

GOOD MORNING, MY NAME IS TORI FAIRBANKS, AND TODAY IS WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31ST, 2024. I AM INTERVIEWING EVELYN AND LANE CALL IN THEIR HOME IN LAYTON, UT, AND I'M INTERVIEWING THEM FOR THE VERDELAND PARK ORAH PROJECT.

TF: Thank you so much for joining me today. Before we start, I just want to be sure that I have your okay to record.

LC: Sure.

TF: Okay, great. So I usually start by with having you introduce yourselves, telling me where and when you were born, and your parents' names as well. Let's go ahead and start with you, Evelyn.

EC: I was born in Provo, UT, and I was the oldest in the family. And my parents were Lester and Faye Ford. And right after I was born, Pearl Harbor was bombed; and then my father wound up going into the service. He had three brothers in the service, and he had been told that he would never be drafted, because they needed him so badly at Hill Air Force Base. They had developed some very important things at Hill, but my dad felt guilty not being in the service. So, he went into the Navy.

TF: Were you born in '41?

EC: Yes.

TF: And how many siblings did you have?

EC: I had. Six siblings, and I actually have one brother who's two years older than my eldest daughter.

TF: So your father went into the Navy. Do you know what branch is brothers served in?

EC: One was in the Air Force, and the other two were in the army.

TF: What did your father do in the Navy?

EC: I'm not really sure that's. He had two years of college before he went in, but I don't know exactly what he did.

TF: The reason I ask is because my husband is in the Navy, so we're a Navy Reserve. Do you know what your father did at Hill Air Force Base?

LC: Her father was a kind of a specialist in airplane struts. He actually molded the struts on Air Force airplanes, and he developed a lot of that. They made the struts out of aluminum, and he worked with that kind of material, and he designed those struts. So, that's why he was so valuable, because he was a metallurgist. So, he worked in that kind of thing.

TF: Interesting. Do you know what aircraft he worked on?

LC: I'm sure he worked on the B29, and some of those other airplanes that the Air Force was using during WWII.

TF: Okay. And did he serve in the European theater or the Pacific?

EC: In the Pacific.

TF: And how many years did he serve in the war?

EC: He served for four years. My younger brother, the one who's four years younger than me, was nearly one when Dad came home.

TF: Okay. Do you remember what it was like when your father was gone?

EC: Well my parents had just bought a house in the Skyline subdivision down here, and after my dad went, into the service, my mother was sure that he'd never come back alive. He went to the base at Bremerton, WA; so, my mom sold our home, and we went to live in Kirkland, WA. We lived there while he served in the war.

But I remember a lot of things from that time. My parents had friends up there, and I remember that we didn't have a car. So my parent's friends would come and take us for drives, and things like that. And I remember walking in the woods up there with my mother, I remember going to see my father when he would come home. I always slept with mother, except when my dad came home. When he came home, I slept on the couch. But my mother went to work while we were in Washington, and I hated every minute of preschool. (laughs)

But one interesting thing that happened to my father was that he was scheduled to go out on a ship, and my mother and I went down to see him off. But when we got down there, his orders had changed, and he was going out on another ship a day later. And the ship that he was supposed to go out on was bombed by a kamikaze pilot.

TF: Wow, really?

EC: It was out on the ocean, after they left Bremerton, and almost all the crew were lost.

TF: Oh my goodness.

EC: And there was a fire on one of the other ships he was on, and he got burns from that.

TF: I'm guessing your mom was very glad when he came home.

EC: Yes.

TF: Is there anything else you remember from that time?

EC: I remember the little girl who lived next door to us. And I also remember that my father bought me the book Bambi, and he would read it to me. And I got so I could turn the pages just like I was reading it. But Daddy also bought Mother a set of figurines with Bambi and Thumper, and I remember when he brought those home to give to my mother.

I also remember the housing up there. The homes were made out of cinder block, like Sahara Village, which was interesting.

LC: We went up there in about 1960, when our daughter Charlene was a baby. Or maybe it was sometime after 1960; but we found the place where Evelyn lived. We saw the outline of the housing units. All that was left was the cement foundation. But for some reason, we did that when we were younger and we had our children. We took her car and drove it up to Washington, and we found the place where Evelyn lived.

EC: It was a beautiful area.

LC: It was. All the houses were gone, but we were able to see the foundations.

TF: Bremerton is a beautiful area. Well Lane, could tell me where and when you were born, and your parents' names as well?

LC: I was born March 5th, 1938, right here in Layton, UT, over on Church St. Doctor A.C. Tanner delivered me in our house. I don't know why they did that. There was a hospital in Ogden. but I was still delivered at home. I lived in that home on Church Street all my life. My dad was Jeb W. Call, and my mother was Marie Call.

My dad was a fuel, gas, and oil distributor. He had that job in Ogden, but in about 1936, and and my mother came from Ogden to Layton, and he had the chance or the opportunity to take over what they called a bulk plant, where they stored gasoline, oil, fuel, and petroleum products. And he had a fleet of two or three trucks, and he got the contract to help build Hill Air Force Base. When they were putting down the landing mats, he had the contract to supply the diesel for them to run the heavy equipment, and all the other stuff that was there. So he took his trucks and went right out to where they were laying down the mats down for the airplanes to land.

That was before the war started here, so they must have felt like something was stirring. Of course, the war in Europe was going on, but he was also at the Naval Supply Depot when

they started building it. So, he was doing a lot of that work, along with other work at the local service stations. So, he was quite busy here in Layton

But anyway, I went to Layton Elementary School, North Davis Junior High, and Davis High School. So, I saw Verdeland Park being built. And I remember the day Pearl Harbor happened. My folks had a big radio in the corner of the living room. They had it turned up really loud and were listening close. And I was making a racket of some kind—I was only three years old—and I remember my mother getting mad at me. She took a hair brush after me and told me to shut up. That something really important was going on, and they were trying to listen.

I remember how intense that was for them at the time. I had older brothers and sisters. I had a sister who was fourteen years older, a brother who was twelve years older, and another brother who was ten years older. And they were all paying attention to was going on that day.

But I remember Verdeland Park, because we lived on Church Street, which was just parallel to Verdeland Park. Kays Creek went down the back of our house, and our property went right down to the Creek. As a little kid, I remember playing all over in that creek, and going up to the top, and seeing Verdeland Park from over there. And I was always quite curious about it. I never really understood what it was—only that there was housing there, and that I had a few friends from there when I was younger. I didn't know them too well, but we'd play in the creek bed during the wintertime. There were hills there, and we'd go sledding down those hills to the water. Those kids would come over from the Verdeland Park side, and I'd go over from my side. I had four friends on Church Street, and we'd all go sledding together.

So, I got to know some of the kids from Verdeland Park a little bit; but I lived in that same house until we were married in 1962. Then I went to pharmacy school at the University of Utah. And when I got out of pharmacy school, there was a fellow here in town that ran Layton

Drug. His name was Reed Gunnell, and he had run the pharmacy there since 1954. But he had a stroke, and he wanted to sell it. So, I borrowed money from my dad. He wasn't a wealthy man, but he had a little money set aside. So, I borrowed that and put a down payment on the store, and I ended up running that store for 35 years.

I closed Layton Drug in 1996 and started another business called Valley Home Medical with a partner. So we started that, then we sold it in 2002. Then I went to work for the Tanner Clinic pharmacy. So in all, I spent about 55 years in the pharmacy business.

TF: Wow, that's a good, long career.

LC: Yeah, I was 80 when I retired.

TF: Wow, you must have really loved what you did.

LC: I did. It was a great profession for me. I loved every minute of it, but Evelyn hated it—

EC: Because he never came home.

LC: I went to work at 8:00 in the morning, and sometimes, I wouldn't come home until 10:30 or 11:00 at night. And I'd do that day after day. But finally, I was able to hire some help. But even when I had help, I was always down at the store, because when I got help, then I was able to do something else in the store. I remodeled it about four or five different times. That store was a real passion for me, but I think I neglected my family a little bit, because I was so attached to it. I was one of these people who couldn't delegate very well, and I felt like I had to be there all the time. I was not a good delegator, and consequently, I think my family suffered.

TF: Well, Evelyn, I'll come back to you and talk about when you grew up in Verdeland Park, but first, Lane, you said you remember seeing Verdeland Park being built. Is that correct?

LC: Yeah, I can kind of remember that. I guess I was pretty young, but I remember looking across the creek and seeing the lumber going up. I was probably six or seven years old, so I did

see it go up. I was three years old in 1941, and I don't know when they started to build it; but I know it was during the war.

EC: Mother and Dad moved to B-10, and we were the first family to live in that unit.

LC: It was down near Gentile.

TF: Was it near the White Chapel?

EC: Yes.

LC: The White Chapel was probably a half block south of the B-Court.

EC: I don't remember a lot about it, because we lived there before my folks bought the home in Skyline. And then when we came back after the war, we lived in F-11.

LC: F-11 was closer to the creek, and closer to my house. As I looked out the back window of our house, it would have been south of the Creek bed. I remember when I was a kid, I would go down into the creek, and there was a man who had chickens in the creek. We did all kinds of things in that creek. I don't want to tell you all those stories. (laughs) But this man had chickens, and there was this log over the creek bed. Well, we liked to get on that log and jump in the water, because the water was deep. But we got under this man's wire fence that he had around his chickens.

We got in there and jumped down. I can't remember whether we let the chickens out or not, but we did something that we got in trouble for. But anyway, I didn't know it at the time, but I ended up marrying that man's daughter. (laughs) But he had chickens there in that part of Verdeland Park, and he ran them down in that creek bed.

TF: So Evelyn, you lived in Verdeland Park two different times when you were a child. growing up. You lived there when the war was just starting ...

EC: Yes. That's where we were living when the war was just getting started, and we lived there for a year. Then my parents bought a home in the Skyline subdivision. At that time, there wasn't a lot of housing here; it was almost non-existent. The president of the House of Representatives President, Stuart Adams ... his father and mother were from this area. They're a prominent family; but they lived in Verdeland Park at the time also.

But anyway, when my dad came back from the war, it was still difficult to find a house. So, we first lived in Sahara Village for about six or seven months, and I can remember the cinder block walls that were similar to the housing we were in in Kirkland. But then my parents were able to get into F-11 in Verdeland Park, and we lived there until I was in ninth grade when my parents built a home just up the street from Central Davis Junior High on Church Street.

EC: He lived to the south, and I lived to the north.

LC: She was on 750 N Church St., and our house was 610 N Church. So, that's how we got acquainted. But I was 23 years old before I ever knew her.

EC: Before he ever looked at me. (laughs)

TF: So how old were you when you moved into F-11?

EC: I was about five.

TF: So you lived there from the time you were five until you were in ninth grade. Before we talk about your time in Verdandland Park, do you have any other memories of Sahara Village?

EC: Not really. We didn't live there very long. All I remember is the cinder block, and the cement slab that was there for the floor. There wasn't linoleum, or anything like that.

TF: Do you remember if the bathtub was cement as well?

EC: I don't remember the tub in Sahara Village, but it was in Verdeland Park.

TF: How many siblings did you have when you moved into Verdeland Park?

EC: Just one. My brother was four years younger than I was.

TF: Okay. And by the time you moved out of Verdeland Park in ninth grade, how many siblings did you have?

EC: Four.

TF: The reason I ask that is because I was wondering how many bedrooms your unit had.

EC: Two.

TF: Where did everyone sleep? I'm assuming your parents slept in one room ...

EC: Yes. They slept in one room, and the baby slept in their room as well. Then it seems like the other bedroom was pretty large, and my brother and I, and my two sisters shared. We had twin beds, and I shared a bed with my sister who was eight years younger than me.

TF: Okay. What else do you remember about the unit that you lived in?

EC: We had quite a large front yard, but the side yard wasn't as large. But I remember some of the things that happened in Verdeland Park. We had a gas stove, and my mother was making a birthday cake for my little sister's first birthday. Well, the oven exploded on her, and she was in the hospital for a while. So, my grandmother came from Provo to help take care of us. And about the second day after my mother came home from the hospital, they went down to Tanner Clinic—which was down on Gentile at the time—to have her bandages changed. And like Lane said, my father had chickens, and the irrigation ditch ran right across our property.

LC: There was Kays Creek, but there was a V-shaped, cement irrigation canal that went along the top side of creek, and they ran fast water through it.

EC: And there was a lock on the gate; but there were some dogs that got into the chicken coop the night before, and my dad went outside to get them out. And when he came back, he pushed the lock on the gate up, but it didn't catch. Well, there were three or four of us playing in the yard

and somehow, my little sister worked that lock loose. She went through the gate and fell into that irrigation ditch. Then my grandmother came out to check on us, and she couldn't see Nancy. But she saw that the gate was open.

All of the neighbors and everybody around came and started looking for my little sister. Our neighbor that lived in front of us got down into the ditch and walked along it.

LC: It was kind of like a culvert, wasn't it? Where the water went under.

EC: Yeah, it was a big pipe. It got wide right in there, and there were all these branches and debris. And as he stepped into it, he was moving his hands the whole time, and my little sister's body floated to the surface. She was as blue as the little blue dress she had on. Well, my father was down with my mother at the clinic, waiting to have her wounds redressed; but he got a strong feeling that he needed to go home. So he said to my mother, "I feel like I need to go home. I'll be right back." And he got there just as they were pulling my sister's body out of the ditch.

Artificial respiration was just brand new, and my father had just finished taking a class on how to do it. But our neighbor took my little sister's body out of the ditch, and he got his car, and Dad sat on the back seat with my little sister laid out. He did artificial respiration, and just before they got to the clinic, my sister bit his finger. But they worked on her and worked on her, and they injected her heart with adrenaline chloride. And finally, she came back, and she just was screaming.

LC: Dick Goff was the guy who was kicking through the debris and got her floating to the top of the water.

EC: By then, they had redressed Mother's wounds, and my dad got out and told her what had happened. So they brought Nancy home, and she was screaming. Well, Doctor Noall Tanner told

them they were going to be sorry that she lived, because she'd only be a vegetable. So they brought her home, and I don't know if you're a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints ...

TF: I am.

EC: Well, our bishop lived just two units behind us. He came over, they gave my little sister a blessing, and she went to sleep. And when she woke up, she started calling, "Daddy, Daddy." And she was fine. She graduated with straight A's from BYU.

But anyway, I also remember the year of the big snowstorm. Of course, there weren't snowplows back then, and we lived in F-Court, which was a circle. But we did a lot of fun things. My dad built a huge snowman, and he had made a thing so he could push the snowballs up. And then he made steps on the other side. So us and all the neighbors would go down that slide, and it was great fun. And I remember how the men would take picks to break up the ice, so that it didn't get too icy down there.

But I have wonderful memories of Verdeland Park. It was a close-knit community. There weren't many non-members in Layton before Verdeland Park was built, and Verdeland Park brought quite a few non-members into the area. I had a friend who lived just across the court from me, and she wanted to know why I had spots on my face—why I had freckles. (laughs) And I had another friend who was Catholic, and she moved to Nevada about a year before my parents built their house. But we stayed in contact until I was a junior in college. And then she got married, and we just kind of lost contact.

But we had wonderful neighbors in Verdeland Park who were just like family. Where my parents were both from Provo, we didn't have any family close. So the Timmons, and the Schows, and the Weavers, and the Goffs—we were really close to all of them. And then my very best friend,

who was more like a sister to me ... when we moved out of B-10, her parents moved in. And her dad would always say that when he first met me, I was in the neighbor's dog house. Literally. (laughs). But I loved growing up in Verdeland Park.

My parents, of course, thought it was really small. My grandfather came to help my father build our new house, because he was a carpenter in California. And his bedroom was on the couch in the front room, so that was the only time I didn't like being there was. His bedroom was on the couch in the front room. I'd have boyfriends come over, and my grandpa would sit on the couch while we visited. (laughs) Poor Grandpa. He was just the kindest person.

I remember when they built Central Davis Junior High, and we would walk on a path that went through The Gully, as we called it, to get to school.

LC: That path was right next to my folks' house.

EC: I was not supposed to play down in The Creek, ever. That was taboo. I had a good friend who lived in B-Court, and one, day we decided to go there. We walked across a log, probably the same log you jumped off of—and I always wore dresses. My mother always put me in dresses with ruffles—but I went off the log. Not all the way off, but my dress got caught on the ruffle, and I was suspended there. They tried to get me off the log, but they couldn't. All they could do was undo my dress, let me slide through, then throw my dress down to me.

TF: How old were you when that happened?

EC: I was probably about six years old. And of course, the evidence was there when I went home. My dress was torn all the way down. (laughs)

Another thing I remember was that my father was very industrious. We didn't have a lot of room in our place, so my dad dug out a basement underneath our unit, and he made a little place with steps that was covered where we could go down, and that's where we kept all of our

canned fruit and other things we needed stored. But he dug it all out by hand, and there were even shelves down there.

LC: Was it underneath the cement slab?

EC: Uh-huh.

LC: I don't know if the government would have liked that at the time. (laughs)

EC: I don't know either, but Dad did it anyway, and everybody thought it was neat. But anyway, I had good teachers at Verdeland Park Elementary. One of them, John Waite, became my neighbor on Church St. Dorothy Adams was my kindergarten and first grade teacher, and Mrs. Burnham was my second grade teacher. John Waite was our third and fourth grade teacher, and Mr. Harmon was our fifth grade teacher.

We had a library in the park, and we had the school, which is now gone. But lots of wonderful people lived all through the park. It was divided after they built Wasatch Heights, and it wasn't just the First Ward anymore. There was the First and Sixth Ward. So, we were divided away from our friends in the First Ward. But I never regretted living in Verdeland Park.

We did have a cement bathtub, but my dad put some kind of an epoxy on it. So, our bathtub was white and smooth. And we had a furnace in the center of the unit by the bathroom, and the bedrooms were off of that, and then we had the living room. And when I was in ninth grade, we didn't have a lot of money. Well, my mother had just bought me a new coat, and I was wearing it one day, trying to stay warm until it was time to get on the bus for school. I stood in front of the heater, and it made waffles on my coat. (laughs) I had to wear that coat that whole year. But we definitely didn't have a large place to live, but I have good memories, like playing with our toys in the hallway.

My parents kept in touch with their friends from Verdeland Park, like the Van Ordens. They moved to Heber. And the Weavers. They had an auto repair shop in Layton, and one of their sons wound up moving to Alaska. But the Timmons stayed in Layton. (says to Lane) Do you know where Jerry Timmins lived?

LC: I think he lived over by Kaysville after we got married. He was my priesthood advisor when I was about twelve. I think that's who you're talking about.

EC: But when I was telling you about the day my little sister fell in the ditch, everyone from C & D Courts were out looking for her. But we were just united, and Verdeland Park was a safe place to live. I would walk down to my friend's house in B-Court, and she would walk up to my place. We would walk after dark, and we never worried that anything would happen. And when we built our home on Church St, my parents built their home right next to us, My friend's dad said it wouldn't be so far to walk.

But her father, Rex, was from Layton. He owned the land that Walmart is built on. But he farmed, and grew corn there, and he also worked at Hill Field. But we were all so close in Verdeland Park, whether people were members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints or not. Lynette and I probably had as many friends who weren't members of the church, as friends who were. Although some of them did join the church, like Dick Goffs daughter, and some of our friends from E-Court.

But Lane lived in one of the nicest homes in Layton at the time.

LC: You look at it now, and it's not a very prestigious home; but it was a pretty home. My dad really kept it up nice.

EC: I think it's still a nice home.

LC: Not compared with homes they build now. They build homes now for \$1,000,000. But back then, it was a pretty home. It's the white home directly across the street from Central Davis Junior High.

EC: It's still there. It had five acres at the time, and my dad had fruit trees all around, as well as a pasture with horses, as well as a barn in the back. It was a wonderful playground for me. I had a horse, and I'd ride him downtown, and I'd tie him up. In between Kowley Drug and Smedley's Barbershop, there was a rock fountain made out of river rock and black cement. And there was a bar where you could tie up your horse. So, I'd get on my horse and ride downtown and tie him up right there on that fountain. And I'd go into Cali Drug and have a malted milk when I was about six or seven.

I've got a lot of horse stories. (laughs)

TF: Evelyn, what color were the units in Verdeland Park?

EC: They were different colors. Some of them were kind of a light pea green, and the unit we lived in was kind of a coral color. Those are the two I remember—the color of ours, and the color of the Goff's. Our unit was hooked onto a unit in back of us. There was a two-bedroom unit, and then there was a three-bedroom unit in back of us. It was all one long building, and my parents could hear everything that was said in the room on the other side of them. (laughs) There may have been other colors, but those are the only two that I remember.

TF: Well, one of the reasons I've been interested in Verdeland Park is because there was so much diversity there that was brought in by jobs at Hill Air Force Base. Like you said, there were people who were not members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. So Evelyn, what was it like for you growing up there with so much diversity? With people from so many different backgrounds?

EC: You know, we never really thought about it. We were just all friends. And a lot of their parents were in the military. None of Dick Goff's family joined the church except for his daughter who was my age. But we never thought it was strange to have friends who were not members of the church. I had a good friend, Lorraine, who wasn't a member. And I babysat for a family in E-Court, and they weren't members. There were a couple families who lived there who weren't members.

The [Slains?], who lived across the court from us were good friends with my parents, weren't members. But I never heard my parents say anything negative about anyone, except for the one boy, Calvin, who got in the chicken coop.

LC: Well, at least that wasn't me. It was another guy. (laughs)

EC: Yes, that wasn't you.

LC: You know, I think there was some animosity in the city against people against Verdeland Park. Why don't you tell her the story about the service station operator.

EC: When my dad moved to Layton, one of the service station operators felt like we were white trash, and he told my dad that. Well, my dad became very prominent in the community. He became the second highest civilian, and he was very civic minded. So later on, this same man came to my dad and said he'd like to have his business. And my dad said, "That's nice, but so and so already has my business, so I'll just keep going to him."

El Joe Thornley, who worked in Skaggs Grocery Store, took a real liking to our family. The Thornleys really accepted us, and I always called them Grandpa and Grandma Thornley, because we spent so much time at their house. El Joe's first husband was killed in the war, and she married another man after that; but whenever they came back to Layton, they would always go visit my parents.

So there were some people who had a lot of animosity towards people in Verdeland Park, but I don't think we ever saw that in the Park itself; not that I ever knew of, anyway. We had so many friends that were not members of the church, and I was never told that I shouldn't play with them because they weren't members. I don't know—maybe some of the old timers felt that way, but I never ever heard my parents say anything negative about anyone, except that boy, Calvin.

LC: I remember when I was in about sixth grade, I felt ... well, I don't know if I personally felt it, but I think some in our neighborhood felt that the kids from Verdeland Park were a notch below us. I don't know why. I had several good friends in high school from Verdeland Park; but it wasn't that way when we were younger.

EC: Were any of the Van Orden kids your age?

LC: The only kids I can remember are [O'Day?] and [O'Night] Bair. We used to go Bear, yeah, that we used to sleigh riding with them.

EC: Their mother taught dancing. I took tap dance from them.

LC: I also remember a kid by the name of Howard Tatum. I never looked down on him at all. I knew he had a lot of problems at home. His folks split up and everything, but I never saw him as different. There were some tough kids who lived in Verdeland Park. (to Evelyn) Do you remember the Leesburg kid?

EC: Yeah, I remember him.

LC: He was a tough kid who came out of Verdeland. I was kind of scared of him; but we were a little older then. We were junior high or high school by that time. But I remember thinking a little bit that kids in Verdeland Park were a little below us. Of course, we went to church with a lot of them, but I didn't really associate with them otherwise.

TF: Do you think your parents had that feeling of animosity as well?

LC: Probably a little, although I couldn't say for sure. But, I think there was generally that feeling with some people. I don't think we felt it as much as others, because we lived close to Verdeland Park, and we associated with some of them, but yeah, I have to admit, that my parents ... well, we liked our Bishop Van Orden, and he lived in Verdeland Park. And there was also Bishop Van Wagner, too. He was a great man, and my dad looked up to him. So, I don't think we had negative opinions about them, because we lived close to them, and they were associated with us, because we were in their ward; But he lived in Verdeland Park. So around town, he wasn't quite accepted like he should have been.

TF: Interesting. I was going to ask you, Evelyn, where you grew up in Verdeland Park, did you interact much with people outside of Verdeland Park when you were growing up?

EC: Not until I went to junior high. Then we got to know other people, but Verdeland Park was kind of a self-contained area. Although Lane had friendships with a couple kids who lived in the park, I really only had one friend who eventually lived outside the park named Janet Reese—they built a house on West Gentile—and that was only because she lived in the park before they moved into their new home.

But until I went to junior high, I didn't have associations with people outside the park, except at church. I was trying to think of the different people who were good friends of my parents.

LC: What about the fellow we knew really well that took us fishing at Fish Lake that one time?

EC: Oh, Afton Anderson. He lived there just for a short time.

LC: Didn't his wife live there too?

EC: Yes, Sandra Goff. But anyway, when I was young, we didn't really have any associations with people outside of Verdeland Park; but those people were great. I had rheumatic fever when I was young, and it started when I was four years old. At one time, it was so bad that they had to take me down to the University of Utah, and the doctor said that I'd never be able to have a family, because my heart was so damaged. So during recess, I couldn't play. I'd sit on the front steps of the school and read books. But kids never made fun of me because of that. And in fact, during that time, the most popular girl in school became my best friend, and we were like sisters until she died.

I also remember the Livingstons who lived there; but we had good relationships with people there, and I like I said, I was never made fun of because I couldn't run and play like the other kids. And we had good teachers. My oldest daughter actually had Dorothy Adams for her first-grade teacher, just like I did when I was young. But all of us grew up with really close feelings, whether we were members of the church or not.

I remember there was someone in the park who killed his wife when I was young. I couldn't tell you where they lived, but I remember hearing that, and it was a real shock; but that's the only thing I remember hearing that was negative. I mean, the White Chapel wasn't far away. It was just across from my friend who lived in B-Court. I would walk to Young Women's and night, then I would stop by my friend's house for a while. Then I went home.

But we had people from Layton who went to our ward, and I never felt that they looked down on us. There were Dave and Margaret Adams and the Whitmans.

LC: They all lived in the Park. Like she said before, there were some very prestigious people who started out in Verdeland Park and settled not only in Layton, but around Davis County. So I

don't know why we felt like the people in Verdeland Park were inferior; I know those feelings existed, but there was no reason for them to be there.

EC: Yeah, a good share of those people stayed in Layton.

LC: Like Bill Warren.

EC: He lived two units down from us, and he'd play his trumpet. (laughs)

LC: I'd sit out on the back lawn at my house, and listen to Bill. He'd get his trumpet, go outside, and just play. And I'd just listen to him. He became the principal of Central Davis Junior High, and he was very prominent.

EC: And there were the Stevensons.

LC: Yeah, Dick Stevenson.

EC: He was the principal of Davis High School, and he was also the mayor of Layton City. And of course his son who ran in this last election.

LC: He was the mayor too, and I think he ran for the county commissioner.

EC: He was the county commissioner, but I think he also ran for the US Senate, or as a representative.

LC: Yeah, that's Bob Stevenson. But they also started out in Verdeland Park. There was also But there were also some kids who ended up in prison, like the Langston boys. They kind of split from the church, and they kind of got involved with the "underworld". They got involved with ... (to Evelyn) Remember that guy who was involved with that slaying up here on the Mountain Rd?

EC: Bundy.

LC: No, it wasn't Ted Bundy. Bur he was about as notorious, though. I can't think of his name. But those kids got involved the underworld.

EC: What's the name of that subdivision out there? One of the son's lived the gangster-type life, and they came in and killed his wife and daughter somehow. And afterwards, they said there wasn't an inch of that home that didn't have blood on the walls. It was that terrible.

LC: But one of the kids out of that same family straightened his life out and became a bishop, and a prominent member of the church.

EC: But he didn't actually run around with Gary; he let them hide the stuff they'd stolen in his basement. That's how he wound up in jail.

LC: Who, the Langston boys?

EC: Yeah. It was something like that.

LC: But anyway, he had to serve time for being involved with that, and then some of the had to serve time for being involved with that killing in some way. There was some relationship with one of the girls, or something like that. But they're all gone now.

EC: But that was the rare exception. Their parents were wonderful people.

TF: Evelyn, what was the name of your second-grade teacher?

EC: Mrs. Birmingham.

TF: And who was your first-grade teacher?

EC: Dorothy Adams.

TF: I'm trying to remember the name of the teacher ... I think it was Ms. Burnham. My friend, Dennis Jacobs, lived in Verdeland Park around the same time as you, and he told me about a time when he was playing with his brother and some friends. They were digging—

EC: And the hill caved in

LC: That happened just up above my place. They built a cave, and it killed in. And one of the kids was killed—smothered to death.

EC: Right. Ms. Burnham's son was killed. She also had a son who had a bad heart. His heart did not heal like mine. I can't remember his name.

LC: Yeah, I remember when that happened.

TF: My friend was with those kids when it happened.

LC: That cave was just behind and Robert Stott's place.

EC: Oh, just up from my house.

LC: Yes. Just in back of your house and up just a little bit. That's where the cave was. I remember going up and looking at it after that happened, and my mother went crazy when she found out, because she was scared of it.

EC: Yeah, Ms. Burnham's son was there.

Yeah. I remember, and I think it was Ms. Burnham's son. And then her other son developed rheumatic fever and had such a hard time. It was terrible.

TF: Well, I think I have just a couple more questions. Evelyn, do you remember activities that you did in Verdeland Park did as a community? I'm guessing a lot of activities your family did were probably centered around church.

EC: They were. I don't remember many activities in Verdeland Park. My dad was on the Verdeland Park board, and they organized different things. There may have been some activities when I was younger, but I most of the activities were centered around church.

I remember the Golden and Green Balls. I was a princess to the queen. And my mother was involved with mutual. But I suspect that my Catholic friends also activities at their church. But during the week, we were good friends and did things together.

TF: Well, is there anything we haven't covered in this interview that you would like to add?

LC: I can't think of anything. Our minds shut down about ten years ago. (laughs)

EC: I used to correct all my kids' papers when they were younger, and I said, "Whatever you do, don't bring your papers to me after 10:00 to be corrected." Well, my son brought me a paper one time, and he said, "I know you told me not to bring you any papers after 10:00, but just do it." So I did, and after I gave it back to him, he said, "Wow, you really don't think after 10:00, do you?" (laughs) And I didn't. But he was warned.

I can't really think of anything. Like I said, I remember when the first and sixth wards were split, and the upper courts in Verdeland Park went with Wasatch Heights. But we still had friends up there?

LC: I remember being in high school and having a car of my own, and driving through Verdeland Park. I was interested in Valine Galloway, and she was a year younger than me.

EC: She was beautiful.

LC: She was a very pretty girls, and that was the problem. She never ever went out with me. But I remember driving by her house pretty often to see if she might be outside, so I could talk to her. I must have been 17 or so. But I remember Verdeland Park was torn down sometime after I graduated in '56. It must have been sometime in the '60s.

TF: The land was sold in '61 or '62, so I think it started sometime after that.

LC: Yeah. But anyway, I was very interested in her, but she wasn't interested in me. (laughs)

EC: When I moved to Church St, the girl who lived across the street told me how privileged I was to live on the street that Lane lived on.

LC: Oh, that's all made up.

EC: He wouldn't have asked me out, except that his father thought I was cute. (laughs)

TF: I'm glad you both got together. Well, thank you so much for taking the time out of your schedule to do this interview.

LC: We have a busy schedule with doctors right now, but when you're 80 years old. (They discuss the different doctors they have, recording stops)