doing a year long-study and then teaching it in the classroom.

So this art docent group has been most influential of all the years of becoming a well-versed person. I don't know of any men who have done it, I'm sure some have. But women who have taken a whole year, and worked through the process of this really serious educational system of learning all there is to know and making a presentation. I suppose with Power Points now, but then with slides.

One of them became so good that when she had my blind grandson Paul in the fourth grade, she said that his tactile sense and his understanding of verbal presentation was as acute as any sighted child in that fourth grade class. But she felt she related to him as strongly as she did to any other kid.

So she was doing something very well.

**PS:** Did you ever view those...

**ER:** No, I never had the time to become one of those. We were doing this library business. We really had some serious ups and downs as we learned what we were up to.

Over the time, it was very important that we expand. The building was long outgrown. And as the town began to grow, the first subdivision developer came to the city and sta....city and said, we'd like to give



you space in our new subdivision for a library.

Well, nobody knew how to do that then. Since Phoenix has become so successful putting branches in shopping centers, that was the first kind of impulse. But these people didn't know what they were asking. Of course, they wanted us to finance building a building. And it just didn't work out. It never worked out.

And so we just kept plugging away at it, until we realized that the center of Prescott... By then, I had become involved in historic preservation. Through this historic building in which my husband's father had located the mortuary in 1933, moving in at night time so the neighbors wouldn't get nervous about having a mortuary on the corner.

We were then in charge of this really remarkable historic building, and Budge being an historian, enjoyed going to state and national history meetings. And so we began going to history meetings.

And I met a man who was with State Parks whose name was Dennis McCarthy, who had been designated the Arizona Historic Preservation Officer.

In 1966, the National Historic Preservation Act was passed. As a result of the Eisenhower years when federal highways were being build willy nilly across the country. Going through centers of towns. Taking out town centers. Carnegie Libraries, town halls.

And when they got to a certain point, Congress began to hear the public saying, whoa, wait a minute. You...you put your highway somewhere else. And so the Historic Preservation Act of 1966 said to the federal agencies and to the highway depart...federal highway administration...you must prove that there is no viable alternative to going through the middle of Prescott and taking our their Carnegie Library.

And Dennis McCarthy was that officer created by the federal act which required the state to appoint federal, to appoint preservation officers. Dennis was the first. And then they hired a woman named Dorothy Hall. They still didn't have anything but federal money to run the system.

But we began thinking about, I began thinking about it because of this historic building we owned and what its future might be.

And so, in the late...in the mid-70s then....we were going to all these history conventions all this time. And in the mid-70s, along came the nation's bicentennial. And the federal government had the wisdom, instead of holding a big to-do, in the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the federal government. Of the country. Doing a big to-do in Washington.

They said to the states, you form commissions, we will fund you. We will fund programs and here's the money.



And so, I was appointed by then, the governor, Williams, I guess, to the State Bicentennial Commission, and that really got us looking at Arizona's history.

And it got me looking at Prescott's history. And it got me thinking about how we could learn enough about these historic buildings which Prescott had in spades, especially in the downtown, before demolition became the only alternative.

And so, in the Bicentennial Commission work, when I was in Phoenix receiving with the other members of the commission, proposals from various people to produce a Bicentennial project and...in Arizona, I met a young man who was an architect in training in school at Arizona State University. And through him, some of his friends, two of, three of them particularly....Billy Garrett who's now with National Park Service. And Jim Garrison who's now the State Preservation Officer. And, Jim Woodward, who unfortunately re, recently died.

And I talked with those young men and said, what do you, how do figure out what these buildings are going to be. Anytime soon. Or now, there's a whole movement to recognize buildings and list them in the National Register.

And so the National Register of Historic Places which are motivation. And I spoke with Jim Garrison, Billy Garrett. And we wrote a proposal to do a survey of Prescott's historic buildings in 1975.

**PS:** So was that your first real foray to historic preservation?

**ER:** That was the first in Arizona. And they wrote a program that said, here's how you study these buildings. Five aspects of each building will be study...you must study. And do this, do that. We wrote a program.

We phoned the second Historic Preservation Officer in Phoenix one day and said, Dorothy, we have an idea for a historic preservation project which we want you to fund. And she laughed. She said, what do you mean?

We just do this work. They had nominated some courthouses. They had listed some courthouses. By then she had an historian...she was an archaeologist ...by then she had an historian on her staff.

And in the mid-70s, they had nominated a couple...they had listed a couple of, some buildings...I don't know. Doesn't matter. But the (can't understand word) County Courthouse was one of them.

But they did give us a small grant. But the major grant we had was a Bicentennial grant. And it was for two purposes. It was to conduct a survey of historic buildings in Prescott. And it was to move the Bashford House.



By that time, the owner of the Bashford House, which was on a residential corner in East Prescott, had said to me, I've been waiting a year for this... someone to do something about the Bashford House, and it's coming down if we don't do something soon. Because I've leased the land to the Ralston-Purina Company to build a Jack-in-the-Box on that corner.

And so Delbert Pierce (sp?), that kind man, waited a little bit longer. We got a Bicentennial grant; we put together a committee; raised the money; moved the Bashford House; and did the survey of Prescott's historic buildings. And then published a booklet called "Prescott Arizona Territorial Architecture." And went on from there.

At that point, I organized the Friends of...no, I think that was later. I organized Yavapai Heritage Foundation. That's the first non-profit I'd organized.

And within that same year, the director of the Arizona Commission on the Arts had called, and said to me, you people better get organized up there. Western States Arts Foundation has formed an idea for Michigan that they're going to produce an art trade for the West. And Prescott's one of the only two places in Arizona where there's still a railway depot where that train can be placed for a period of time.

So we got our train to Prescott and Mesa that year. It was the biggest thing ever to happen to us. We bused kids in from all over the county. It was the biggest cultural event ever held in Prescott. Even bigger than the rodeo. The number of people who went to that art trade. It was here for five days. A big deal.

So then we formed the non-profit Prescott Area Arts & Humanities Council which is still in business, as is Yavapai Heritage Foundation. And then I formed Friends of the Library, Friends of the Prescott Public Library, because as a board member, it became apparent that people wanted to give us money. We were plying to get a new...trying to get a new building still. This was still from the 40s into the 50s in the 60s, and here it was getting to be the 70s.

And so we formed the Friends of the Library, here at my home. I have photographs of us in our, in my living room, forming the Friends of the Library so that we could receive what turned out to be some remarkable bequests over the years for the library.

And then, in the 60s, there's a poster on my stairwell...I'll show you when I go out...from 1965 when *Arizona Highways* got into trouble. And Don Dederer phoned me and we formed Friends of *Arizona Highways Magazine*, to produce the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the magazine. We, we started a travel business and then the photography adventure travel business. And, it was quite a success. It was wonderful.

*Continuation of interview with Elisabeth Ruffner July 28, 2007*

**PS:** I sort of know where we left off, but I think you said you had a couple of things you wanted to be sure and mention. You wanted to talk a little bit more about your children. Do you want to start there?



**ER:** I would like to describe my children and what they're doing in their lives. What they did before. And how they all came to be where they are today.

**PS:** Start at the beginning. How they came to be.

**ER:** Yes. How they came to be. Our first child was born right after the end of our first year of marriage. My husband had enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corp. And we were deprived of his presence very soon after we were married.

Then we had our daughter Melissa in August of '41. And, she was a war child. She saw her father occasionally on weekends, when he was stationed in places close by.

Fortunately he never left the country, as I explained previously. Was night blind when he got to the point of becoming a pilot, and became a trainer rather than a pilot.

And so he was stationed in a number of places in the West, thank goodness, and...Kingman and Las Vegas. And we could see him on weekends. He brought home friends.

I was the roommate...or had as a roommate in an apartment I had rented downtown, a woman whose husband was in the same squadron as my husband. And a woman from California was really being introduced to the West, although she'd lived in the West all...was born and raised in California, it was a different life entirely from the inland, rural, so to speak, West.

So we had some wonderful times over those years. Photograph of one of the birthday cakes from Melissa which Bobby, that woman, baked for her first birthday. Not only...for her second birthday.

Not only a special occasion for our child, but the first cake the woman had ever baked. (laughed) A good friend.

And it was quite a treat for us over the years, that we stayed in touch with a number of the people with whom we'd been associated during those three and a half years of Army Air Corps experience.

And then, because the war intervened, and my husband suffered from some serious infections, including mumps, which delayed the birth of a second child for six years, Re...Becca came along in 1947. And she was the second child, a girl. Budge always wanted a boy and we finally, in 1950, had our son.

Melissa has gone away to college, lived in Germany, in several different places in the military when her, the father of her children was stationed with the Air Force. And then returned to Prescott and moved into a home she had bought from my sister. A very small house, but a wonderful place. In a very secluded neighborhood of...close to downtown Prescott. Where she lives today.



After all the travels, having family, having four children, she has become a full-time writer and guide. She actually is a member of the Arizona Guides Association. And has been, since the beginning of Elderhostel at Yavapai College, one of the three founders of that activity. A lecturer and guide and program creator.

A couple of years ago, she and I took trips into the national parks of Southern Utah and Northern Arizona. And, she initiated a tour for Elderhostel...Elderhostel visitors...into those national parks which had not been done before.

It's a chore and a challenge for a tour planner to book into places where the concessionaires are so overwhelmed with visitors, they really are not terribly eager to see another batch.

She's also had some great experiences with the Havasupai people...excuse me, with the Hualapai people...on the South Rim of the Grand Canyon, way to the West. Where she goes to their village which is now on the, on the...right off of Highway 66, old Highway 66, where they have a grand hotel. And it's these people who have just built the glass walkway out over the Grand Canyon.

She's had some great experiences taking people into Indian villages and other places where tourism is now a major source of livelihood for those people.

She also acts as a lecturer with Donald Nelson, a Hopi man, whose parents worked for her...my parents. My husband's parents. And with whom my husband grew up.

Donald is that second generation Hopi who is now on faculty at Yavapai College and runs a number of programs into the reservation. And Melissa often goes on those Elderhostel trips and teaches a class called "Clash of Cultures."

She and Donald, being close friends, have...practically have grown up together. And have a particular perspective which I suppose is unique in some ways.

Then our son George was born in 1950 and all he ever wanted to do was be out of doors. And fortunately, we live in a place, I still do, where he was steps away from the national forest.

He ended up being a biologist. He's the first PhD in the family. Taking his higher degree at Arizona State University where he later, fairly soon after achieving his degree, formed a company with two of the people, faculty people, from ASU. Which continues today.

He is a consultant in environmental planning.

They've had good business, even while he was an undergraduate, the beginning of the time when environmental impact statements were required for every undertaking. Which required a...used federal



money or land or property.

He was involved with preparing environmental impact statements. In various ways. For various employers.

Such as the Navy on Clemente Island on a...off of the coast of Southern California. In Hawaii for a road project. A number of road projects, in Arizona. He's done a lot of work for the Department of Transportation. And a lot of work for private developers, including Mayo Clinic, who have to prove their intrusion into the desert is the least entry...the least impact-ful. And one can arrange to do this. He had a great association with people when the hotel in Tucson, whose name I'll think of in a moment, way out northeast of Tucson, in the mountains, was developed. In fact, a nature trail was developed in connection with that hotel going into a pristine piece of desert land.

And these kinds of trade-offs, are...work, actually, the work George does to assist developers in complying with requirements to protect as much as possible with the natural areas. And, of course, protecting the natural areas, is one of his major motivations for being...for doing what he's doing.

Those three children have succeeded in their careers, in their variety of careers. My daughter...

**PS:** You didn't say much about the middle one.

**ER:** I was just going back to that.

**PS:** Okay.

**ER:** My daughter Rebecca was a...pursuit...was in pursuit of a degree in early childhood education. At the time she finished her degree at Prescott College, she was in the charter class at Prescott College, I'm very proud to say, but was not really serious in direction, until she went off to UC-Berkeley for a summer course. And there learned that early childhood, not formal education, but early childhood impacts, determine the course of a human being's future. In the, in the larger sense.

She came back from Berkeley, and had rented her house, the house she had acquired while she was a student at Prescott College. And found the tenants really not willing and eager to leave. And one of them was the man who became her husband.

So she and Toby then had two children. Melissa has four. And my son, George, has two.

Rebecca then went to work, looking for further experience in her field with a former counselor from the high...Prescott High School... who had formed a non-profit called "Learning House." Which was pursuing the same theory, that early education made all the difference.



Then Rebecca go into a...a field of prevention of child abuse, which was just when...this is 20-some years ago...just then becoming a word, phrase, used among social workers and law enforcement people, and those interested in early childhood development, as a definite pattern in human, in at least American, life.

Whereas before that, it was simply a family matter and nosy people, stay away. Even the law enforcement people, because there really was not, there were no direct laws against people who touched other people in an inappropriate way. From sexual abuse to mental abuse, etc.

Now, from the beginning of that time, she left that non-profit and, actually took over that non-profit and changed the name, to prevent child abuse. And this, in 20 years of existence, and I've worked for them the last six years, in administering one program, has come from the time when it was forbidden for even the neighbors to notice, to law enforcement and all kinds of social care for every age person. To offer care and treatment to anyone who's reported as a victim.

And the reporting is now no longer punitive on the part of teachers. Teachers often, in the early years, would not report a child who was obviously in trouble simply because of the repercussions of law suits and so on, which were prevalent. Of course, anyone may sue anytime about anything. But...

This was a particular problem until the recognition that society needed to add some laws to our law enforcement needs about speeding and flying and all the other things about which we've made laws. But the laws needed to address the closest form of social organization, the family, in order to protect the weakest and smallest among us.

And so now, this organization has become a chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America, so that we represent all of Arizona's entities.. We produce more than 13, sometimes 14, conferences annually. And among them are forensic interview training for law enforcement people. Very important. Founded by the Depart...funded by the Department of Justice and the Arizona Justice System to train law enforcement people in the practices and the emerging knowledge about interviewing children victims. And that kind of training for all victims really.

We, (clears throat) this organization my daughter founded a second kind of system called the Yavapai Family Advocacy Center, to which all the law enforcement agencies in the county contribute.

And this is a place where one stop may be experienced, and all of the investigation and all of the treatment produced, provided in one day at one place. This is located in Prescott Valley. And provides a remarkable service which is being copied all over the country.

Where, for instance, a woman rape victim may go and be cared for there. Not having to wait in the emergency room for the length of time it takes to be seen in an emergency room and so on. So that it's a



real breakthrough in the recognition that abuse is not acceptable in our society and that there are ways to mitigate it by helping the victim. And, also, law enforcement now has the authority to go after the perpetrator. And so, some of these things used to be family matters. Now they're social matters. And that's a very important step forward.

I mentioned the other two rather thoroughly. We have these three children and they have eight children among them, and I have four great-grandchildren. The family is extended out rather far in years because of the early marriage of my oldest daughter and I...having a child the first year.

And then these two succeeding children married later. Rebecca married in her late 20s. And George was engaged to a remarkable woman, but she wouldn't go for the wedding vows until he received his PhD. And I think she was very wise in that connection.

So during the years the children were growing up, most of them we lived in this house. We moved into this house just the year my daughter, Melissa, went off to college. And so, the other two spent most of their growing up years here.

We have...it's so fortunate that their life careers... now, I think electronics has made a great difference. But also, the recognition that, don't tell anyone, Prescott is paradise and it's a great place to live.

As you mature and appreciate in a monetary value, you may travel anywhere you like, but, it's good to come home to Prescott. And all three of them have recognized that.

As I indicated, Melissa has owned a home since her very early age. And Rebecca also. Somehow home ownership was important to these young women, even before marriage, and they were lucky in that regard.

So they kept on with their growing up and I kept on with my volunteer activities. And that activity in regard to historic preservation led into a number of professional activities.

I took a real estate license to understand the value of historic properties in a monetary sense. As a matter of fact, a volunteer of the highest level of knowledge it not, no, not nearly so well regarded by the business world as one who has a license to do something. (laughs) And to be well informed.

And I taught a cour...a class...as a matter of fact, for the Arizona Department of Real Estate in how to list, how to list and sell historic properties.

I also, during those years, did some professional consulting as an historian and historic preservation specialist, with a number of architects. A number of companies were formed who hired me as consultant to produce the National Register nomination for property.

After the 1976, I believe it was, Historic Preservation Act addition...or Historic Preservation Privilege



addition to the federal tax, federal income tax law...gave... This, this change in federal income, income tax law, for the first time, gave the privilege of protection of historic properties in the form of ownership diminution through easement dedication.

Formerly, the dedication of a piece of land in perpetuity, putting an easement on it, someone else holds the title to the property. You may continue to use it, but never certain bounds may be crossed.

Such as, for instance, in Virginia, one of the Civil War towns, not the Revolutionary War towns, but one of the Civil War towns, was surrounded by remarkable farms and fol...trees and forests. And that town, early on, got dedication by those farmers of easements to protect from development. So the farms keep on being used as they are, but they will never be sold for development.

And the own...home...landowner...has taken a tax privilege, a tax credit, in federal income tax, for the value of the donation he has made. And so that, in 76, we activists were able to get the federal income tax law changed to embrace historic buildings. In the same manner.

So that, the owner of a certified historic building, could not only, if he chose, dedicate the façade in perpetuity to another owner who would protect it forever, or also, and also, under tax law, the Historic Preservation Tax Act provided that certain tax credits could be obtained by people who did certified rehabilitation to historic properties.

The law was really promulgated originally to help some of the warehouse problems towns, or cities, in the East were having. Abandoned warehouses and people needing housing. And downtowns with river fronts and ocean fronts looking for ways to bring people back to their downtowns. It's a matter of economy as well as scale of living. And enjoyment, which had formerly existed, but which had...no longer was possible.

So many of those warehouses under this tax act were re...were renovated into not...to new uses. Residential and business. Fennel Hall in Boston is one of the first which became a, a mini-mart, you might say, in today's terms, of multiple retail outlets in a former extremely important historic building which needed to be saved. But it's original use was no longer viable.

So we did that all over the country. And I consulted on a number of projects. Statewide and national.

**PS:** Did you do your consulting, I always heard of you being a volunteer, but were you also sometimes paid?

**ER:** Yes. Some of the resumes I was looking at this morning in order to refresh my memory about some of these years, had to do with resumes I propose...I prepared for future employers.

I was employed as an historic preservation specialist. I worked with, with attorneys, architects. And there



really is a professional field now of historic preservation, higher degree in some university planning department. Some have...

Columbia University was the first to go into that application of historic preservation as a respectable career title.

**PS:** But you were doing it before that.

**ER:** Yes. Exactly. And that's really what has meant a lot of difference... meant a lot to me. I've met a lot of young people as they were beginning in the same kind of interest I had, who went on to become professional in the historic preservation field.

Every community worth its salt in this country, every state worth living in, and every...and the nation ... have a number of privileged, now, applications in law for preservation of historic properties.

And in the last 20 years, we've recognized that the setting, more formerly we've recognized, that the setting is as important as the structure itself. And so, not only are we paying attention and listing in a national registry listing, an important tree or landscape attribute of an historic property, but now we're into open space and protecting the entire vista in which a neighborhood exists.

And Prescott being a perfect example. In the basins, drained by three, four...seven creeks, which we celebrating finally. Surrounded by mountain ranges which we now are protecting.

The national forest has protected a good deal of the land in a certain way. The watershed to the West was the first, was the second in the nation to be declared a...preserved by the federal government, in order to protect that watershed into this drainage for the earliest settlers in this basin. That's a part of the national forest now and we're surrounded on three sides by the national forest.

So that one can see the benefit of protecting a...surrounding the environment, as making a difference to the preservation, for instance, on the lowest place in the basin, the Yavapai County Courthouse Plaza, which was first designated in 1864 as the center of this community. And we're fortunate that the identity of the community is established in that Courthouse Plaza, with the Courthouse still there. And...although the county has had meeting places in other buildings and other locations, this is now the settled one.

And just recently I've been involved with yet another citizen movement. I don't do anything professionally longer, any longer, in the Historic Preservation Movement. I simply act as a volunteer-advisor. And I don't think a week passes when I don't get a question about something.

And I'm happy to share whatever I know. Or lead people to the references they could seek out themselves.

But the...lost my train of thought. The setting surrounding...privilege of Prescott... I don't recall. I lost it.



**PS:** Something about the Courthouse...square.

**ER:** Yes. Being a focus. And making a difference in the way we were able to inform property owners in that specific area about the value of historic resources before demolition became the only alternative for a number of buildings.

We've lost a few. But the major loss, which was a wonderful brick building which had been used to...built as a high school...actually remodeled from an earlier coun...earlier state government seat. Arizona was to take territory capitol for it several time....in several periods.

It had been a state government seat, uh, territorial government seat, and then was renovated, remodeled, and expanded into a high school, and then later a junior high school. And I had led a march when I was involved with finding locations for a new library.

When I first came, I think I mentioned, that I had been recruited by the ladies of the town to get a new library. And one of the efforts we made over those 30 years it took us to get a new library, was to save that building. Which was a remarkable four-story building. The huge hardwood floor gym. Classrooms. Everything any community could ever have needed for a long, long time.

We actually had some funds available. We had two engineering...we, the volunteers. I, the Library Board Chairman, I guess, at the time.

Two engineering studies which proved that the building was sturdy, well-built. Adequate for any future use. But it had been abandoned by the school district. And the practice in those years, when school people wanted new schools, was to abandon the old ones. And get the fire marshal to say it was unsafe. It was really a crock. It was not, not a fact at all. It was just a movement of social, um, social mobility. School people thought they needed new schools. There were all new ones springing up here and there and they figured it would be a good deal to do it here.

So the school district owned the property. And we had two attempts to acquire it from the school district. We could have exchanged a huge piece of land which was in a trust for the town, with that building site. With that building and its site. And the building was certified to be perfectly feasible, useful. Saw a little bit of rain damage, a little bit of neglect. But nothing insurmountable.

And, unfortunately, elected officials didn't share our wisdom and enthusiasm. And it turns out then, that the county needed some space. The county was able to buy the building and land from the school district. And we were kind of gleeful when we learned that the person who was contracted to turn the building down lost his shirt because it was such a sturdy building. So well built. So immensely continuing to be useful. It was a sad day.



And then, unfortunately, the county built the county jail right in the front yard of the most important collection of houses. Of Victorian houses in Prescott.

We got to influence the exterior appearance by making them clad it with brick. It cost more, but we were...we marched on County Hall and said, you've done a terrible thing here. Not in these words. But made them understand they'd really hit the community with a hard blow. And we wouldn't stand for a pedestrian-looking ugly building.

It's not as beautiful as it could be, but it's not a bad building. It's a contemporary building, built in contemporary style. But it's brick clad, which did make a difference.

**PS:** What year did all that happen?

**ER:** I would say 20 years ago. Twenty-five. It's hard for me to track these years. But long enough ago that by the time we were able to get the new library site, a block away... We, we had, we had resolved all of those years, to keep the library downtown.

We had been offered sites by people who were thinking of putting in shopping centers and new subdivisions. This was in the 60s, let's say. But we were wise enough to not accept those gift horses. And remain downtown.

We, we chose a site which was occupied by several dwellings, but we were able to use a federal program to relocate the owners of those dwellings in other places. Of their choice. Which was a remarkable project at the time.

And then this county building was built and the library was dedicated. So that must have...it was in the 30 years ago range.

**PS:** And so where, where is the new library?

**ER:** The new library is one block off of...two blocks, excuse me...off of East Gurley Street...south. A block and a half from the Courthouse Plaza. And, in a perfectly wonderful location. The residential use has still continued up and down all the streets, contiguous to the new library. And we have overcome the battle of parking by ignoring it.

In this year when we have lots of bike racks, and many people, even as happy, as unhappy as some people say....where is the parking? There's no parking. They added 28 spaces by building...by buying some empty land south of the building. But, parking is not a problem.

Parking is a word used by people who think everyone understands the meaning, and it has no meaning.



Since that building was built, we have, the city of Prescott has built a four-story parking structure, three blocks away. You see people drive to the front of the, what we call the Territorial Courthouse. It's a very terrible name because it's a sports arena...a sports building. A former apartment house which was gutted and made into a racquetball court and exercise rooms.

You see people driving their automobiles to go in there and pay for getting exercise. But a lot of wise people have found this parking structure, which is free, and they walk a block around the Courthouse Plaza. They walk another half... another block, up to the public library. Spend the afternoon. We now have a coffee bar in the library. It's a gloriously beautiful place. And there are literally dozens, perhaps as many as three dozen, computer terminals there for public use. So it's a home away from home. In fact, there are banners in front of it say, which say, Prescott's Living Room. And that's what it is.

And the problem of having to park your...being allowed to park your automobile in sight of the entrance, is no longer a problem,

**PS:** People can use that exercise.

**ER:** They do get exercise. Lot of people are biking. More and more people. With three colleges in our proximity, we have a lot of bicyclists over the years. We haven't, until recently, accommodated them in a, in a productive way, but now we are.

**PS:** What about the old Carnegie Library?

**ER:** I was very happy that we didn't lose that one. That was a building occupied by the city at the time. It had been built with a Carnegie grant, which Julia Goldwater acquired, writing a letter from one of the houses still existing on Nob Hill. To Andrew Carnegie. And within, asking for money for a free library, and within a month, Andrew Carnegie had deposited four-thousand-dollars in the Bank of Arizona which was the first bank of the territory and still...the building is still on the corner of Gurley and Cortez.

But required that the town, the people of the town, match the four-thousand-dollars. At the time, Andrew Carnegie couldn't require a view of the building plans. Nor did he require that the local jurisdiction pass a tax to support the library. It soon came to his attention that that needed to happen and they started doing that. But at this time, that was not required.

However, the people of the town raised the four-thousand dollars. Bought a lot, bought a couple of lots, where the Carnegie Library is today. At the entrance to Prescott from the East, where one sees the Hassayampa Inn which was built in 1927. And the Carnie Library on the ne...on the other corner. The South corner of the in, intersection of Marina and East Gurley. Open in November 1903.

We found it was a, kind of a no-owner civic building. It had a library in it. It had the women, it had a women's club renting space in the lower floor. A stock exchange actually operated in that lower floor at



one time.

But by the time this event took place, acquiring land for a new building, and being concerned about what to do with the old one....the plan at that time was to continue the building as a public building and use it for the Talking Book Library. Talking Books Library. It's a federal and state program which has been in place for a long time.

And all public libraries distribute, then, tape machines and headphones and record players and now video and DVD forms.

But with the headphones for handicapped hearing people and other methods for handicapped blind people and other methods for handicapped young people, both are served by the Talking Book Libraries of the federal government.

Didn't work out that way. By that time, the city had....at one point the Monday Club was operating the library. Couldn't continue. Deeded it to the city. And then on a certain time in the, in the future, determined that they would receive the ownership back.

And there was a confrontation about that. The city had, at the time, we had a library in it. On the upper floor. Had the water department on the lower floor. Then we took over the whole building. We the Library Board. The building still owned by the Monday Club. And then, after some kind of organization of legal matters, the Monday Club acquired ownership again.

And meanwhile, before the library, before the city, Prescott Public Library, vacated the building, the librarian and I, who by then had formed the Friends of the Library, a non-profit to acquire contributions to the library which need not go through the city general fund, had gotten it, gotten it listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Later we were able to create city districts, which actually protect buildings. National register listing is simply a list of the build, of the nation's properties worthy of preservation.

Only if you use a federal grant or are involved in some federal program is there any restriction at all.

But getting listed in the National Register and then acquiring a federal grant to restore it....actually restoration is not the term used. It's renovate. It's exterior. And most of the interior is in its original form. But, it's an office building.

It's now in private hands. The Monday Club sold it. In private hands, a respectful owner. Caring for the building. Having various uses inside, of attorneys and others. Who also respect the building, and are pleased to be where they are. Working within walking distance of restaurants and of the law enforcement building on the next block, etc. It's an excellent office building.



**PS:** A great location.

**ER:** Yes. A wonderful location.

**PS:** Does the Monday Club still exist?

**ER:** Yes. Monday Club still exists. They're very active in some of the projects with which I work. And the most recent being, the public library expansion.

Monday Club was very much involved in the 1974 library, which I've just described, built a block off the Plaza where we had to relocate some residents.

They provided a flag pole and flag stand and a good deal of funds for the 100-thousand dollars the president of the Monday Club and later, the president of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and a two-time mayor of Prescott had provided.

When we expanded...when we built the 1974 library, we, the Friends of the Library and the Monday Club, acquired 100-thousand dollars from the community to furnish and landscape the building. And the Monday Club was very, very involved in that.

And now in this expansion, which we've just dedicated last year, for which we again, the people of the town, the Second Century Committee, I named it. I was chairman of the capital campaign for the second century of Prescott's Public Library.

Having started the campaign in 2003, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Carnegie Library, we called it the Second Century Committee, we set out to raise 800-thousand dollars to fur, furnish the new library. The expansion of the library.

City needed extra money because their contracts for construction were coming in too high. So we gave them our first 400-thousand dollars to encourage them to sign the contracts for the expansion. And then we raised another 800-thousand dollars.

We came up raising a million-two. For furnishing and equipping the library.

The Monday Club produced 50-thousand dollars for the Founder's Suite, which is a large 120 person meeting room on the ground floor of the library. Of the newly expanded library.

And I'm still involved with them to a large degree because they're, they've been very much involved with my current project, which I'll get to in a minute. But they are also...I'm working with them also in creating some displays of early photographs to go in the Founder's Suite. At the moment the ball, at the



moment the walls are empty, but there are some wonderful photographs depicting the time the Monday Club has been involved in library development in this town. Which is more than 100 years. Well over a hundred years.

The Monday Club itself was organized as a Monday Literary Society, before 1900. And so, the presence is known, and we shall celebrate it by some photographic displays on the walls.

In fact, we've already duplicated Josephine Goldwater's letters. They're handwritten. Writing to Andrew Carnegie to get that first four-thousand dollars. So there'll be a wonderful display in that library.

**PS:** Were you a member of the Monday Club?

**ER:** I have never been a member of the Monday Club. Each time it was offered, or suggested, I said to them, a similar kind of summation of personal interest I've given to people.

Over the years my husband and I have been asked to run for everything from dogcatcher to president. And we've always resolved it. We would stay private citizens and learn as much as we could about one area which interested us. And be a good volunteer, informant and supporter of actions

And he, over the years, as president of the Arizona Historical Society and then co-founder of the Arizona Historical Foundation, and leader who developed the 20-30 Club which saved the rodeo parade, and spokesman for the Kiwanis Club when he was president and they started a new idea of an auction to support community programs...he was a terrific leader. And was (can't understand word) of non-profits, but neither of us ever got into the game of being an organ....a member of an organization we wanted to support. We felt we could do it better it from the outside.

**PS:** Well, it sounds like you started a lot of organizations. Friends of the Library, you mentioned. Also, some of the other...the Yavapai Heritage Foundation. (can't hear rest)

**ER:** It was so fortunate that all these needs came along when I was able to do something about it. And the particular interest I have in forming non-profits just grew like Topsy, it seems.

There are certain kinds of activities within a system, like a small town, where really influences the profit, the non-profit sector, can be evidenced,

To mount a non-profit on certain causes, around certain causes, and it's marvelously satisfying to me in my current activity as founder and secretary and chairman of the capital campaign for the Elks Opera House.

To see that...Monday Club is again working with me to produce income for the restoration of the Elks Opera House, and lots of other organizations in the same way, coming together.



We actually organized the Yavapai Heritage Foundation, which you mentioned, and the Prescott Area Arts and Humanities Council in the 70s for, among other purposes, saving the Elks Opera House.

Yavapai Heritage Foundation collaborated with the city in the 60s...oh, before that. That's why we got organized.

We needed a non-profit to do certain things. To receive grants outside of city general funds, etc.

So in the 60s, when we needed to get organized, we were getting the city to pay for bringing in a consultant to look at the Elks Opera House which was then in private ownership.

All kinds of things have re, have made it possible and necessary to form a non-profit. And the Friends of the Library was the first. Yavapai Heritage Foundation and Prescott Arts and Humanities Council...all three (can't understand word) organizations still.

One of the ones for which I wrote to the editor, the publisher, a few weeks ago, is *Arizona Highways*. In 1960...early 1960s, *Arizona Highways Magazine* was suffering from diminution of subscribers. Primarily within the state.

And so Don Deder, the editor, came to me and asked me to help him. And I thought he just wanted me to produce a set of bylaws for him. It turns out he wanted me to form an organization, which I did. Friends of *Arizona Highways Magazine*. And we were able to make some difference.

The few meetings, first few meetings we held were centered around holding the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the magazine. We held a great big do in the parking lot. And had a birthday cake. And all these kinds of things. And for some years afterwards, assisted with a product sale in the parking lot of the headquarters of *Arizona Highways Magazine*.

Collectors of the magazine show up in droves, looking for special issues they don't have and so on. And the magazine has always produced a number of products, which have, I'm so proud to say, even today, although they're having financial problems, it's not because they do not produce enough money to operate the magazine. It's because the legislature has raided their funds repeatedly for other purposes. To the tune of millions of dollars.

When, when the foundation, Friends of *Arizona Highways* Foundation was created, it was statewide...we got people from all over to be a part of it. And one of the most salubrious ideas ever to come down the pike...we were certainly not being used to our best ad...best skills, and to the best advantage of the magazine, by holding sales of note cards.

We formed a travel company. And Shannon Rosenblatt (?), a local woman who had been a protégé of



mine, came to work for us as a travel agent, devising this travel program where we, at the outset, simply took people on a bus and took them places illustrated in the *Arizona Highways Magazine*.

We then started the Friends with the magazine's bene....through the bene...for the benefit of the magazine. And with their exceptional, wonderful cooperation, started attracting the makers of cameras and the makers of film. And soon the Friends of *Arizona Highways Magazine* was running exceptionally well attended photographic safaris all over this state. And this was producing enough income to keep it going.

I don't know whether people got tired of taking pictures with the advent of new cameras and new styles of presenting photographs. I just don't know what happened. I've not been involved for some years.

I'm sorry that the Friends are not active right now to keep, to get the magazine back on its feet.

But I wrote to Win Holden, remember in the 60s...you don't remember, but recall with me in the 60s, Don Dederer got some friends all around the state to say, this magazine is worth saving. Let's start talking about what we can do.

And I said, I do...I wrote to him, I don't think...I'm not particularly looking for work. But I could meet with a group of people if you'd get them together, and explore some of the possibilities. So far I haven't heard.

**PS:** It can be saved. I think it has lots of friends. Too bad the whole group is disbanded. Let's see. Let's talk a...one of the things, you mentioned some....you mentioned about mining in the Prescott area. And you mentioned when you came here, there was still a lot of mining going on.

**ER:** There was a lot of mining investment going on. In fact, there was investment in oil wells not too many years before my arrival in Prescott.

Fortunately for Prescott, the richness of the mining, the richness of the placer incidents of gold, which means on the surface to be sorted out in a pan of water, never materialized to the point that investors wanted to, to dig underground. To any degree. Almost every evidence you can see within immediate surroundings of Prescott, is, was placer mining. And it wasn't enough to make this a mining center.

It was a center in the early years for the prospectors who mined...and I believe the Bradshaws have been reported to be one of the richest mineral mountain ranges in the West.

Fortunately, none of those mines in our mountains which surround Prescott turned out to be Jerome. Open pit. Bisbee. Morenci. Open pit.

So we were able, through circumstance, happenstance, and good luck, not only not to have mining, open



pit mining or drilled mining into the mountainsides, evidenced in this particular area, particular basin, but also, when the federal highway system de...decided we would have a freeway, it occurred 33 miles East of Prescott, thereby giving us another breather. Not having a main through highway running right through the middle of town. Makes a difference in how you turn out.

Cause generally, during the, during the 60s when the highway system was being created across the country and up and down, there was no land planning required with it. Only the local jurisdictions woke up, many years later...just now waking, some places.

We have to plan what's going to happen when those roads go in. Well in advance of getting that work done. It's beginning to seep into the consciousness of people who have those responsibilities

But I've, I've been writing about mining lately in my monthly magazine page. It's of deep interest. All of the characters you recall, one recalls in history, had some connection. Including the people who were up Fort Whipple. They all invested in mines.

The major players of the town were...many of them primarily in Prescott had (can't understand word) in residence, because they were investors in the mining activities. All around.

**PS:** I heard some of the big houses that were built on the hill there were from the mining profits.

**ER:** Yes. I would say so. Well, yes.

Mount Vernon Street in Prescott, which is the most famous to tourists, for the Victorian feeling it has given. Not only in the width of the street, but all the wonderful trees which have been planted in the past and the beautiful houses which are now cared for.

Was originally named Whipple Street because it was the passageway for the people on foot and on mule or horseback or in a carriage. From Fort Whipple to the mines in the Bradshaws. To the South.

It's now Mount Vernon and it enjoy...adjoins Senator Highway on the South end, named after the Senator Mine, which was one of the big producing mines in the era. When mines actually producing and investors from all over the world were coming into Prescott, Arizona, to see their profits. To visit their profits. Thank goodness, they really never paid off. (laughter) And that makes a difference in what we're seeing today.

**PS:** So I guess there's some advantage of Arizona being a little bit, of Prescott being a little bit off the beaten track.

**ER:** Great benefit. Look at all the strip malls in every town you drive through. You could never have any sense of identity because all the franchises followed the re...followed the highway. And we are a franchise



nation, unfortunately.

Prescott has been able to forestall to a large degree some of the franchise activity.

One of my single successes I still recount is moving the Bashford House. And we're back in that circle again, because that occurred during the period of the country's Bicentennial. In that era of 74, 75.

An owner of the beautiful, wonderful, Victorian mansion was, had contracted with the Ralston-Purina Company to build a Jack-in-the-Box on our main street. Jack-in-the-Box at that time was still building glass boxes. And there was one which had gone up in Chicago in a place of a remark, remarkable brownstone, just that time. And it was creating a lot of...that kind of thing creates a lot of national concern. Even though it wasn't in Prescott, it was in Chicago.

But it did cause places like Sedona and Prescott to begin to think about how we could influence franchise development.

And right before that we had influenced the appearance of a, of a filling station where the Standard Oil Company produced these blue panels for the filling station going in on the Square. And their major headquarters, their main headquarters said, well, we don't deviate from our design unless there's an ordinance which requires us to.

So that got us thinking about it. And in the 70s, we really made some major changes in Prescott. Yes. We got the ordinances. And every place where this has happened, has made a difference.

In fact, one of my connections with the National Trust caused me to have a magazine in hand, showing them McDonald golden arches one foot high over the door of a white wooden Victorian in, someplace in New Hampshire. They had an ordinance.

So McDonald's came in and put their restaurant inside the Victorian House. Anyway.

This owner came to me and said, I've been waiting a year to do something about this house. The Bashford House. I just can't imagine demolishing it.

And at that time the new director of Sharlot Hall Museum had been in town about a week. And I was able to go to him and say, I have a job for you.

And it turned out that we formed, he formed a committee. I was able, I was at that time on the state Bicentennial Commission and knew that there was money going to be distributed to the communities.

And so, the board of Sharlot Hall Museum, and these five people of...citizens of the town...raised 25-thousand dollars. I was able to get a Bicentennial grant for Yavapai Heritage Foundation. To get it



organized. And to move the Bashford House.

We got the state, the director of Sharlot Hall Museum, which is a state museum, got the state to buy a corner which was occupied by a...an automobile repair shop and a liquor store. And demolish the liquor store and move the Bashford House down the street. Down East Gurley to West Gurley and plop it down on the corner in Sharlot Hall Museum.

And one of the fortunate later developments in connection with the Bashford House is that we were able to get it listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Although generally, properties which are, buildings which are moved are not eligible. But because the Bashford House was in a similar setting to the one from which it came, whence it came, we were able to get this listing.

What replaced it on the corner of East Gurley Street and Pleasant was not a glass box, but a slightly attenuated original construction, new materials, new stuff. But a parking lot right in front, which we haven't yet addressed. Although we're beginning to.

In new dwellings being built around Prescott, we're requiring, multiple dwellings, we're requiring the parking being in the rear. To an, to an extent. As often as we can.

So we're trying to move into the human use of dwellings, rather than the automobile convenience in dwellings. And I think we're trying to make some success, get some success in that regard.

**PS:** Let's take a little time...you've talked about the Bashford House and the new library. As I was going through...some of things you've donated to the Sharlot Hall Museum, you had some folders there on different projects. So I thought I might ask you about some of those. One of them was the Lynx Creek Historic District. What was that?

**ER:** Lynx Creek Historic District. That does not ring a bell, Pam. (laughter)

**PS:** Okay. What about Fort Whipple? Fort Whipple's historic district?

**ER:** Those had to be contracts I worked on to provide, to do the research and documentation for (clears throat) people who were actually writing that nom, those nominations. I'd have to look at the files to recall what it is...what it is I contributed.

The reason I gave those to the museum is that they were, actually, consulting jobs I had engaged in. And, I cannot recall, with any degree of accuracy, those specific projects. But I would have been a consultant hired to do research and documentation.



**PS:** Now Fort Whipple, Fort Whipple's why Prescott's here. That's been an important part of the community. And I understood that at some point, there was talk of closing Fort Whipple.

**ER:** It had been rumored over the years that it wasn't any use...any long use...any longer useful as an Army post. But, at one point, it was closed as an Army post, the U.S. Army, when the Indian wars ended, found it was no longer...like a lot of other places.

But it was a fairly substantial installation. And then after World War I, during World War I, it was taken over as a Veteran's Administration Hospital. So now, it continues as a Veteran's Administration Hospital.

And, originally was a tubercular hospital. Many people returned from World War I, or came back during World War I, who, on whom lethal gasses had been used. And, at the time, the treatment for that kind of lung invasion was similar, so similar to tuberculosis. There was no cure for either one. But they were treated the same way.

And Fort...the VA Hospital here...had, as did Prescott, a fair repute...developed a fair reputation for people who could recover from such lung insults. By good food, rest, clear air, clean air.

Dr. Flynn was a very noted pulmonologist, although that wasn't even the word at the time, who came because of the number of people who were flocking to this area, as it was reputed to cure tuberculosis.

He became the specialist and formed a hospital, formed a sanatorium, which treated people with the qualities I've just described.

He, in fact, named his sanatorium with, as...with an anachronism, Pure Air...Pamsetgaaf...I'd have to think of all those letters and what they mean. But it...suggested the food and the surroundings and the treatment he provided, which was total immobility. And I believe that caught on in the West, as more and more tubercular people were showing up for that kind of passive treatment.

Even a friend, whose husband was in Sunnyslope that was a tubercular cure. Tent City for a long time, produced little pillows filled with buckshot to place, place on their chests to remind them not rise up from a prone position.

I had a friend who died not too many years ago, who was one of those survivors of the move West. Her parents brought her on the train from Philadelphia, this 16-year-old. And she was put under Dr. Flynn's care in Prescott. Her father built a residence in a place which the Chamber of Commerce had acquired for this very purpose.

People were required to build a building, a home, worth 500-dollars, within a certain period of time when



they acquired one of these lots. (clears throat) At a very low cost. Meeting the demand of all these families coming into Prescott with sick members.

And Jesse was placed in that home. And her father had Dr. Flynn come to visit. And Dr. Flynn made Jesse go back to the sanitarium....sanatorium, I'm sorry.

Sanatorium is a hospital and a sanitarium is more like a spa where people are cared for. I learned that difference lately.

Go back into the hospital setting, while her father put windows on the screen porch he had built. Because Jesse was to be in that place for a long time. Winter and summer.

So here she is, in a window-ed addition, part of the house, which has screens also for the windows. Are open for the fresh air in the summertime.

But she is prone, according to Dr. Flynn's requirements, at the age of 17 probably by now. And one day she sees her mother climbing a ladder up the side of the house and falling down. Luckily, Jesse had a phone beside her bed. She called Dr. Flynn. Dr. Flynn, my mother just fell off the roof! Dr. Flynn says, did you raise your head to make this call?

That's how serious he was about the treatment for tuberculosis. For which there were no drugs. Anyway.

Mrs., Mrs. Flynn...or Mrs.....Jesse Flynnch....Jesse Lynch's mother, Mrs. Lynch, and Dr. Flynn made it up. And she didn't hurt herself very badly and Jesse did recover. And lived a good long life. Many people recovered by that treatment.

Many of the young men who came to Whipple recovered and stayed in Prescott to make their lives and careers. And made a great mark on Prescott. A number of them.

**PS:** Now that's...the period we're talking...at first about World War I. What about during World War II? How was the....

**ER:** The hospital was then transferred from a primary tubercular center to a general hospital. And now, with the needs of the veterans of the country, it has a tremendous geriatric care system as well.

For a long time, after World War I, all they needed to provide was a place for these veterans to live if they had no homes. There are two rather large, really beautiful, buildings out there which are domiciliaries. That's not nearly so important now as the nursing home and geriatric care, and even Alzheimer's care, locations built on the Veteran's Administration Hospital grounds. Caring for the veterans of World War II primarily. As they age.



**PS:** I've been glad to see though that the officer's quarters homes are still being used and being cared for.

**ER:** Yes. Very well.

This nomination to the National Register was a tricky one because a great deal of change had occurred and the decision has to be made by the people doing the nomination and the owner. As to which period will be certified by the National Register as worthy of preservation.

And so, of course, you start with the residences of the officers first which are now the residences, primarily, of the physicians. And then, go into the major hospital buildings and service buildings. And yet, a great deal of, of destruction of early sites had occurred by new...by needs of the modern society. Of putting in water tanks and so on.

So there is a rule in the National Register that only a certain number of intrusions may be included in a nomination. Intrusions are those elements of the site which are not a part of the historic quality of the property.

But, Fort Whipple just barely skinned by, and it is now listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Primarily because of one person. The 1966 Historic Preservation Act requires all of the federal agencies to recognize and list, or treat as if they were listed, in the register, any properties under their responsibilities. But, because of lack of staff, it often is ignored. And in this case, it was ignored for quite a long time.

**PS:** Who was the one person?

**ER:** That was the person who was the director of the site at the VA Hospital. A woman who knew something about how important these buildings were, and cared. She was not a physician. Often physician administrators have other things on their mind. She's also was responsible for collaborating with Sharlot Hall Museum. I...I was fortunate enough to bring them together. To create in one of the officer's residences, a military museum for Fort Whipple, which is an adjunct of Sharlot Hall Museum.

**PS:** I saw that. I was just out there recently.

**ER:** Good..

**PS:** I haven't had a chance to go inside yet, but.... What was her name?

**ER:** Patricia McClem who went on to another bigger job in the VA. But we certainly appreciated her while she was here. She gave us some real impetus.

I spoke with someone in one of the fraternal organizations yesterday, looking for a particular photograph on my current project, the Elks Opera House. And he said, he was so glad for this contact, because the



organizations which was so popular and so much a part of civic life, before the turn of the century and after, for some time, has now not as much connection with the town as he would like to see.

He happens to be the state director of this, um....organization as well. And we're starting a whole new realm of interest for that group of men. I'm not sure that they've taken women in yet.

We doing the work on the Elks Opera House which is owned on a condominium basis by the City of Prescott within the Elks building, now owned by private firm, has talked about the Elks moving to Prescott Valley and losing a connection with the town they had before.

They had a public meeting place. They had a place which people rented to hold meetings and group parties and so on. And that particular connection has not continued in the two new buildings these fraternal organizations have created.

But the one I spoke with yesterday said it's going to change. He's very thrilled about the fact that the Masons laid the cornerstone for the Elks Opera House....for the Elks building....and I had mistakenly identified the photograph I had of....leaping to a conclusion that it was the Elks celebrating their own cornerstone laying. But it was not. It was the Masonic Lodge which made that happen.

And so now, we've got the combination of these two groups, both seeking members. The Elks, as a matter of fact, have taken in women members. And a woman member...woman...Exalted Ruler, as they call that position in the Elks, was a woman a few years ago.

And we, the Elks Opera House Foundation have worked closely with the Elks organization in reviewing their history. As we're reviewing the history of the Opera House, we're finding out...turning over some information new to them. And they're eager to get back into recognizing their history which they had, in the last 30 years, not paid too much attention to.

And they were so generous. It was through this woman and another man who had held the same job, that we were able to attract the Elks Lodge. To give us back the original copper elk, which had appeared on the Elks building in Prescott.

That figure was created by a sculptor in Ohio, but it was made of the copper from the copper industry in Arizona.

It had weathered badly. It had been painted alum, with aluminum paint, and had a total different character. Until we were able, with the generosity of a local donor, to get the Lodge to accept a new figure to put on their building in Prescott Valley. And Bill the Elk, as we call him, after his maker....the man's name was William O. Mullins. And his name is inscribed on the base of the elk.

The city staff who was working with us decided to call him Bill the Elk. So Bill is back on his original



place on the top of the building. Because of this woman we worked with. She was most influential in getting the group to understand it was important.

**PS:** Well, I was going to wait till later to talk about that Elks Opera House, but since you've started, why don't you tell me how you got involved with that project.

**ER:** This goes back in history. As I indicated, both Prescott (?) Arts and Humanities Council and Yavapai Heritage Foundation founded, in the early 70s, had as among their purposes, saving the Elks. That was the watchword in those days.

It was still in limbo. Private owners had bought the building and were trying to develop an active theater inside that space.

The other partners, the one interested in the theater space was voted down by his partners in the law firm when he wished to spend more and more and more money on refurbishing that theater space.

And then, he had enlisted the Heritage Foundation to work with him. I being the person involved. And we flew to Cedar City twice to look at their Shakespearean Theater to see if we could do something about getting a resident Shakespearean group in Prescott.

This man tried all kinds of devices to make this a theater which could pay its way. Theaters never do. One always has to have some kind of an extra income. You never sell a ticket at a price to pay to open the doors. You have to have something out there. Either the rest of the building being rented to give you income, or an endowment of some kind. Which is what we're working toward now.

But this man then said to me, my partners are going to turn this theater into retail space. I just have to stop doing it. (clears throat)

And so I made a call to a man I had just met. He had been in Phoenix a very short time, as the new director of the then recently created Arizona Community Foundation.

I took a woman who happened to be working for the Yavapai Heritage Foundation at the time, the only time we've ever had a paid employee, under the Federal Comprehensive Employment Training Act, and Training Act, I guess it is. Whereby people in between jobs, who needed work, could be employed by a non-profit with a federal grant to do certain things. And this woman was a tremendous asset.

And incidentally, is now back working with us as a volunteer, keeping records of the seats we sell. We're selling all new seats for the Opera House restoration.

**PS:** Tell me about the building itself. When was it built? And was it, was it originally an Opera House? Was that its original?



**ER:** Yes. The Elks were planning a building in the early 1900s. They had met a variety of places. They had organized very early, they were one of the earliest Elks Lodges in the country. There are now something like 25,000 lodges and this is number 330. So they were very early.

And they met in various places. Decided they would build a building. And the people of the town went to them and said, we would like to have an Opera House in your building.

I had a man on my radio program the other day who is doing a history of all the theaters and opera houses. Many times little tiny place with a few seats and a stage were called an opera house. Depending on the performers they brought in.

Tom Collins has, is a professor of theater. And he's now a volunteer in Prescott. And he came on my radio program to give me, give us the history of all the theaters, all the opera houses over the time, up to this one. In Prescott. Starting very early. Starting in the 1860s.

Well, the Elks are going to build a building, the people had just their last opera house to a fire. As a matter of fact, the man who built it was S. E. Patton, who also built a Patton Opera House in Phoenix.

And the Elks said, okay, we'll figure out how much that will cost. And the figure of 15-thousand dollars was brought up and the people of the town raised 15-thousand dollars. And the architects for the Elks building included the theater space in the building.

I learned just the other day that, although the theater was completed and dedicated on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 1905, with the woman Florence Roberts, who was an international actor. It happened her manager was an Elk. And these Elks had... somehow, learned of this man, and Florence Roberts was on her way from San Francisco where she lived, to Phoenix to a major performance, when her manager said, there's an Elks group in Phoenix who needs you, Florence.

And so, she agreed to stop off in Prescott and do a theater performance on Monday night, which is rarely happen anywhere, to open this theater. And her reason was, or, her comment was, that it very seldom falls to an actor to open a theater. It's quite a distinctive condition.

So the building was built. The Elks still used the clubhouse on the ground floor which was a part of their retail space, for some time. Then by the 20s they had earned enough money to finish the second floor as offices, and the third floor as their clubroom.

But they also had their lodge room on the third floor. And so, they had a full kitchen. A full bar. And a full meeting room, which a lot of organizations used.

I have a photograph from the 60s of a group in which my family was involved. Rented the whole space for



a Christmas party for their employees. And here are the elk heads in the background, and all these people sitting at a banquet table.

So the town helped build the theater. Helped build the building actually. And the Elks owned it until 31, maybe 32 years ago. That would have been 65....75.

When they felt that the pressure of automobile travel and the location of the building caused them, their members, to think we had no parking. They did, in fact, own a parking lot on Marina Street. They bought a building and tore it down and put in a parking lot. (laughs) But, parking lack was their reason for moving to Prescott Valley. But there was also another reason which has become very apparent in more recent times.

They bought a large parcel on the edge of Prescott Valley, just as it was developing. In the early 70s. And, built a building. But then, in more recent times, have also created a trailer park.

One of the problems of middle income retirees is a place to live. And many of them buy trailers and start being gypsies. And many of them like to settle down.

So the Elks, although in some other places have found they could rent apartments to some of their members, these Elks, this Elks Lodge, Prescott 330, Prescott's Elks Lodge 330, now Prescott Valley's Elks Lodge 330, has created a trailer park for retired Elks. Or anyone who wants to become an Elk, pay the membership dues and then for, I presume a modest rental, park a trailer on this site.

And this is happening, I'm told, all over the country. As the civil, civ....civic patterns change of where...communities like Prescott is so deeply involved in talking about work force housing. Low income housing. Moderate hou....whatever term you want to use, the fact is that many, many, many communities have no place for the people who work there to live. With the housing costs the way they are.

So the Elks all over the country, I understand, have solved that. There are Elks Clubs where, Elks buildings, where they've converted some of their offices into residences. Into apartments.

**PS:** So what happened with the Elks Opera House when they moved out in the 70s?

**ER:** Moved...well, they moved out and this attorney firm bought the building and started refurbishing the Opera House and found they were out of interest and money. So the owner, one of the owners, called me. And I spoke with Steve Mittenthall (sp?), who I think had been at work a week or so, about how something might happen with this theater space. Which the owners were willing to sell on a condominium basis.

In the 70s that was a pretty revolutionary idea. And I think they even had to create the right kind of documents because they weren't in, say, a stationary store as files. How to buy a piece of property on a condominium basis. Now there are, of course.



But Steve Mittenhall said, let me see what I can do, and within a week, (clears throat) I learned this much later, the manager of a local, of a Prescott trust, had made some phone calls, and bought this theater from the owners. Through the Arizona Community Foundation.

So the Arizona Community Foundation then turned around and said... wrote to Yavapai College, upon my recommendation that... Yavapai College had not built a performance hall in their original master plan. Still didn't have one. Needed performance space because they were doing all kinds of programming.

And so Yavapai College rented this theater for 10 years. From the Arizona Community Foundation. A part of the problem we face now, and have overcome, but which was very common during those years, and then the succeeding four or five years when Prescott College leased the space.

The original lease with the Arizona Community Foundation stated unequivocally that they would do no repair or maintenance. So the lessees had to encounter some pretty heavy duty fundraising just to keep the boiler operating. And so on. It was a, it was a real tragedy. Not a tragedy. Near tragedy. The boiler did not blow up. Although it could have.

So then, everything which goes around, comes around. And, the Arizona Community Foundation desired through local sources, yours truly, to dispose of this property they owned in Prescott, Arizona. What were we going to do about it?

So, about that time, several people, including the daughter of the mayor, made an impassioned plea to the mayor, and the mayor said, okay, honey, we'll do it. And so the city of Prescott bought the Elks Opera House on a condominium basis, from the Arizona Community Foundation. That was in 2001.

In 2002, the Yavapai...or the Elks Opera House Foundation was organized to carry on the restoration. The city at that time...the council at that time....said, we don't want to have anything more to do with this. We don't want to spend any more money on it. We don't want to do this...blah, blah, blah.

So we formed the foundation and said, to them, in fact, we created a memorandum of understanding with the city, which was that they would continue to operate the theater and the Foundation would acquire the funds to restore it.

And so, we have done it. We have great cooperation with city staff. Nancy Burgess is the City Preservation Officer and she has, essentially, been the city's representative on the changes which have occurred.

She first of all acquired a heri...heritage fund grant...an Arizona Heritage Fund Grant, and a match. Which we, the foundation, helped provide. We restored the first lobby. Now Nancy has acquired a second heritage, Arizona Heritage Fund Grant, which comes from lottery funds. Through the Arizona State Parks.



And we'll go dark the first of October to renovate the second lobby. With a grant...with a match from the Arizona Questors and the national group and the local Questors.

We'll be dark for six weeks, till the middle of November, and then we'll go back into business for the Christmas season.

We've had some really successful shows there. We have, during July, every Friday, Saturday and Sunday, that house has been booming. On Friday nights we've the Citrus Valley Playhouse which started in Mesa and came to Prescott for the summer. Had their last event last night and it was a blast.

They had a...their, their, their take-off on Garrison Keillor's Lake Wobegone Experience. And they do local spoofs. And it's quite amazing. They've contracted a woman who was a WASP during World War II, lives in Phoenix. And they bring her one. And it's just a great success. Great success.

On Friday, on Saturday nights now, for the whole summer and on into the fall, will be the Arizona Review which started some years ago as the Arizona Jamboree and was a...eminently successful.

Now they're back as the Arizona Review which is modern and historic and every kind of music you can imagine, with wonderful musicians and dancers and singers and performers.

And then on all the Sundays in July, the capital campaign for the Elks Opera House Restoration has been kicked off by the Foundation. With a woman, Dale Mangum (sp?) who was Artistic Director when Prescott College leased the theater, back in Prescott.

And she plays the part of Florence Roberts, 20 years later. Florence Roberts' nickname is Zsa Zsa. And she's a very racy lady from San Francisco coming back to grace our stage in a 1920s costume. The stage setting is her solarium with wicker furniture and lilies, her favorite flower, in a vase. A Turkish carpet on the floor. A bouquet of feathers from the...bird who spreads his tail...peacock feathers, which were common in the 20s as a...as a decoration.

And Florence does, Florence "Zsa Zsa" Roberts does a, an hour and 10 minute recounting of her life. It's totally fascinating. We've had great audiences.

We've preceded each evening's performance with a musical event of some kind. And it's been a great success. So we've kept the house alive this summer.

**PS:** And what has been your role in all this?

**ER:** I was the founder of the Foundation. I wrote the documents to find it...found it, as an Arizona non-profit corporation. This is about, I believe, my eleventh.



And then, sought tax exempt status. Put together a board of a local banker and the presidents of the colleges and retired executives, to make up the board of the Foundation. Which still includes some retired executives, but has active executives, bank president, college presidents...on the board.

A number of people have come on recently from the Victorian Society. They are most...they've adopted this theater restoration as their major goal over the next few years. And several of their board members have become board members of Yavapai...of Prescott, Ariz...oh, excuse me. Of the Elks Opera House Foundation, and we are booming.

And I am secretary, I'm assistant treasurer, and I'm chairman of the capital campaign.

This is a big project, but it's within grasp, and it's going to happen. And I'm glad to take all these roles. The sec, the treasurer is a bank president. He performs all of our fiscal duties which are required by law. And I take care of the monthly banking and the monthly reports to the board of our activities in a financial manner.

And I, (clears throat) take the minutes. I swore I'd never be a secretary again. But it was important to do it. In this case, founding this organization for cooperation with the city. In certain ways, it was really important, someone who understands that relationship take care of keeping records. Which I've done.

And then, because no one showed up and said, oh, I'll do that, I am chairman of the capital campaign. But I was co-chairman of the library campaign, which I just described, and I can't say it's easy asking other people for money, but I take on worthy projects and people are waiting for me to ask them I find.

As a matter of fact, our first major contribution has been from the former owner of the building who, through me, saved the theater. And he has given us stock and valued at 36-thousand dollars to restore one of the opera boxes.

The Chamber of Commerce has given us some major gifts. The Prescott Community Art Trust has given us a major gift. Actually that gift was not for the restoration. It was for 10-thousand dollars worth of seats and music stands and lights.

The city has hired a remarkable manager who has had a great deal of musical experience. And he's not only keeping the lobby open and the ticket window open weekdays, he has great aspirations to form an Elks Opera House musical group of some kind. So we're on the up...we're just moving beautifully.

Every crowd who comes into the lobby, sees the display the Foundation has produced for the lobby which shows photographs of the transition. Some of the restoration in the first lobby, photographs are there.

We restored the rope...ri...the rope rigging on the grid. The grid is original oak as is the supports for the



roof. They were declared by our engineer to be worthy to re-use, to continue using. And so, we've replaced the original hemp ropes with modern ropes.

But we may be one of the few rope houses in the country. A rope house is one which use...flies it's flies with ropes. Most theaters today have metal grids and chains to fly the flies. The backdrops. And the curtains. We have ropes. We're very proud of it.

We also have a display showing names of the people who have performed there. Madame Schuman-Heink. A number of very famous people.

Once Tom Mix had Tom...had, had Tony the Wonder Horse on that stage, doing a benefit for Mercy Hospital.

**PS:** Do you have a picture of that?

**ER:** Yes.

The Monday Club has done benefits there for the Elks. Have...everybody has used this as a venue over the years and we're proud to see it continue.

**PS:** Now, most people at your age would be retired and just enjoying the fruits of all that you've done. Why do you feel compelled to still be so involved?

**ER:** Because I have something to give. I may be the only one you know that knows how to do this. Or cares how to do it.

My experience, and also that I'm that kind of a person that's kept busy all my life. Extremely busy.

All the years we were raising children, we were with them a great deal. We had a marvelous home. Life. Ate meals together. But I was often, in the daytime, when they were in school, doing community work. I also have held a full-time job most of these times. I've taken on other jobs as a consultant, as I mentioned, in various historic preservation activities.

It's the kind of person I am. I don't...can't explain it. But I believe this may be my last major project. And I will rest on my laurels when we get that Elks Opera House restored and back in business.

**PS:** Why have you felt over the years it's been so important to save these old buildings?

**ER:** I believe the impetus came from my family, my husband's family, taking this step of buying a Victorian mansion for use as a mortuary. My husband's father was...pressed into the mortuary business by his brother the Sheriff, who won the business on the turn of a card.



The Sheriff owned a livery stable and rented the carriages and wagons which the undertaker required to carry on his business. And at a certain time, in 1903, the Sheriff said to the undertaker, you owe me a big bill. So let's play a game of Faro or whatever it was. And you'll either own your business free and clear with no debt to me, or I will own your business. And the Sheriff ended up owning the business of the undertaker.

We recently come across that...by doing some more assiduous research at the recorder's office, the transfer of that title from that undertaker to the Sheriff.

The Sheriff had a younger brother who was driving his 20-mule teams to the mines, taking freight here, and bringing freight back, doing this and doing the other. He sent him to Mortuary Science College at Chicago. And then in 1906, my husband's father started operating the Ruffner Funeral Home.

Then in 1933, he purchased a Victorian mansion in a residential neighborhood, and moved in during the night so the neighbors wouldn't get restless. But he was always a good neighbor.

And, upon our marriage, we became a part of that system. Very soon after we were married, I was helping there. And, especially during the time my husband was away in the Air Corps.

The building was used as it was for a number of years. The kitchen and, um, area between the well and the well house was converted to an operating room. And all of those kinds of things were minor changes.

But then as the time went on, in the 40s when we were involved, (clears throat) I began to wonder what the future of the building might be. And we tried to make every change which was necessary to accommodate the public as harmless as possible as far as the appearance of the building was concerned. Just out of instinct, that one does protect a beautiful, marvelous, original mansion.

And then my husband's interest in history began to ex, ex, expand...I'll say it...to the fact that he was going to meetings around the West. To the Western History Association meetings and so on. (clears throat)

And I met a man who was the Historic Preservation Officer for Arizona. Probably in the late 60s. And I began to ask him question about what one did with his old buildings. And there was a federal program which began to help you understand that. Called the National Register of Historic Places which was created in 1966 as a part of the movement during the Eisenhower years to build highways all across the country in the name of security. Easy movement of troops.

Unfortunately, many of these highways went right through the middle of little towns and took out their Carnegie Libraries and their Town Halls. And so these, not only was the Federal Highway Act amended to include a requirement that, the proof, the system of roads was more important than the Town Hall. Or to go



around it.

Also, that same impetus created the Historic Preservation Act which created the Register. Which said, if a building is worthy of preservation, it could be listed in the nation's list of such properties. And that's what happened with us. With our building

My building, our building and the Elks Opera House, the Elks building, were the first two buildings listed in the National Register. Except for the Courthouse which had been done earlier by the State Historic Preservation Office.

**PS:** So those were the first two private buildings (re- Yes.) that Prescott...(re- Yes. Yes.)

**ER:** As a part of the movement of the Yavapai Heritage Foundation, studying and or, organizing information around a survey of Prescott's historic buildings. And then publishing a booklet called "The Territorial Architecture of Prescott."

**PS:** Did you ever think at the time, when you first started asking some questions about your, your building, that that would become your life's work?

**ER:** No, I had no idea. I really haven't had any goals in my life except to be busy, enjoy life. Have love and loving companions and friends and family. I don't think I've really set out with a goal. Mostly life just happened to me.

I actually happened, it happened to change a great deal in 1940 when I met and married the man I was married to when he died 11 years ago. And, I believe it's just a matter of being in an exciting life in ever-changing times. And going with the flow.

I can't ima....I did not have ambition. I had ambition when I was in college. I was going to be a physician. I was going to be the best there was. But I changed my pattern. And my pattern turned out to be life in a small town raising a family and recognizing the quality and assets in a small town life. Which are precious.

**PS:** Well, you've certainly seen a lot of changes in this small town, since 1940.

**ER:** Yes. And the salubrious ones I've managed to engineer and I'm very satisfied with that.

**PS:** Which ones are you most proud of?

**ER:** The historic preservation of the downtown. The historic preservation of the town. There are more than 800 buildings listed in the National Register now.

One of the ways non-profits authenticate their desires and their activities is to have the purpose of their



being become institutionalized. And by that I mean, if it's, it's worth doing then the local jurisdiction takes on the role of historic preservation.

Starts an ordinance, which I helped to create. That very forward looking mayor of Prescott, the first woman mayor in Arizona, appointed a committee on economic development. And historic preservation and creek preservation were the heart of our reason for being.

And with all the business people and the school district and the tribe, we all sat down and talked about values. And what was important to us and what made a difference in our lives. And the Courthouse Plaza always became the focus.

Without imagining that center, the rest of it was not as easy to hold together in a, in a piece.

And so that recognition and that understanding of those values which we were able to translate to private property owners, and which then the city institutionalized, and now has an ordinance which they administer.

A half time staff person. They could use two, two full time, but it hasn't worked out that way yet. Because we still do have a lot of volunteer work in historic preservation. On the part of the non-profit.

Then translating that, fulfilling a need to...as I mentioned, recognizing the setting as being important and crucial to protect. To the lucky happenstance of being in the basins surrounded by gorgeous mountains.

Prescott has grown a great deal, but we are a finite resource. We are surrounded almost entirely by the national forest.

To the North the Prescott Airport is now a part of city proper. City limits. We've annexed tremendously over the years, of course. But now our annexed boundaries meet not only Chino Valley, but Prescott Valley. Corporate limits. So we have grown all we're going to grow.

Except for on major annexation which is being considered now of some ranches which are contiguous to the East. And North.

An inevitable change. But we've learned so much along the way in the institution of protecting open space, and institutionalized activity of protecting open space along with the historic buildings, which have made, been Prescott's life line.

Certain open space and housing responsibility is going to be (??) in these new annexations. When you annex property, you can pretty well determine how it's going to be used.

And if a developer is sufficiently motivated, the rules will be followed. And we may even get some



tougher ones as we go along.

Not for these projects. For others which will make even more important this concern for work force housing.

It's something we talk about. Haven't done a thing about.

I helped get another non-profit going. I'm not active in it. But on this question of how to produce work force housing in a modern climate. Modern...in a, in a contemporary fiscal scene. And the way is to give incentives to builders who are building McMansions.

I'm so pleased to know, and express to others who care, that the town of Telluride and the county of San Miguel, where my family happens to own property, (clears throat) has had now, a housing ordinance for a number of years. And I happen to get to know so much about it because a planner from Yavapai County when to San Miguel County and is a planner there. And he's been very helpful in sharing their information for us.

Telluride enforces the law they adopted with the county of providing housing for the people who work in any business which is developed in the town or the county.

So much so that the town of Telluride, when they built an addition...when they added to their town park...built city employee housing in the park.

Every one of those historic buildings in Telluride which houses a junk shop or a memorabilia shop or a tea shop or a restaurant, provides housing for their employees. As a part of their privilege of doing business in Telluride.

Other ski towns, resort towns, have come around to this a little bit, but at great expense of the private developers that have had to build these places, along with the condos.

Because they've found that bussing people a hundred miles is not very productive. And, there aren't any people there to bus any more. It's really become a terrific employment problem.

Prescott has not reached that far yet, but we have an election coming up and there are people running for office who are speaking about the importance of seeing that this huge ranch development doesn't create more of a work force problem than we already have.

Our firemen, our teachers, other people employed at those lower level salaries, have not, up until now, been able to afford to live in Prescott.

Unfortunately the towns surrounding us have grown so rapidly in building more expensive properties that



people are having a problem even living there. And we have a traffic glut you wouldn't believe on a two-lane highway.

**PS:** Yes, I've seen that!

**ER:** Both ways. Both...and when you go to Chino in the morning or at night, there's a solid one lane, both ways. You just...it's...imagine! I mean, we don't invest money until we need to do it. But, this road problem has really gotten to be terrific.

**PS:** Let's go back and talk about a few more of the specific buildings in Prescott that have been important, that you've helped save. Are there any particular ones you wanted to bring up? I have some names here that I, I guess that I found all these files in the, in the museum. The Sam Hill Hardware Company?

**ER:** Yes, that was quite an experience. We were able in the study of historic buildings to recognize and, and celebrate and study and list in the National Register, the Sam Hill Hardware Company. On the Courthouse Plaza. On Montezuma Street.

During that time, we were studying historic buildings. This is the non-profit Yavapai Heritage Foundation.

A realtor friend of mine discovered another building owned by the Sam Hill Hardware Company, which was their warehouse on a railroad siding. A little bit north of town.

And this woman said to me, in fact, she changed my life, you're giving us all this advice about historic buildings. Why don't you become a realtor so you can do it with meaning? And that turns out to be a fact that, you can have all the information available as a volunteer, but until you are licensed to do something, no one pays any attention.

This woman, who owned Sam Hill Hardware Company Store at the time on downtown Prescott, also owned this warehouse. And the woman realtor who spoke to me was attempting to sell it.

And so, it was a great happenstance that a group of people bought it. Among them, smart enough to hire, hire an architect with whom I'd been working on historic restorations. And so, the architect sent me off to Mexico to look for photographs...not to Mexico. To Washington, to look for photographs of Northern Mexico so that the owners could put a Mexican restaurant in the Sam Hill Warehouse. Which they did. With these marvelous blown up photographs of folk life in Northern Mexico to illustrate the scene.

A succession of owners found that the location, being rather remote, was not conducive to public use in any quantity to support a restaurant. So it changed hands a number of times. It's now owned by Prescott College. It's now being developed by Prescott College, with a major sum of money, as an art center.

During the time we were transitioning to the new ownership...we got it listed in the National Register of



Historic Places. We got it included in a local historic district which confers responsibility for any project which requires a building permit, to go through historic review.

We were able to maintain the painted black and white sign on the East end of the building. It's just a remarkable building.

**PS:** What, what makes it remarkable? Why was it worth saving?

**ER:** It's a huge brick warehouse. It was used by the Sam Hill Company to freight automobiles and all of the other things they sold, on a spur, railroad line from the main line downtown, out to their warehouse. They built the warehouse, built the rail line at the same time.

Actually that rail line continued across Miller Valley Road out to the fairgrounds as an accommodation to the Northern Arizona Fair which was going on at the time. There was never any real commercial activity at the end of that spur line. It was primarily built for the Sam Hill Warehouse to ship in goods.

**PS:** What about the downtown hardware company? Why was it important to save?

**ER:** Well, it's a major building, maybe 100 feet long. Right on the Courthouse Square. Right on the Plaza.

It was the, I believe it was the first automobile dealership. It was grown from a tin shop where they were just manufacturing things made out of tin and then went into the automobile business.

And it became a general store. Plows hung from the ceiling. Nails, screws, thread, clothing, hams, hardware. Whatever you needed was in a general store. And that's what Sam Hill had.

That was...it's an important building because it made up the fabric of the buildings facing the Plaza.

**PS:** Sounds like it was sort of a, a community center, too. People would all be going there.

**ER:** Commerce was very active in Prescott. It was the county seat. It was the place where the prospectors came to get provision to go out to find their wealth and gold and...all over the years it's been a place of commerce.

**PS:** And how is it being used today?

**ER:** Same way. We have, we are a banking center, we are a government center, and we are a commercial center. But, our major commerce is tourism. Most of the income from the city of Prescott, and including the State of Arizona, is now sales tax rather than property tax.

So the promotion of people to visit and buy and pay for rooms in your town is a very important enterprise. And it is all of the most important enterprise for Northern Arizona. Our major source of income is tourism.



Has been for many years.

Manufacturing has never been a source of income. In fact, that's second in the state. Um...the...tourism is second in the state, manufacturing top because of the electronics industry.

Agriculture is no longer even counted. Agriculture was once a primary source of income in this region. The cattle industry was high, but those cattle people all had to come to town for groceries. So Prescott has always been a commercial center. And continues so, but tourism is our major now. Major resource.

**PS:** And they come to see some of these buildings that you've saved.

**ER:** Exactly. But they don't go anywhere to see a Wal-Mart.

When travelers are traveling, they're going to places of interest, of note, of quality. Of nostalgia. Many people who moved to Prescott say, I first saw your Courthouse and realized that this is just like my home town. I want to live there.

It's a pattern, I think nationwide. But in the West, we've been one of the fortunate ones. Prescott was the first in the state and first of many of the Western states, this particular town, to have the great fortune to be established where it is. Where it was established. And to have continued to be a viable town center with historic roots.

**PS:** Let's see. One of the other things that was mentioned was...preservation for downtown. What about the Palace Hotel & Bar?

**ER:** That has a wonderful story. And it's alive today because of an interested person in pursuing the past. Making it live.

The Palace Hotel was built as a hotel. A very, very elegant hotel. And the ground floor was built in the years when gambling ran the place. The whole of the downstairs of the Palace, now filled with dining tables, was gambling. All kinds of gambling tables, gambling devices. And its space was built around them. For them.

It has managed to survive over the years through a variety of uses. When I first came to Prescott, the remnants of the Chinese settlement in Prescott still operated a Chinese restaurant in the back of the Palace. It was a wonderful Chinese restaurant. People came from miles around to enjoy their wonderful food.

It became a brothel. In the early years, the bar downstairs was always popular. Even after gambling was prohibited. It suffered sometimes, in the old times. It had some great times. Patterns changed though when laws change. And the prohibition of open container I think is the way the law reads, made a difference in how all of Whiskey Row operated.



The Palace now, as I say, has good owners. There was a project in the early 70s where the upstairs was leased by a developer. A person who built a restaurant up there. And now there's an active lounge and bar on the second floor taking the place of all those hotel rooms which were originally there.

At one time there was a man named Barney Smith who was one of the owners of the Palace. Who went to San Francisco looking for some musicians to play in his bar. And he came across a very lovely, sheltered, lady. He invited her to come to Prescott. He, she thought that she was coming to start a symphony orchestra. She found out he wanted her to play in his bar. So he married her to keep her here. That was Nellie von Gerichten Smith. Who came from San Francisco. And Barney Smith actually had an orchestra his wife ran. She also taught opera. She taught children to play all kinds of instruments. At one time an owner who had great aspirations, not the owner.... At the time, the Federal Highway Act was expanded to allow certain enhancements to be funded. Requiring the states to produce 10-percent of their federal highway administration income in enhancement projects.

We got this clear past the city. They were required to be the guarantors of the owner's use of federal highway money, to restore his façade. Which is quite remarkable. And then make a conservation easement donation of it. So that it would be protected. Even if another owner came along, the façade of that building would be protected.

We went all the way through this city. Got all the contracts. It was the first. So much so that it was required, or respected, project, that I went to a national Federal Highway Administration program conference in order to describe how you can do private financing with public entities. With everybody agreeing and signing off on a wonderful project.

Unfortunately, Arizona's Federal Highway Enhancement Funds Project management was placed in the hands of the Councils of Government. And the only people the Councils of Government had hired to work with highway funds, were highway engineers and that kind of person. And they don't have much imagination as far as contiguous to highway material values and so on.

So, one of the local reviews didn't accept the project for funding. So it died. But I had to have no...public...no...national public notice on the principle of the project which was quite wonderful.

The present owners have not done anything to the façade. It really needs some work. Parts of it are sandstone and parts of it we, I believe, are even more fragile material which is the pressed sandstone. And I'll think of the name of that early building design...decorative building material in a minute.

A lot of early buildings used it along with brick and stone.

Anyway, those buildings, like the Palace, are suffering from age and need help. However, they manage to continue. And they will.



This is now productive and active restaurant. They've gone into dinner theater which I think is very popular.

And, for the benefit of the whole town, but primarily for those business operators on Whiskey Row, the City of Prescott has built a major parking structure on the, on the west side of the alley of those, all those buildings.

All the buildings on that side of the Courthouse Plaza have refurbished their alley side, their rear, the rear of their buildings. And it's just a paradise. It's really quite remarkable to have pedestrian traffic again, across the alley, up the stairs from the building gar...parking garage.

That's so important that the building on the far south end of that block has now doubled in size. On the ground from the original downtown Prescott fire house, which has been in private hands, is a bakery and dining area. For awhile, a couple of offices.

They've now, that owner, has doubled the size of that by taking up some empty space, and built a two-story, really beautiful, addition to the Fire House Square. Because the parking garage is exactly next door to his property.

They suffered a lot during the construction, but now it's all coming back.

And Prescott is a good example of making those kinds of attributes which are necessary, like getting rid of automobiles, or taking care of automobiles, fit into the scene without demolition.

**PS:** You've talked...referred to it several times as Whiskey Row. What, what area are you really talking about? How did it get that name?

**ER:** It got that name when it was...one, two...six blocks long. Between the, uh, Sheldon Street where the railroad depot is and the depot house, and probably the 300 block of South Montezuma, that was all bars. I think there were something like 24 or 28 bars in that expanse of several blocks. A couple of hotels, with bars, and so on.

But, somehow, in the old days, maybe, maybe in the cowboy days. maybe in the 1900s, that Whiskey Row term began to be popular.

Now it's only one block long. And it's mostly, other than bars operating there, mostly restaurants and stores.

It's a family joke, in my husband's family, my father-in-law who was the mortician in Prescott, decided he'd move out, buy a mortici...mortuary... mortuary in Williams, he said, when they started selling



women's underwear on Whiskey Row. The town was too big for him. (laughter) And he operated the mortuary in Williams for some years. Much smaller town.

It's a penalty of progress, I suppose, that most of the bars are gone. But, of course, public social use of whisky emporiums is really not as prevalent as it used to be.

**PS:** But you wouldn't think a town as small as Prescott could have that many bars...to be successful.

**ER:** It was a Saturday night town. The people who lived in the surrounding hills and mountains, and on the ranches. The banks were open on Saturday. It was always a Saturday night town.

All the miners, all the cowboys, everybody came to town. All the farmers.

**PS:** Was it still like that in the 40s when you came here?

**ER:** Yes. Very much so. Very much so.

I think the big change came after the end of World War II. The big growth spurt occurred. And the changes in, in the economy began to be apparent.

**PS:** Well, that street is also a highway. You've been talking about the highways.

**ER:** No longer. One of the patterns of transportation in recent months, recent years, has occurred in Prescott. Prescott, the City of Prescott now has jurisdiction over the entire length of 89 between the city limits.

From the south on White (?) Spire Road where it enters the Prescott National Forest. Becomes a state highway again. To the East end of town on Gurley Street, East Gurley, when it connects with Highway 69, that, 89, Highway 89, State Route 89 through Prescott is now a city street. And has city jurisdiction and maintenance.

**PS:** But that was a major issue a few years back, I remember.

**ER:** Well, the issue came, came to be because it was still a state highway when some major restoration of the road was done by the State Highway Department. And the State Highway rules do not permit crosswalks in the middle of blocks. Perfectly reasonable traffic control system.

But, you're referring, I'm sure, to Sam Steiger, who got somebody to get a bucket of paint and painted a crosswalk. But the highway department had removed the...I guess they were just those stripes they laid down on the pavement.



At the time I don't believe there were any supports on the sides for handicapped ramp.

It was just a stripe on the road. And the highway paved over it, and Sam got mad.

We did not accept that stretch of road as a city street because of Sam Steiger. It was already in the works. But he was impatient. In fact, I'm not sure he knew what was happening.

So that's a famous story about a famous person, but it's kind of silly.

It was within the year that it became a city street and the city produced the crosswalk. With sufficient protection for pedestrians and so on.

**PS:** I'd always heard that he went out and painted it himself.

**ER:** He did. He did. You get drunk enough, you can do anything.

**PS:** Are there any other buildings that, that are significant here that you helped save? You mentioned you had a file on the Arizona Pioneer's Home.

**ER:** I was simply hired, as a consultant, to do a National Register nomination for it. And then we got a grant from the, um, from the Historic Preservation Fund to do what is called an historic structure report.

And that's a technical survey by engineers and architects with recorded drawings, calling out the original construction of the building and the current condition of all that original materials.

I'm very pleased at the advent of, the interest on the part of the management of the Arizona Pioneer's Home, led them to doing that study. Because, it wasn't too long after that, that some legislature decided they weren't going to fund the Pioneer's Home any longer.

It had originally been created with a grant from an individual which set up a miner's home. And for a period of time, at the very beginning, retired miners were the occupants of that ho...residence.

It's unique in the country in that it's the only one which is typi...is specifically a residence. Alaska has a system, but its hospitals and residence. This is only a residence for certain people who have lived in this state 35 years, I believe, and are at least 60 years of age and able to enter on their own steam.

That miner's fund still exists, but it takes additional general funds to keep the Arizona Pioneer's Home operating. And some mis-guided legislature, a few years ago, decided they were going to stop the fund of that system.

We finally got a few of them to Prescott. They'd never been here before. They saw the institution. They



were given....they were.....the structure report was waved in their face by the superintendent who said, this is a very important building. This is too good to be discarded from a physical standpoint. But think of the people whose lives we have saved by giving them a place to live in their later years.

Think it was a pretty soap opera performance, but it worked. And so, as far as I know, no serious threats against Pioneer's Home have been made. That's the only role I played in that particular system, but it's what has to be done along the way.

Buildings don't exist just because they are handsome or old. They have to have a purpose.

**PS:** And continue to have a purpose.

**ER:** Continue to have a purpose. And that's the whole purpose, forgive my using the word again, of the contemporary movement in the historic preservation field. The federal tax credits for the renovation for another purpose, but continued use.

Those warehouses I mentioned are often lofts for visitor...for (?). They're often huge commercial operations. They've often gone back to factory use. But the building still stays. With a different use.

**PS:** What about the, the Santa Fe Depot?

**ER:** I don't consider that a great success. For a variety of reasons. The architect's view being the most important one.

When it was finally developed, the Depot Marketplace was developed with private investment. The system of Prescott's subdivisions... created a subdivision out of it, so they had complete authority over the design of the buildings inside this subdivision.

Probably because of the extent of the size of the land involved, I'm not sure, but the Santa Fe Depot was my project. I was the first...real estate agent in Arizona who created a, a buyer-broker relationship with a perspective purchaser.

We had...why it had this privilege under its real estate law for quite some time, but Arizona had recently developed it. Wherein the buyer may also have a broker representative, instead of just the seller. Up to that point, the seller had a broker representative and buyers were generally on their own. Unless they brought an attorney with them.

This created a buyer-broker relationship with a family who had Prescott roots and wished to return to Prescott and had money in hand. And wanted to buy that depot from the Santa Fe Company.

Money in hand. Took us two years. (clears throat) Finally transferred ownership, but (clears throat), along



the way, it turns out that when that particular building was built, the City of Prescott moved the location of Sheldon Street slightly to the south in order to accommodate that building and the railroad tracks in that place.

And I have never read the reason for that. I think it must be a difference of something like 20 feet. About. At Marina Street, Sheldon Street starts to veer to the south and then takes a bend. That's another story entirely.

But, it accommodated that building. However, the city owned all but 400 square feet of the land under the building.

So when ownership was to be changed, I was able to get the city to enter an agreement with the prospective owners on something that Santa Fe Company would never accept. And that was to list the building in the National Register.

So we got a 10-part agreement with the City of Prescott in order to get them to give up the ownership of the land to the new (slurs word—participants?) of the building. And that included listing in the National Register and also, including a local historic designation, entrance to the park which was being developed at that time. We hoped from the west.

It turns out that the bridge being built over Granite Creek, west of the depot, right in that period, required a longer span than would permit access to the park. On the west side, except on foot. So the access to the part from the east side still exists. There's not a problem with that.

A number of other conditions were added. And it all worked well. Those people owned the building and a company called Yavapai Blocks still owned the land to the north,. And had been making... manufacturing cement blocks on the property for quite some time.

The area had also been used as a manufacturing plant for electricity by Northern Arizona Light and Power.

The diminution of the value in the land was created by contamination of all kinds of foreign sub, foreign substances, in both cases. And so, in order for the land to be used, as my succeeding... successive owners... not the owners I sold the building, was agent for the building. But a successive owner bought the land to the north from Yavapai Block.

They were required to do a remediation for the damage. (coughs) Excuse me. Damage done during the years of use.

And as they acquired that land, then they went to the city and got the whole plan, the whole area, subdivided as a subdivision rather than as a development within the city under city code. (coughs) Excuse me.



Has to be developed under city code, but subdivisions have certain other privileges.

And the reason I'm disappointed is that, instead of building straightforward modern buildings with modern materials, they started replicating the depot. And other people think this is lovely. They think it's wonderful to have all these buildings. A hotel, and all these other buildings. Which look very much like the depot.

But, from an historic preservation standpoint, it's not acceptable. They should be different buildings. Shown to be built in a different time. Not replicating an historic building.

So the depot is sort of lost in a morass of, of replicas. But, it's very successful. And it's okay. It's a shopping center right on the edge of Prescott, which is pretty important.

**PS:** At least it didn't get torn down like so many....

**ER:** Exactly. We did save it. And there was a time when that was in danger.

The company...or...Atlantic Pacific...or, no. Santa Fe at that time, it's now Burlington Northern-Santa Fe. These railroad companies have consolidated. Would never allow us to list any of their buildings in the National Register. We had a big fight over the Flagstaff depot as well.

Where the company comes and sends all their high-powered lawyers and tells us why we can't list it.

We can. At that time, we would have, could have gone ahead as a state reviewing historic properties for listing in the National Register. We could have moved on it.

But because we respect the Santa Fe and its business in Pres...in Arizona...we didn't do it either for Prescott or Flagstaff. Later owners did and that was okay. That worked.

**PS:** Let's see. Are there any other things that you particularly wanted to talk about that we haven't brought up?

**ER:** I was reminded just recently, and today, as we spoke about Julia Goldwater writing to Andrew Carnegie. (clears throat)

I've been awarded a number of remarkable distinctions. By the Department of Interior, and by others. And at one point when I was a library trustee, I was given the honor of becoming the Library Trustee of the Year. Named by the American Library Association.

And I was traveling...I traveled to Chicago. And I had a wonderful speech, (clears throat) and it was partly



based on Josephine Goldwater's letters. To Andrew Carnegie.

About a small town and a Carnegie library, and a library we saved. And, it was my misfortune to have met that day, in Chicago, before my address was given in acceptance in this honor, a man whose name is Daniel Bushton (sp?).

Daniel Bushton was being introduced to the library profession that day, at that luncheon. And they were not happy at all with the appointment, because Daniel Bushton was not a librarian. He was an historian. And eminent historian.

So much so that he invaded the same archives on the Carnegie...in the, of the Carnegie records which had been dug up by my friends, Billy Garrett and Jim Garrison, when they were doing calendars for the Bank of Arizona when they were still students at ASU's College of Architecture. They came across this correspondence of Julia Goldwater when they did a drawing of Prescott's Carnegie Library for the Bank of Arizona.

I had written a speech about my town and my pleasure in being involved with libraries, as a trustee and being selected for this honor. And proud of the fact that Prescott had the first Carnegie Library in this state. The 16<sup>th</sup> in the country, which was very early in the time of the beneficence of Andrew Carnegie.

And I was going to end up saying, we were privileged to also have a, another distinguished, member of a distinguished family, write to Andrew Carnegie and ask for money to keep a free library. Describing the town as being populated by single men working in investments in the mines, as Prescott was then a, primarily a mining center. And she further wrote, we need to keep a library free because there are so many single men in the town. And except for gambling and horse racing, there are no....because of only gambling and horse racing being available, there are no innocent pleasures in the town. And he scooped me.

He used it in his speech. I did...he got a kind of a chuckle, but I got a good laugh when I said, ladies and gentlemen, I stand before you, not the primary researcher of the country, but one with the original material in her hands and the Librarian of Congress has just scooped me. And then I went on to say what I was going to use, which he had just used, in describing the importance of libraries. And his knowledge of libraries. It was really funny.

That was an outstanding event.

I also initiated, with Billy Garrett, the idea of Governor's Awards for historic preservation. I guess about the second or third year after we had organized the Arizona Preservation Foundation, as it's called today.

Unwittingly we had put a bunch of names in a...on the table...a bunch of words on the table, when we were naming the Heritage Foundation of Arizona. When we founded it in a meeting, a convention, of the



Arizona Historical Society in Tucson. At the university.

Heritage Foundation of Arizona seemed to be the choice. And then we learned later that Heritage Foundation is really, really a far-right think tank in Washington. (laughs) And we didn't do anything about it for a few years. But as new people came into the group, they thought it was a good idea. So, they asked me and I changed, through all the national and Arizona sources of registration, the name to the Preservation Foundation.

But Billy and I suggested this idea of a Governor's Award, and we actually held it in the governor's office for those first few years. And the governor actually presented it for....

**PS:** Who was the governor?

**ER:** Part of the time it was Bruce Babbitt. In fact, he was the most responsive.

And then later it became something else, and now it's back again as the Governor's Award.

People who p...who populate the boards and membership of non-profit organizations are privileged to do things their own way, within the strictures of their registration as a national non-profit, and as an Arizona non-profit. But they have a lot of leeway.

So for a long time there wasn't any real reason, on their minds, to give these awards, but now they're doing it again.

But I received the second Governor's Award for historic preservation. And, at that time, a local artist, an Arizona artist, did a sketch of the individual or the property being honored. It's quite a thing to have hanging in my study. This citation.

Also, I think maybe my greatest success is the Hassayampa Hotel in Prescott. I worked over that for a long, long time.

First of all, it was really seriously threatened with demolition when Prescott College closed. And we were able to inveigle the owner to let the people of Prescott College, some students and faculty, have a room in the basement to keep the college alive.

And we also inveigled him to understand that this building was National Register eligible. And it made a difference in his attitude toward the building.

He'd fixed the boiler and thought he'd run a hotel, but he didn't know how to do it, so nothing happened. But that turning point was pretty important.



And then there is a citation for the Hassayampa Hotel in the lobby which I have signed as president of the Heritage Foundation of Arizona. Citing it as a Governor's Award recipient for coming out of possible demolition into its glory today. It's really magnificent today.

But I happened to be an agent along the way for the reso...Resolution Trust Corporation. It was sold and sold again. And then it was turned over to the Resolution Trust Corporation because the owner defaulted on the loan.

And I was the agent who interviewed a lot of people. I wasn't their agent, but I was a realtor in town who was given the responsibility of interviewing people who might like to buy it from the Resolution Trust Corporation.

And I was lucky to find a man who had been manager at El Tovar who bought it and operated it for some years. Put it in the block.

And then the current owners, whom I count dear friends, although one of the spouses has since died, are the Ballens from Santa Fe, who also own the magnificent hotel in Santa Fe. It escapes me at the moment. Doesn't matter.

**PS:** La Fonda?

**ER:** La Fonda. Excuse me. Thank you very much.

And they are renowned for keeping their property in marvelous shape, but not changing its character or its personality. And we're doing the same thing with the Hassayampa.

They, they...they spared no expense to keep that hotel working. And as I understand it, I'm working closely with the, with them now, because before their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, they had the Elks Opera House as the beneficiary. And each of the, Sun...each of the anniversary events we hold for the Elks Opera House now, the hotel is included in the celebration.

We've had a red carpet built, made, and we've put it across the street, and have people walk from the Hassayampa to the Elks on the night of the celebration. In February each year, we celebrate that opening anniversary.

So I'm really proud of the Hassayampa. I think it's worth the effort it's taken to keep it alive. With the Elks right across the street, now it's a double satisfaction.

**PS:** I think it's one of the better known buildings because people can actually stay there.

**ER:** Yes. Yes. It's also because I influenced them to do it. Become a member of the Historic Hotels of



America which is the National Trust's Registry of Historic Properties. They have vetted to be worthy of the listing. And they have an 800 reservation number. They feature them in the...there must be more than a hundred of them now all across the country. But they feature them in their magazine. They feature them in ads. National Trust does. Recognizing the quality of these historic hotels.

I know of people...I know people who stay only in historic hotels when they travel.

**PS:** Well, one other history group that you've, I know, been a part of, if not a founder, is the Arizona Women's Hall of Fame.

**ER:** Yes. I was not a founder. My husband was. With Polly Rosenbaum and others. And after 11 years, it was not held for awhile. It was an unfortunate combination...

**PS:** How did it get started in the first place?

**ER:** Under Bruce Babbitt, a Tucson women's commission had existed for some time. And they came to Bruce Babbitt when he was governor. And he created a women's commission in his office. The Arizona Governor's Office of Women. And hired people to recognize...and, I suppose, in ways the government can, authenticate the presence of women in all levels of life in this state. And, of course, we have been present since the beginning. In one way or another.

Bruce was particularly sensitive to that. And a part of the reason I received a trustee award from the American Library Association was because Bruce's mother Frances, and incidentally, Terry Goddard's mother Judy....

The three of us were library trustees at the time when Arizona had no public money in public li...no state money in public libraries.

And the three of us traveled the state, visiting all the libraries. We became close friends. And I don't discount the influence that might have had on Bruce in those early years.

When he was a young attorney, before he became governor, recognizing that his remarkable woman, mother, was a worthy person. And so were all these other women who came into his life. Anyway.

He created the Women's Commission and started the Women's Hall of Fame as a recognition of the women who founded this state.

And unfortunately, at a certain juncture, after Bruce was gone, the nomination of an unpopular female was made by the Arizona Women's Commission. And there's no need to go into the personalities involved. It's just not a great day in Arizona to talk about.



So, the celebration was not held for some years.

And in my route, in my activity on the State Historic Sites Review Committee and the Arizona Historical Advisory Commission, I was in Phoenix a great deal.

I helped Polly Rosenbaum a number of times with research when she was saving historic buildings in Phoenix. And Polly would always say to me, and another friend, Ruba Gran...Reba Grandrud...we've got to get the Women's Hall of Fame going.

She was an original member of that commission, who not only responded to the Governor's Office for Women in planning the event, but held a huge event with major speakers. Five or six hundred people at a luncheon in a hotel, with major speakers. And she really regretted the loss of that kind of recognition of Prescott, of Arizona women.

And she kept saying, when are we going to do it again? When are we going to get that started again?

And we were very assiduous in trying to do something for Polly. She was already 100 by then. (laughs) And we needed to do something. So.

Reba Grandrud and I, and the Guild of the Arizona Library, state library, and others, (clears throat) simply got busy and did it. We're still thinking of forming a non-profit to carry it on.

The Arizona Historical Society and the University of Arizona used to produced the Arizona Historical Conference. But now a non-profit corporation takes on that job. Because the two entities simply lost the funding, lost the staff, didn't have the interest. And so, we're thinking of forming a non-profit corporation to be sure this continues.

We were very lucky and had a wonderful celebration at the Carnegie Library site in Phoenix. I invited three women to be honorary co-chairmen.

Rose Mofford, representing the elected...or the gub, gubernatorial level. I can't think of the title of it at the moment. Polly representing the legislative level. And Ruth McGregor who was then Vice Chief Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court, representing the judicial level.

So all those three women, I invited to be honorary co-chairman. And we had a wonderful celebration. It was a wonderful day.

Then, because the state library is just not funded nor supported staff-wise to keep on doing these things, we did it a second time.

Jane Rosenbaum, who was staff in the governor's office to the Arizona Women's Commission, came back



onboard. She's retired, living in Arizona. And we produced this, this second, two years later.

And I don't know what the fate of the third one is. I'm hopeful some people will get busy and create a non-profit and get it going again.

There's a great deal of support. We could, we could attract major corporations to finance it. It could be another one of those bottomless problems we always solve. And people will come forward for a worthy cause like that, in order to make it happen. But I haven't seen any progress lately.

**PS:** I haven't heard anything either, but did go to the last event that was held in the Senate Chambers....

**ER:** It was in the Senate Chambers. Unfortunately. I wasn't able to go, although I had a successful nominee. I just....

**PS:** It wasn't nearly as nice as it had been.

**ER:** I could not drive from Prescott, Arizona, for a 5 o'clock meeting in Phoenix and drive home from the capitol after it. It's impossible. We have to recognize these limitations of...people we'd like to attend.

When I did it, and had an Indian nominee, we had Indian reservation residents from northeastern Arizona in spades. They all came. It was a wonderful event, out of doors on the lawn at Carnegie.

**PS:** And I notice, you had a booklet in there of some of the women from Prescott that are members. Are there any of those people you'd want to talk a few minutes about?

**ER:** Well, I'm particularly pleased with the two I knew the best.

Viola Jimulla was the first traditional chief, woman, of an Indian tribe in a country. Her father died and she was selected to follow him. This, I think, is an unusual situation in this country, whereby the Bureau of Indian Affairs have managed the Indian people left on reservations.

But then, when there became a time when there needed to be a more formal relationship because the country was becoming more formal, they required, the federal government required, that the Indian tribes form corporations, or similar to corporations, in the form of tribal governments. Elected and able to represent the interests of their tribes.

And this tribe organized in that way. And this woman was elected to succeed her father as chief of the tribe.

She had been a mission child. The Presbyterians had created a Presbyterian out of Viola Jimulla. There was a Presbyterian mission on the reservation. And when later arrivals hit Prescott, my sister among them,



finding there was no Presbyterian church, they got the national organization, the Indian reservation mission, and Viola Jimulla, and themselves, the newcomers, formed into what they called Trinity Presbyterian Church. After that Trinity, rather than the religious trinity. But it was all the same.

I was pleased to have heard...have known her. And I did not nominate her to the, to the Arizona Women's Hall of Fame, although I did later nominate her granddaughter, Patricia McGee, successfully. And Patricia was an honoree of the Women's Hall of Fame.

Florence Yount was another one of the honorees from Prescott. (clears throat) And she entered very strongly into my life because she gave me my first job.

She was a young physician, actually trained as a pediatrician, whose husband left Prescott at the very beginning of World War II with the 158<sup>th</sup> Infantry of the National Guard. There were three other young physicians who had just started their practice when the war came along, and they enlisted rather than being drafted.

So all four of those young men left Prescott. Leaving us with no real medical service. Except for Florence Yount who became a general practitioner in a hurry. And her father-in-law, an elderly man, (clears throat), Florence (sic) Yount, Sr., and Robert N. Looney (sp?), a wonderful old crusty physician who happened to have delivered my husband.

Well, I went to.....we had bought a little house in the Mountain Club, but couldn't afford to live in it while Budge was gone earning 50-dollars a month from the United States Army Air Corps. With dependents and so we rented our house....in the Mountain Club. And I took an apartment downtown and looked for a job.

Went to the Northern Arizona Light and Power Company which happened to have an office in the Masonic Temple Building. And they could not find any particular use for this 20-year-old woman who was trained to do nothing. (laughing) Just fresh out of college.

So I went upstairs to a doctor's office, and Florence Yount hired me. And I worked for her and her father and Dr. Looney for three and a half years.

Florence was a real pioneer. Grew up in O...in Iowa, where her father was elected to Congress in his overalls and string tie, which he, Congressman, or maybe Senator, Brookhart wore every day he was in Washington on his official duties. He didn't anyone forget that Iowa was still there.

Florence went to a Washington, D.C., medical school, and I won't think of it for a moment, but that's where she met her husband Ned from Prescott, Arizona. And they were married in Iowa and then moved to Prescott for...and opened a practice. And then Ned was soon on his way.

I grew up a lot in those years. Living alone, husband in the Air...away in the Air Force, a new child. And



a job. Doing everything the doctors needed doing.

The Mercy Hospital had burned in 19...April of 1940. And I arrived in Prescott in August of 1940. So the community had no hospital. (clears throat) With everything needing to be done in the doctor's office. In the Masonic Temple Building. We took over an extra office space. Put in an X-ray machine. Circumcised babies. Did pneumothorax. Repaired wounds. Did everything but delivered babies.

We delivered babies at the county hospital, which was just a county poor farm. Their...their... Operating room they created out of space out there, required the physicians to walk through it to get to the room where they took off their street clothes. To perform an operation.

I assisted in a couple of operations out there. Including a hysteric...including a caesarean delivery.

And the practice then was for the ambulance to come and remove the patient off the operating table to a nursing home. Or a maternity home. Of which there were quite a few at the time, because of necessity.

So this meant Florence was doing everything, and I was doing everything, too. Dr. Yount was the county health officer and we saw a lot of (clears throat) unusual patients because of his practice.

Dr. Looney was the Santa Fe (wind hitting microphone) Railroad Health Officer. And because of his particular need of tracking venereal diseases, I had to create a laboratory in a closet in that medical office.

Florence's major job was doing house calls. Taking care of babies. Delivering babies. And she was often gone from the office for extended periods. And my primary job for her was to keep things running, and to keep the waiting patients from absolutely going crazy. (laughs) Or deserting the entire process.

**PS:** They didn't have much choice!

**ER:** No, they didn't. And she didn't either. She was a very, very busy, busy time. It's a, it was a wonderful time.

And I grew up a great deal and learned a great deal. I ended up even doing Dr. Yount's State Medical Society minutes. Doing income tax for all three of them. It was quite an experience.

**PS:** Did you ever think when you came to Arizona that, that you would spend your entire life here?

**ER:** It's...I really didn't have that kind of perception in those days. I was...so in love and had such a glamorous change in my life, from being a student, hitting the books, to being an independent woman with a new life ahead of me.

No. And really I'm not one who ruminates what might come or what might have happened if something



else didn't happen. I guess I live in the moment. And I've had a great time living in the moment.

**PS:** What about all the changes you've seen? Could you have imagined Arizona or Prescott becoming the place it is today?

**ER:** No. And I try not to think about it. What I've done, what's happened to me in my lifetime, keeping Prescott an historic town and, as much as possible, ameliorating....ameliorating the external forces which change has brought to the surrounding areas, has given me satisfaction and not too much pain. Not too much angst.

One thing I miss is driving to Phoenix. It used to be so much fun to drive to Phoenix, go to a movie or someone's home for dinner, and drive home again.

The presser...pressure of Arizona being the fastest growing state is felt everywhere, of course. And here as well.

But, look at me. I'm sitting in paradise.

**PS:** That's very true. How would you like to be remembered?

**ER:** She made a difference. That's the way I'd like to be remembered.

That of the, of the achievements I've been able to record, the activities I've been able to engage in, indulge in. My family allowing me to be free enough to be a volunteer. And the very presence of all the marvelous people in my life whom I've met and known over the years has made an ideal life. And I'm happy to have lived it, and somehow have made a difference. Somehow. Some way.

**PS:** You've made a lot of differences. Do you have any advice for young people today trying to decide what to do with their lives?

**ER:** Well, I think strong human relationships are the most important part anyone could encounter. If one didn't encounter it in early childhood, with a tight and close and loving family, one has to work at it as a growing adult.

I believe that a career of almost immeasurable exposure and expanse is possible to young people today. But without the close human relationships, their lives are not very meaningful. And that, to me, is the best advice I can give any person.

Even an older person who has felt perhaps, that life is not very much meaning any more. If you have other human beings in your life, you have a lot of meaning. And a lot of purpose.



And helping other people comes with that connection. And that seems to give me a great deal of satisfaction.

I've had some older friends who have left. Who've died. In whose lives I was an important part in the end, in their last years. Because I was young. Younger and still driving and taking them places and getting them....making them able to do things they might not have done otherwise. And that's a great blessing.

So it's a connection with others which I think is a secret of happiness.

**PS:** Very good. Well, I think we're about out of tape. And, unless you have anything you definitely wanted to say, I think we can wrap it up for today.

**ER:** I think we wrapped it up. That's good, Pam.

**PS:** It's a good place to end it.

**ER:** Yes. Thanks.

