

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

With

Mr. and Mrs. Norris Henderson

Conducted By

Mary Ann Prelock

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Mr. Henderson - 1920.

Ms. Prelock - And Los Angeles, was it comparable in size to Toronto or was it larger or what were your first--?

Mr. Henderson - It was much larger than Toronto and when we moved out here there was a new division, subdivision, on 73rd and Vermont and that was about the end of the car line at 73rd Street and I attended 68th Street School which was on the corner of 68th Street and Hoover which was within walking distance of where we lived. In later years we moved closer into Los Angeles and we were living on 60th Street when I attended Manual Arts High School and we always lived in that area during that time.

Ms. Prelock - Then when you met Mrs. Henderson, were you working?

Mr. Henderson - Yes, I was set up--I was working at the time.

Ms. Prelock - What was your Job?

Mr. Henderson - I was working at Builders Wholesale, at Montgomery Company at Builders Wholesale down on 4th and San Pedro Street and after I was there until our wedding. Shortly after the wedding then everyone was let go because of the depression so I was out of a job for a period of time--a short period of time. I then went to work for Union Oil Company.

Ms. Prelock - And what was your job with Union Oil?

Mr. Henderson - Service station. Very lucky to have a job and so I stayed with them until about 1937 and in 1937 I purchased a service station of my own, and still stayed with the service station until 1939 at which time I went to Douglas Aircraft in Santa Monica. I was well established with Douglas Aircraft at that time and when the war began in 1941, of course, my position stepped up to where I was in a supervisory position.

Ms. Prelock - What kind of work did you do at Douglas?

Mr. Henderson - I was in the procurement, parts procurement division and once we entered the war, I was working overtime and I was working many times on Sundays and we sold our house on 82nd Street in 1942 and moved, bought a house within walking distance of the Douglas plant down there in Santa Monica.

Ms. Prelock - That was just to be closer to your work?

Mr. Henderson - Yes to be closer to my work. In 1949 our daughter, Diane, had been going to the local school and when the war was over in 1945 we stayed there until 1949 at which time we

found out that people that were moving into that area were not of the most desirable and our daughter going to school was very unhappy with her schooling and in her summer vacation in 1949 when she left the school, we decided not to send her back and we started looking for schools.

Ms. Prelock - So Diane was about a young teenager then?

Mr. Henderson - Yes. We started checking into different districts because I was working in Los Angeles and it didn't make much difference to me where I lived. We checked in through friends and people I had met and checked into their school districts and discovered that the Glendale School District was the most desirable of any of them.

Ms. Prelock - And so you had a choice of where you could go in the area?

Mr. Henderson - Yes.

Ms. Prelock - And you chose Glendale primarily for the schools?

Mr. Henderson - Yes. And, when I took her out of school in the last summer of 1949, I promised her she wouldn't have to go back and I put my place up for sale in Santa Monica and before the place was sold it was school time here and we came up into the upper part of Glendale and after searching around, we decided to rent a place in the 900 block on Verdugo. It was a four unit apartment. It was at that time the rents around were about \$80 a month, but we wanted to select something up in this north section and that cost us \$100 a month to move into.

Ms. Prelock - On Verdugo was \$100?

Mr. Henderson - On Verdugo in the 900 block on Verdugo.

Ms. Prelock - And what did you get for \$100 a month in an apartment?

Mr. Henderson - Well it had two bedrooms and was in the form of a low family flat and after paying \$100 a month we couldn't afford a telephone. But we wanted to buy a home. In the meantime it enabled us to sell our home in Santa Monica and we started looking for homes and we went up into the canyon and all in that particular area.

Ms. Prelock - Which canyon are you talking about?

Mr. Henderson - The Chevy Chase Canyon and up into Verdugo Canyon but directly behind us at the corner of Verdugo and Glenoaks, there was a real estate area that was called the Oakridge Estates. That was the name of it. And we kept going up and looking at

the lots--there were a total of 90 lots there at the time in the Oakridge Estates, and about 20 homes were built, the rest all vacant, and we kept looking at homes that were already built. We had not intended to build our own and the more we looked at other places the more we went up and looked at the vacant lots and finally we contacted a builder and because these hillside lots all had to be leveled--the streets were in--there were five streets, small cul-de-sac streets and each cul-de-sac street had from 6 to 12 lots on each street.

Ms. Prelock - Are these the streets that would run off of Glenoaks?

Mr. Henderson - They ran off of Glenoaks but Glenoaks was a cul-de-sac--at the end of Glenoaks was not cut through. So, there were just 90 lots and Glenoaks itself was a cul-de-sac.

Ms. Prelock - At the corner of Verdugo and Glenoaks?

Mr. Henderson - At Verdugo and Glenoaks--that was the entrance up to it and you went up the hill--there were just 90 lots.

Ms. Prelock - And this was 1949?

Mr. Henderson - Yes. And by 1950--the beginning of 1950--we decided that we would build our own place up there and there was a restriction that all the plans had to be approved by a subcommittee, the architectural committee --

Ms. Prelock - Of the City?

Mr. Henderson - of that area--

Ms. Prelock - The development area?

Mr. Henderson - The development area. The developer, I don't know his first name, was Lane. He was quite well known in Glendale as a real estate man. We decided that we would like to have a home facing the west so that in the afternoon and evening when I came home we could barbecue in the back in the shade of the house. So we had a particular lot that we liked very much and this one particular lot had a "For Sale" sign and I called up the fellow to see what he'd sell it for. He wanted \$4,500.

Ms. Prelock - And how big was the lot?

Mr. Henderson - I don't recall, it was 70 by 135 I think, and he asked \$4,500. But we had been checking around the area and we found we could get lots all over the place for \$4,000. We certainly weren't going to pay him \$500 more. So, after some time we decided to go to the next street higher up and we selected

basically the same type lot but it was a steeper backyard. We knew we wouldn't have the length of the back yard because of the contour of it but we did put our deposit down \$400. But, I forget why we got our money back, but at the end of a month we had our choice and we took our money back and we then went to the street Glenvista, the street that we finally bought on. We went to the corner of Glenvista and we put \$400 down on that particular lot. But the more we talked about it being on Glenoaks where there'd be more traffic going up Glenoaks, we weren't really satisfied with it and that lot was owned by, I understand, by Seeley of Seeley Furniture and he was had gone up to San Francisco. While he was in San Francisco he had a heart attack and at the end of the 30 days they contacted and asked us if would go along for another 30 days, which we did. We then received notification at the end of that that he was still up in San Francisco and still recuperating and we thought well if this goes into litigation, this property, so we pulled our money out of that and again was fortunate enough to get our deposit back. I was driving home from work one day and, as I stated we did not have a telephone, and I stopped off at Safeway, Safeway had a store down Verdugo, I forget what street it was. And I, just talking to myself, I had built myself up into the point were, by gosh, if he wants to sell and I want to buy, so I would stop at the telephone and literally rip it off the wall, and when he answered the telephone why that was my statement to him--you want to sell and you're not selling and I want to buy and nobody's taken your lot and it ended up in our conversation that the reason he wanted that particular lot was his wife was pregnant and it was at the end of the cul-de-sac and he thought that would be ideal for his family. But in the meantime since my first call to him his wife had a miscarriage and so he said what would you give me for the lot. So it ended up that I have him \$4,250, we split the \$500. But I had the builder come back in and he had to take out many loads of dirt in order to level the backyard. And, we built our house and we had all hardwood floors in all of our rooms. We had one wall, it was two bedroom house with a big den though, we had one wall in the living room that was Japanese ash and was a handmade wall around the fireplace and bookcases at one end and took a finish carpenter 5 days to put that one wall up, and yet my whole house, which cost us \$8.25 a square foot, it had brick facade in the front of the house.

Ms. Prelock - Now this is what today we would call a custom home, you just contracted with a builder?

Mr. Henderson - That is correct.

Ms. Prelock - Do you recall did you have any problems with the City with permits?

Mr. Henderson - None whatsoever.

Ms. Prelock - It was just an easy--

Mr. Henderson - Yes, he handled everything. The only problem that we had after about two days the grader did not show up and I, living close enough, I'd been going up there everyday and I found the grader doing someone else's work. I got hold of my builder who interceded with the grader and got him back down to finish off the grading. Outside of that we had no problems. We had one change in the roof line. The roof was Cedar. Some of the homes had shakes but ours was Cedar roof and we had a little different design in the way our one section of our house. We wanted to push forward so that the front porch had a larger front porch and more enclosed. And for some reason the roof line we had to move it back.

Ms. Prelock - Now that particular corner, I know exactly where you're talking about in that development, was that considered sort of breaking new area in suburban hillside area living at the time?

Mr. Henderson - Yes, yes because there were very few places around. In about 1955, I think I'm pretty close to that, the City of Glendale then cut through Glenoaks--Glenoaks cut through to take the traffic over to Chevy Chase so that extended--that let more traffic going up in that area. Bob Wyatt lived two blocks up at about the same line up that we did. Quite a few businessmen that built up there but then they moved within a short time. But I think it was 1955 when the street was cut through.

Ms. Prelock - Going back to the original reason that you moved to Glendale, you said that your friends, associates had told you that Glendale had the best school system around.

Mr. Henderson - Well we checked with our friends and checked, and of course our friends, being the same age as we were, had children, and after talking to their children and to them, we decided that Glendale had the most to offer.

Ms. Prelock - In what way? Could you explain?

Mr. Henderson - for education and the reason that we picked where we lived it was within walking distance of the high school. So it was that particular area that we selected.

Ms. Prelock - And how was Diane? Was she happy when she enrolled in school?

Mr. Henderson - Oh yes, it made all the difference in the world. In fact, as things turned out, the apartment that we lived in had a young girl that was going to college and my daughter, being the only child, had been brought up with my sisters and their family

and older people and they became very good friends. She, this other girl, went to church at the Hollywood Presbyterian Church, which is quite a ways from our place, but she asked Diane if she would like to go over to church with her and at the church, the Hollywood Presbyterian Church, had groups. They had a high school group, they had a college group, they had a singles group, then you go into the newly married group and then you go into the harvesters, as I recall, the name was the older people, and this young girl took Diane with her and they went into the-- because Diane did not know anyone in the college group, I mean the high school group, so she went in the college group. And it was while she was in the college group, and she had been going there quite some time, that she met her husband.

Ms. Prelock - Newton Russell?

Mr. Henderson - Yes, so she met Newton while she was going over there.

Ms. Prelock - Well, as young parents moving into a brand new house in Glendale, tell me a little bit what your social life was like and the people that you met in the community.

Mr. Henderson - Well, unfortunately, I was working in Los Angeles and I did not, outside of my neighbors, I did not have any associations with the Glendale people. My neighbors were very active in Glendale. Their families had lived in Glendale for quite some time and our association with Glendale was mainly through them. They lived and had children about the same--

Ms. Prelock - Your yard together and lawns?

Mr. Henderson - Yes our association with them is we would be out--in those years we did our own planting and we did all the work around and all the neighbors were doing it the same time and we'd work on Saturdays shoulder to shoulder really and then on Sundays why we'd have a barbecue, all the neighbors.

Ms. Prelock - That sounds like a pretty comfortable social life.

Mr. Henderson - It was very nice and very social and very pleasant.

Ms. Prelock - What were some of the activities going on around town that you might remember. Was it primarily considered a suburban family oriented sort of laid back town?

Mr. Henderson - Yes, yes, very much so. During the next few years why of course they start working from the Chevy Chase side and they built up homes and up toward the college and up into the hill above us so we could see the homes above us and north towards the

college.

Ms. Prelock - Was this met with any opposition or was it encouraged?

Mr. Henderson - It was encouraged. Everyone was pleased with the new area going in and I guess mainly so we were watching the other people work by that time.

Ms. Prelock - How did you perceive the political climate in Glendale for local politics, city, the way the City was run--were you pleased with--?

Mr. Henderson - Yes. I can remember hearing the way the police patrolled Brand Blvd. anyone stopped at Brand that didn't look like they belonged in Glendale, it wasn't very long before the police were there to see if they were transients.

Ms. Prelock - I was just going to ask you, what would that mean if they didn't look like they belonged in Glendale?

Mr. Henderson - Well if they were just stopping to go in and do some shopping but if they--I don't know how to word that.

Ms. Prelock - Was there racism or anything like that?

Mrs. Henderson - People that had their home, not ourselves, but others up there had help come in- could not keep them overnight. - that is black people.

Ms. Prelock - That was in your neighborhood?

Mr. Henderson - That was in our clause--the homeowners clause.

Ms. Prelock - That different people--

Mr. Henderson - It stated that if you had help and it named--who were black, Asian, not Asian, black, indian and I guess maybe it was asian, but I remember in the clause that you couldn't allow them to stay overnight. So if you had help up there, it was day help and that was all. And then of course the restrictions that you could not build an extra room on or make any additions to your building.

Ms. Prelock - Now about the place--were very good and you felt very secure because of that. What about City government, was it seen as caretakers or were you concerned about any particular issues that were facing the City in those days?

Mr. Henderson - I don't recall any problems that we encountered at any time nor discussed. I don't think we discussed any---

Everything was just as smooth, we lived an exceptionally fine life in a real nice area. We had no problems, never at any time, as long as we lived here until 1982.

Ms. Prelock - You lived here until 1982?

Mr. Henderson - Yes we lived in the same house until 1982.

Ms. Prelock - What about your daughter in school? What was so different that she experienced in a positive way in Glendale schools that bothered her in Santa Monica?

Mr. Henderson - Well the group in Santa Monica they formed more or less of a gang, a girl's gang.

Ms. Prelock - Mixed race?

Mr. Henderson - Yes, and you see when people who lived there like ourselves who moved in their and bought homes when the war was over and so many of these people then left because they had no reason to be living there. We, all of us, when we moved out sold our homes at a knocked down price and there were a lot of people who moved in that were not the desirable people you would want for neighbors. It ended up my daughter would be going to school and if she did something that the group didn't like, no one spoke to her for a day. This would be the start. On Saturdays they were to meet at the show and they went up into the balcony and finally they'd start producing a cigarette and if you didn't take a puff of the cigarette then no one would talk to you for the next week. So, that was the end of it--when I heard that. She came home crying about that and I said OK, you don't have to go back to school next year. We'll move. And that's what made us move. So when we heard about the Glendale area and saw the people that were living in Glendale and the way the schools were and so forth, we decided this would be the place.

Ms. Prelock - Did you remember that there were any gang problems of any type in any area in Glendale schools?

Mr. Henderson - Absolutely none. I don't recall one thing during the time she was going to school. There were no problems that I have ever heard of.

Ms. Prelock - So she went through Jr. high school and high school here?

Mr. Henderson - Yes.

Discussion ensued amongst the family regarding whether the daughter went to jr. high in Glendale.

Mrs. Henderson - She was ready to begin high school and so she was

able to go right into high school.

Ms. Prelock - Glendale High School?

Mrs. Henderson - Yes.

Ms. Prelock - Did she walk?

Mr. Henderson - Yeah, but you (his wife) took her down to school at some time--someone else picked her up and took her to school too.

Mrs. Henderson - From our place to Glendale High was quite a walk.

Ms. Prelock - It was safe in those days?

Mr. Henderson - Oh yes.

Ms. Prelock - This was in 1949 and the early 50's?

Mr. Henderson - 1950's.

Ms. Prelock - Was the town considered growing in those days or was it pretty much just--?

Mr. Henderson - Well it was growing because they had all of these new constructions going up and new homes and new development areas.

Ms. Prelock - In school, were there lots of things for the teenagers to do? What was the teen social life like in those days?

Mr. Henderson - Well I don't think she had any school social life because on the weekends--

Mrs. Henderson - She met some nice girlfriends who came to the house quite a bit.

Mr. Henderson - Over on weekends we were always going to my-- I had one sister who had a large home on Pico with a big swimming pool and I had two nephews who were about her age and we'd go down and spend one day down there. If we'd go down to the beach I had another sister that had a home on the beach and we'd go down her place and she spent her early adult years with older people and her selection of going somewhere was to go to my older sister's place where they had the swimming pool and the boys or we'd go down to the beach and laid on the beach.

Mrs. Henderson - She was more mature. Nobody knew she was only 15.

Ms. Prelock - Were there any -- so you don't remember any particular controversial events or issues that were going on?

Mr. Henderson - Not a one. I can't recall any disagreement or feelings with any association or any groups which--

Mr. Henderson's granddaughter - Brand Boulevard, the traffic, I remember going to the store. That Thrifty's, every year it got more crowded.

Mrs. Henderson - Yes, that's true. They started to build the big mall--

Ms. Prelock - Did that make you kind of want to leave Glendale?

Mr. Henderson - No. The only reason we left, we have friends down in Leisure World and we had been down to see them and the more we saw them and the life style that they had, and I'm an avid golfer, they have their golf courses down there, and we decided that that's where we'd like to live. When Margaret's mother was still alive living in Glendale and Margaret was going over to take her mother to the doctors and the dentists and driving her other places and spending a lot of time with her and we didn't feel we could move out with her living in Glendale and so we stayed and finally in 1982, June of 1982, her mother passed away at the age of 91 and I guess we were so relieved with the pressure getting off us and we said let's go quick. So in August we moved down there. So that's how fast we moved.

Ms. Prelock - Had she lived in Glendale for a long time?

Mr. Henderson - She had been yes, in Pasadena and Glendale and she was living in a--

Mr. Henderson's granddaughter - The Presbyterian Home.

Mr. Henderson - Yes, I was trying to think of the name. On Harvard. She was living there. When they built it she had a room reserved immediately. So she lived there from the day it was first opened until it was necessary for us to move her out of there. She was creating a problem and I guess we thought then, and I guess we were right, that she had a touch of Alzheimers because to prepare ourselves while she was still in there, we went to an Alzheimers class in Pasadena, the two of us. We'd go over there a couple of times a week for a while but we went there for about three months or something into that class.

Ms. Prelock - Well, tell me a little bit about your son-in-law and courting your daughter since he is a public figure and this is sort of an unexpected benefit that we can learn a little bit about when he was a young man. Diane met him at Hollywood Presbyterian

Church?

Mr. Henderson - Yes and it wasn't too long before they were going steady and finally decided that they would get married. You want to know where they were married?

Ms. Prelock - Sure.

Mr. Henderson - Well they were married in Beverly Hills. They were married in the Hollywood Presbyterian Church and their reception was in the Beverly Hills Hotel and they--

Ms. Prelock - How long did they court?

Mrs. Henderson - Well they were married, I had to go down with them to get their license because Diane was still 17 and they were married in 53.

Mr. Henderson - They had been courting and he had set his sights on being a--yes civil service, ambassadorship, etc.

Ms. Prelock - In the State Department?

Mr. Henderson - Yes in the State Department and he took a year off and went back to Georgetown and took a course there.

Ms. Prelock - Took a year off from what--college?

Mr. Henderson - Yes.

Mrs. Henderson - Because he was older. He's eight years older than she.

Mr. Henderson - So then when he signed up for that, their rules were that if you were selected you had something like so many weeks in order to fill their position and knowing that the newest people in the position would be sent probably to the furthest place or the most undesirable so it was decided then that they wanted to get married right a way then and we approved it because he was going to be leaving or they wouldn't have time so they had an earlier marriage probably than we would have liked.

Mrs. Henderson - 1953.

Ms. Prelock - Was it about two years that they dated?

Mrs. Henderson - Yes. They met when she was 16 and ...?

Mr. Henderson - Then when he hadn't been called for some time and then for some reason or other he withdrew his name from the list and he was working for Chrysler Manufacturing Company in the office and he had heard that there was a meeting going on with the

Republican Party and it was being held outside and he went over to the meeting and they had to set the chairs up--they got there early and they were setting chairs up and he helped set the chairs up. And while he was doing that, he met the assemblyman from Lancaster area and the fellow was very appreciative. It was an elderly man and the more they talked and the work that they did between themselves and disassembled the chairs afterward, this assemblyman was stating if you want to get the message you have to have an office, because otherwise you're merely turning to your neighbor or your worker next to you and you're telling him your message but if you want your message to be heard you have to be holding office where you can speak. He and Newt then became friends and this man decided that he was going to retire and the seat was going to be open, but it was up in Lancaster. And, Newt decided he would run for the office. And he ran for the office and he was defeated. But the people that elected the man to represent them turned out to be--he just wanted to hold an office--he wasn't a worker he wasn't going to do anything. So when he came up the next time for election, Newt ran against him and Newt won. And, from that time on, he was in the assembly for many many years before he became a State Senator. But the people up there in Lancaster were mainly farmers, there were a few people that lived in town. And, they liked him so well that they used to get out and raise money and they had the Lancaster Fair--they had the Antelope Valley Fair and the children on the 4H Clubs would bring their animals in themselves and the farmers and people that lived around there, they would bid on the blue ribbon sheep or lambs in order to give the children some money for the work they had done. And, as they were auctioned off within the large arena, time after time the people would say "I'll bid so much" and they'd get in the bid and then they's say put that in the Russell campaign. So, they assembled the sheep and one of the ranchers would take the sheep with him to his ranch and keep them until it was time for the campaign to have a big to do fund raiser and at that time all the ranchers would go over to this fellow's place and they would slaughter their sheep the day before and they have these big refrigerator vans, and the farmers would donate the food, the corn and the coleslaw and the potatoes and everything else and ice cream was donated in little tiny squares from the ice cream company. And they had a barbecue pit that belonged to the Veterans of Foreign Wars up here in their park and the pit was about 20 feet long, at least 20 feet long, with walls about 4 feet apart and walls were about 3 feet high. And they'd go out in the morning, the farmers would, and/or all of the people living up in that area and they'd start the coals going really early in the morning in that hole 20 feet long and they had these racks you know, our mothers or grandmothers used to have a rack that would have two racks hinged in the front and you'd put your bread in it and you'd toast your bread over an old gas burner. Well they had these, only these were very large and they were about 3 feet square with a handle on each end. And they'd fill those with the

lamb pieces, the chops and the different meats on there, and they'd start them at the top of this 20 foot run and then as they got the next one ready, they would turn this one, number one over, they'd add number two in, then they'd turn number one and two over and they'd add number three and three and four over and this went on for about 20 feet. And they would be cooking this lamb while each time it was turned it was cooking. In the meantime they had all of this corn on the cob. They couldn't sell liquor in there because its a park but they could sell tickets then you could go and buy tickets and then you go to another booth and pick up your can of beer. So you could go and so many people would go and buy half a dozen tickets and maybe drink one or two cans of beer and so they're always contributing in some way. And it started out it was \$1.25 was the first meal that they had and then later on it went up and I think it was \$3.00 many years later.

Ms. Prelock - This was an annual event?

Mr. Henderson - Yes. This kept going.

Mr. Henderson's granddaughter - I want you to tell her about when she graduated from high school.

Ms. Prelock - Diane graduated--

Mr. Henderson's granddaughter - When Diane graduated from high school and when she got married.

Mrs. Henderson - I thought we were talking about when she came to ?

Mr. Henderson's granddaughter - but what date?

Mrs. Henderson - Oh I don't remember the exact date.

Mrs. Henderson's granddaughter - She graduated early, in February.

Mrs. Henderson - Yes.

Mr. Henderson's granddaughter - She got married February 12th.

Ms. Prelock - Well that was 1953.

Mr. Henderson - But that was the way Newt got into the legislature.

Ms. Prelock - Well, that's very interesting to just happen to meet you and your son-in-law is still active and has been such a wonderful representative for the area for so long. As far as your experience with City politics, you said that it was very quiet, that there were no particularly controversial issues in

Glendale during these years. I wonder do you remember anything that was going on, what people thought about when the freeway was going to be put through from the 134 from across Glendale. Was that significant for you?

Mr. Henderson - It was not.

Ms. Prelock - You still worked in downtown Los Angeles?

Mr. Henderson - Yes.

Ms. Prelock - And you would drive?

Mr. Henderson - I would drive and I drove down Verdugo and I went around the cemetery, Forest Lawn, and I would be on the east side of Forest Lawn around a curving street and came out into-- ultimately I got onto Alvarado. And then when the freeway went in, then I would take the freeway down and where the freeway, No. 2 freeway, that curved and went on down beyond where at the very end of the freeway were it stopped, that was at Alvarado. I got off at Alvarado. I worked at Sunset and Alvarado. So that took me to work.

Ms. Prelock - What year did you retire then?

Mr. Henderson - I retired in 1971. I was not working there at the time, I was the manager of the Los Angeles City Employees' Federal Credit Union. I did not work for the City of Los Angeles, I was hired as manager by the Board of Directors. That became--at one time that was the 12th largest credit union in the United States and it was a very satisfactory job and I retired--that's were I retired from, there at age 66.

Ms. Prelock - So then you continued to live in Glendale for 10 years or so after that?

Mr. Henderson - Yes.

Ms. Prelock - Did you play a lot of golf after your retirement in Glendale?

Mr. Henderson - Yes.

Ms. Prelock - Did you belong to any golf clubs?

Mr. Henderson - No I did not. I played most of my golf was at Brookside and at Santa Anita Golf Course--were the two courses that I spent most of my time at. Played on the Chevy Chase Course many times, played it when it was a 9 hole course then they made that into an 18 hole course and back to a 9 again. Never played the Chevy Chase Course, I've been on it and in the club house but

never played on it.

Ms. Prelock - I feel like I'm jumping around a little bit, I hope you'll bear with me on this. I was just wondering, was your son-in-law Newt Russell...you've been involved in political activities a little more than you might have been otherwise?

Mr. Henderson - That is right. Yes we have.

Mrs. Henderson - Until we left Glendale 10 years ago, we were always able to work for him, in his office on Brand Boulevard, wherever it happened to be. As volunteers, and work for --?

Mr. Henderson - We found out one thing, we would go up to visit them in Sacramento and we'd go out to dinner and come back home and sit around a talk for a long time and finally everyone would go to bed except one, and that would be Newton. And he'd many times put on his bathrobe and go in the front room or into a corner and light the lights and open up his books that he'd be working on the next day. And I'm an early riser, I'd get up in the morning, go out to get the newspaper, but he'd be at the dining room table with three or four of those large books in front of him going over the bills that were coming up and the bills that should not come up and he was noted as the man that saved us from stupid bills from going through--he spent more of his time doing that. You see how hard they work.

Ms. Prelock - He was a politician who does his homework?

Mr. Henderson - Yes. He sure was.

Ms. Prelock - You said that you worked as volunteers, of course that's very understandable. Did you feel any frustration in Glendale in doing this type of work as far as voter apathy or what it took to get people to come out to vote or were you frustrated?

Mr. Henderson - Always frustrated. I could not understand why people wouldn't vote. Of course, we were probably pulled into it more than the average person was but could never understand why someone wouldn't take two minutes to listen to you.

Ms. Prelock - So this is not a new phenomenon? It's been going on for a while?

Mr. Henderson - and every district and every place. Where we live now its in Orange County. Leisure World has 22,000 people living in Leisure World and I'd say it seems to be that it be about 85 percent of them must be Republicans. And, they all talk about it--they belong to the clubs but when it comes time to vote, all I have to do is to go to a clubhouse and we'll be driven there or there's lots of parking around these clubhouses and nice places to go in and vote and you still get down to around 50 percent.

Mrs. Henderson - Diane used to be ringing doorbells and, Sherry you remember, when you were old enough to tag along you'd be ringing doorbells and such things.

Ms. Prelock - Well actually, is this true that that is the only life that Newton has every known is political?

Mr. Henderson - Well he had his job at Chrysler and then he had a job at the insurance. So he was in insurance and it was from that, from the insurance, that he went into the politics.

Sherry - 66 he won the election.

Ms. Prelock - One more thing, back to the City of Glendale when you moved here, were your impressions pretty much that this was a lily white community?

Mr. Henderson - Yes. Very much so.

Ms. Prelock - There had been a large ethnic group in Glendale for many years, mostly Latinos, but they were nothing that you were aware of, particularly when you chose to come here?

Mr. Henderson - No. We did not know that they had them and we did not know for, I would say for many years, we had no idea till we realized they were moving in on the southern end. But, even at that, actually I don't recall ever having discussed the fact that there were a lot of them in the stores or anything, the malls and so on. But, towards the end of the time that we were living here, we then, at that time, we noticed more. But they were at that time, they were mainly Latinos moving in. Since then, of course, we've heard that they have some of the Asians.

Mrs. Henderson - A lot of Armenians.

Mr. Henderson - But then that was not the case--we did not notice that. Our reason for moving had nothing to do with it either. It was just time.

Ms. Prelock - Well I really appreciate your taking the time to talk to me and it's been very interesting and I thank you very much.

END TAPE

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