



Maxine Cortelyou Lakin
1922

Honored as a Historymaker 2014
Ranching Innovator and Preservationist



The following is an oral history interview with Historymaker (**HM**) conducted by Pam Stevenson (**PS**) for Historical League, Inc. and video-graphed by Carol DeCosmo on May 10, 2013 at the Lakin's home.

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 Today is Friday, May the 10th of 2013. And we're here at the Lincoln home in Phoenix, doing this oral history interview for the Historymakers. And, I'm Pam Stevenson doing the interview, and Carole DeCosmos is running the camera. And I'd like for you to identify, give me your full name.

ML I'm Maxine Cortelyou Lakin.

PS And could you spell Courta...

ML C-o-r-t-e-l-y-o-u. Lakin.

PS Transcribers appreciate that. (laughter)

Tell me, when and where you were born.

ML I was born in Santa Barbara in 1922, Santa Barbara, California.

PS All right. So, when did you come to Arizona?

ML My father was with the Standard Oil Company. And, so, we moved about every two years. I went to 11 different schools. I moved around a lot because at that time, if you got a position that was to be better, you moved. You didn't say, I want to stay here. So, we moved.



We lived in Los Angeles. We lived in Altadena. We lived in Downey, Ontario, El Paso, Sacramento, and Phoenix twice.

PS Wow. You did move around a lot.

ML So I did move around a lot. (laughter) Though you were still going to school moving with your family.

PS So, what was that like growing up and moving so much?

ML It was difficult, but my parents were really great parents. And we, the three of us, it was kind of a family, because after finally getting to have friends after two years, and then you move to another city. So, looking back, it was very good for me. But at the time it was not much fun. But my parents tried to make up for it.

PS And, you were an only child?

ML Yes.

PS So you didn't even have any brothers and sisters?

ML No.

PS So, I guess you learned to meet people, and make yourself...

ML And just to adjust, you know. It takes about six months or so before you get to know the people that you're in school with and all. But it was, it was a very interesting time.

Looking back on it, I used to think when people would say, oh, I've known her for 30 years and I went to school with her, and I thought, I can't even remember the people (laughs) I went to school with. (laughs)

PS Were you a good student?

ML Average.

PS So, growing up, what did you think you wanted to do with your life?

ML Well, wanted to go to college. And probably I'd liked to have been an airline attendant, but I



didn't.

So, when I went to the University of Arizona, I had a roommate that wanted to teach school, and she said, will you go with me? And I said, okay. So, I taught school in Florence, Arizona. I just do what life brings me.

PS And, why did you go to the University of Arizona?

ML Peer pressure. (laughs) I really wanted to go to USC, but after some of my friends went to the UofA they insisted that that was the only place in the world to go to. I'm glad I did.

PS What was it like? When did you go there? When did you start?

ML In 1941.

PS What was it like then?

ML It was (sighs) not as much fun, or as nice as it would have been if it wasn't the war years, were difficult times. Not just for me, but for the people that were getting married and coming back and losing husbands. And people who were in the service that were looking for somebody to talk to. It was a difficult time.

We had no football teams, or basketball or baseball, or any of that. Those were, all those men had gone to war. So, it was an interesting time.

PS Of course, that's when they started the girls baseball. (laughs)

ML Well, I don't remember particularly.

We had, the University of Arizona had really good swim teams. And they were noted for that. And, some horses were left. Af, the cavalry when they left. But, it wasn't an awful lot of sports.

People kind of came and went. They'd be there for a year or two and then come back. So, it would have been nicer if it hadn't been during the World War Two.

PS Well, there were a lot of things going on here on the home front. Were you involved in any of those things to support the troops?

ML Well, I picked cotton. (laughs) In Tucson. (laughs) It wasn't easy. (laughs)



PS What was your major in college?

ML Education with a business minor. So, I taught high school.

PS I understand that's where you met your husband. Can you tell me about how you met?

ML I met him at a tea dance at the Phoenix Country Club. And, at the time I, I didn't know him in Phoenix at all. So then, we went back after the holidays, went back to the university. And so, I started going with him then.

PS And he thought it was on New Year's Eve that you met?

ML That's all right.

PS But, it was in Phoenix.

ML It was in Phoenix.

PS And, so, what did you think of him when you first met him? And got to know him.

ML (laughs) Well, it was interesting shall we say. (laughter)

PS Well, since he's watching I guess... (laughter) Was it a serious relationship from the beginning?

ML I'm not very serious about a lot of things. (laughs)

PS Especially at that age. (laughter)

ML Yes.

PS So, when he left, did you know where he was going? Or...

ML Oh, yes. He was definitely, we went together until he went into the service. And he was inducted into the Army.

And, it was interesting because there were so many young men who were inducted on a Saturday night because they were from out of state. And they wanted to go up on Saturday and come back to the university on Monday.

And, because Chuck's home was in Phoenix he waited until Monday. And that cavalry group



that went to D Day. So, there were lots of casualties. And that he was lucky in the fact that he didn't have to go to D Day. So then, that put him back... Might not be here otherwise.

PS Yes, that's true. (**ML** laughs)

ML So, he decided to go to Burma instead.

When he got out of the service, he came back to Phoenix. And I was living in Sacramento, California at the time with my parents. So, we reconnected and we got married in June of 1946.

PS And did you keep in touch with him while he was overseas?

ML More or less. I'm not a real good writer.

PS But he wrote to you?

ML More or less. (laughter)

PS Which was it, more or less? (laughter) So, you stayed...and when did you graduate from UofA?

ML 1944. I finished there.

PS And then you were saying, what did you do when you graduated?

ML Then I went to Florence, Arizona, and taught high school there. And, really, it was quite an experience. There were four new young teachers in Florence, Arizona, and we, we had a really good time.

And, then my parents were transferred to Salt Lake City. And so, I thought it would be fun to live in the snow.

I found a replacement for my position at Florence Union High School and went to Salt Lake to be in the snow. And when I got up there, my dad was transferred. (laughs) To Sacramento. So, I never lived in the snow. (laughter)

And then, after the war, when Chuck and I were married, then I came back to Arizona. And then my parents, my dad retired and came back to Phoenix in 1951. And so, Chuck's parents lived in Phoenix and my parents lived in Phoenix. And so, we were coming back and forth, and we decided that we'd just live in Phoenix instead of having two cars going back and forth.



At that time, we were living in Goodyear. Chuck and I were. And the schools were minimal at the time for four girls to go to school, and...that area. So, I thought, we better be closer to town.

PS Why were you living in Goodyear?

ML Because the, uh, farm was about four miles south of there, and that was the only place that we could find to live in. And they were duplexes. They're still there by the way. (laughs) Which is surprising. But it was the only place...

It was very difficult, after World War Two, to find a place to live. There was not much building, and there wasn't much to rent. So, we lived in Goodyear.

PS Chuck mentioned that you didn't want to live on the ranch or the farm.

ML Well, there was a no housing there at all. And that was five miles, it was South of Buckeye Road. And the driving to school, well, they would have had to go to Tolleson to school. And it just seemed too complicated.

He started to build, uh, adobe bricks for the house, but they didn't...they ended up as an office.

PS So then you moved, when the girls were going to school, you moved back into...

ML into Phoenix.

PS What part of Phoenix did you live in?

ML We lived on Earll Drive. We lived as close to the ranch as we could. There was cotton fields from 19th Avenue to the farm.

Maryvale had not been built yet. And, the only house that we could even think of buying was on 75th Avenue and Thomas. And, it was much more than we could afford. And so, the house we bought was on Earll Drive, 1728 W. Earll Drive. And we were there until we had four daughters and it got a little crowded. And so, we moved to this house. And we've been here ever since.

PS And what year was that?

ML In 1959.

PS And this was a new house then?



ML It had been built in 1946. So, we've never built a home, and hopefully we never have to. (laughs)

PS And, so, obviously you had four daughters to raise. That must have kept you busy. Did you ever have another paid job?

M Not after I was married. I just volunteered.

PS And, uh, so you taught in Florence. Did you ever teach again?

ML No.

PS What were you teaching in Florence?

ML Accounting, shorthand, typing. Which they don't even do that anymore.

PS I learned it. (**ML** laughs) Okay. So, you were pretty much then, uh, a stay at home mom.

ML Yes.

PS Were you involved with the ranch and the cattle business at all?

ML No.

PS So, tell me what was Phoenix like in those times when you were raising your daughters?

ML Well, having lived here...the first time we moved here was in 1936. And, that was when we could sleep out in the backyard when it got hot. And, the dust storms came, and refrigeration was not as common as it is now.

And so, I've seen changes but it's getting bigger and bigger. It's hard to realize that we're the fifth largest city in the United States. But, when you grow with it you just don't realize how fast it grows, and how many people have moved here from other states.

PS Many people can't imagine what it was like to live here without refrigeration. How did you stay cool?

ML Well, it was cooler then because there was a lot of agriculture, lots of citrus. And it was much cooler in the summer. And, we didn't think of the heat particularly at all.

We played tennis and swam and rode bicycles. And it was very...we never thought much of the



heat.

And I don't remember my parents complaining about the heat. None of us did. But it's gotten much, much hotter because of the, all of the homes. The tar roofs. All the paving. And agriculture's being moved further and further away. So, it, it's much, much hotter now than it used to be. At least, that's what I think.

PS Did you an evaporative cooler?

ML Oh, yeah. Yes, we had evaporative coolers.

And we had dust storms. But no...(laughs) And we didn't think anything about 'em. They just...you could see them roll in and they rolled on by, and that was the end of that. But, (hear someone talking off camera) my goodness. They've made such a big to do about them now, you'd think it was (laughs) really something.

PS What did you think when you started to see agriculture disappear and all that housing go in?

ML Well, I really wasn't involved with housing industry. I was a little concerned about building houses on the mountains because after they're on the mountains, that's not very nice. And not very pretty. And, we needed the open space. And so, I got involved with that.

PS Well, it sounds like you got involved with a lot of volunteering. (**ML** laughs) So, what were some of the first things that you started to do as a volunteer?

ML Well, as far as the mountains are concerned or anything?

I think, probably the Visiting Nurse Service. I was involved with that. And the, uh, we took the student nurses that were going to Good Samaritan Hospital to the homes where they did home care. And, uh, we could put our children in the car at the same time. So.

I've got two registered RNs that (laughing) may have gotten some interest from those really young girls.

And so, I was involved with the Visiting Nurse Service, and the book, uh, the book sale. It was small and now it's huge. And I'm proud of them. It's, (hear **PS** say something) it's a wonderful book sale. It's just unbelievable.

PS I remember when I worked at Channel 10 Bill Close said that was always the lead story we had



to cover.

ML Oh, great. (**PS** – Very big on that.) That’s just great.

Well, they, they do a wonder, just an unbelievable job. It’s just worth going out to see. If you’re not going to buy books, but to see how organized they are. They... (**PS**—It is amazing.) I’m proud of them.

PS and I understand you were involved with, uh, the Phoenix Zoo? Uh. When did you get involved with that?

ML Well, uh, shortly after, uh, it was established. I knew friends that were involved with the zoo. And then I joined the auxiliary. And then later on, uh, was on the board of the auxiliary.

I was concerned about, uh, people knowing about, uh, domestic animals. And, I felt that that was an important thing. And so, we got involved with getting Harmony Farms started. And, uh, but, of course, there were lots of us, lots of help.

PS Did you know Virginia Ohman (sp?)?

ML Yes.

PS I interviewed her. She was a Historymaker.

ML She was. And, she was very good about, uh, contributing.

PS She, (**ML** – To the zoo.) she was one of the founders. She was the only woman, she said. And they made her the secretary because she was the only woman. (**ML** talks over end of comment)

ML I know, I know how that is. I’ve been the only woman lots of times.

PS And, of course, being that you had the, the ranch connection, did you help provide some of the animals for the, Harmony?

ML No, they had animals there. But, uh, some of them, uh, provided tractors. And, we got, uh, uh, new roofing for the, the barn. And, and the Dairy Association, uh, helped. And the Nurseries Association, and, uh, uh, Shamrock gave us a milking cow. (laughs) So it got started and then one thing led to the other, and, and it’s gotten to be really very nice now.

PS Any quarter horses?



ML Uh, they didn't have a quarter horse, but they had a, what? A mule, and a, what else did they have?

(someone talks off camera)

A draft horse. And, the Quarter Horse Association, the foundation did, uh, build a building for a barn for the, for the zoo. So, they kind of overlapped in organizations.

PS Another thing you got involved with was the, uh, the school board. The Phoenix Union High School...

ML Yes, I was elected to the school board which was (someone talking in background) an interesting experience. It was, um...

I replaced a lady who'd been there for 30 years. So, it was, uh, quite a campaign. And, uh...

PS Why did you want to be on the school board?

ML Well, I of course had education in the background. And, and I'd gone to Phoenix Union High School. And so, I thought maybe I could be of some help to be a board member.

I was the first woman president. Uh. I don't know that I helped any, but I, I tried to do the best I could while I was there. I missed one meeting.

It was a five-year deal, and I was going to run again and my husband suggested I find something else to do.

PS It took a lot of your time, didn't it? (**ML** laughs) And, by that time, were your girls out of school?

ML No, they were in high school which was very difficult for them, to have a mother on the school board.

PS Why was that difficult?

ML Well... (laughs) They had to be there every day. (laughs) For one thing. And sometimes...one time they weren't. And, and all the other mothers said it was okay, and I said, I didn't know they weren't there. So, they got into trouble. (laughs)



PS You also were involved with the Junior League.

ML Yes.

PS Tell me about that.

ML It's a very good organization. I think that, uh, it helps you to know your community. Know all of the things that are going on. Junior League has done a, a lot to help the community.

And, uh, I got involved with that, with the, uh, Volunteer Bureau. Came through Community Council and then to the Junior League, that they took over for a couple of years.

Then, when you're 40 you move on. And so, then I moved on to other things.

PS Well, you started to tell me about the Phoenix Mountain, uh, Preserves. How did you get involved with that?

ML Well, I served on the Phoenix Parks and Recreation Library Board for five years, and was chairman at one time. And so, I knew what was happening to the Preserve.

And, I think (audio glitch) who lived in Arizona, or in Phoenix, took it for granted. And, we were concerned about it. Parts of the Preserve being sold or developed by...one way or the other. That's how got, I got started.

PS What year was that?

ML I'm very bad on dates. Probably...the Phoenix Mountain Preservation Council was started in 1970, but I really wasn't involved in that until I got off the Parks Board.

And then we have a, we got, the Phoenix Mountain Preservation Council got a Chapter 26 passed by the City Council and by the people, that you cannot lease, sell, develop any Preserve or part of any Preserve land without the vote of the people. So, we were pleased about that.

And, we got the boundaries, uh, designated, uh, that were not, they were kind of iffy where the boundaries were. And we got that settled.

PS How did you get that settled?

ML By looking up all of the deeds. Not just (hits microphone with hand) me. And remember, there's lots of people working on this. (laughs)



But, uh, it took a while, and, and we feel at least it's, uh, South Mountain and, uh, North Mountain area. The Sonoran Preserve now is, is continuing to, to develop and, and preserve. (hear talking off camera)

Not Scottsdale, Phoenix. All Phoenix.

PS Because I think of Sonoran Mountain as being the Scottsdale area.

ML North Mountain?

PS No. Sonoran. You said Sonoran.

ML Well, no, but there is...we have Sonoran Preserve in Phoenix, too. There's lots of things go on in Phoenix that we, you don't know about. In Scottsdale.

PS Well, I know North Mountain and the Piestewa Peak area and South Mountain.

ML Right. But we have Sonoran Mountain, too. Cave Creek area. Out, out 7th Street. Out 7th Avenue.

PS So, so you're stretching all over...

ML Well, we're stretching where we need to preserve the, the desert.

PS And do you remember, uh, I interviewed John Driggs when he was a Historymaker, (**ML** – Yeah.) and he talked about his role in the (**ML** – Yes.) (can't understand some of rest of **PS**'s statement.) What role did he have?

ML Well, he was mayor when the Preserves were really...uh...and, uh, uh, Dottie Gilbert took the mayor and some of the council people on a ride into, uh, back of the Biltmore, and had breakfast. And they couldn't hear one car or anything. They thought they were way out in the country. And it said to John Driggs that we needed to preserve that area. And so, he's been great about that.

PS He kind of takes some credit for that.

ML Yes. He should.

PS And so should you. I understand that there's a plaque at South Mountain. I haven't gone to see it yet, but the, the plaque at South Mountain mentions your...



ML Oh, I don't know. (laughs)

PS I guess I can take a look at it.

ML I have a trail, uh, off of 7th Street that was named after me which was very nice.

PS Which trail is that?

ML Well, it's Trail #6, but it's off of Mountain View Park. It just...a little short trail that goes around on the side of the mountain.

PS Is there a sign or something?

ML Yeah, there's a plaque there.

PS What is it called?

ML Maxine Lakin Trail.

PS Okay. How do you feel about that?

ML I thought it was...very honored. I was very pleased that they did that.

PS And do you go and hike the mountains?

ML I used to a little bit, but I like to look at it a bit more. (laughter)

PS You miss the hiking of it?

ML Not really. I, I didn't, I'm not a big hiker. The sun is not my friend. But I do know where they are and I know where the trails are. And, (**PS**—Do you have...) keep track.

PS ...favorite spot

ML No, I don't even think it's a favorite one.

I'm pretty, pretty interested in North Mountain area. And then North Mountain Visitor Center that has been open the last couple of years. That was closed because of, uh, budget restrain. And, now it's open to, run by a private foundation. Which has been very successful.



- PS** And, of course, South Mountain Park is considered to be, uh, the largest, uh, natural parks in the, in the country?
- ML** Right. And it's South Mountain Preserve. Not Park. (laughter)
- PS** Thank you. (laughs) I'll be sure and remember that.
- ML** It's probably the largest park...I don't know about any place else in the world that has a, a private, I mean a public park. Probably the largest in the world. And it's, of course, with all of just, all the acreage now, it's...besides 15,000 here (audio glitch) Mountain and Lookout Mountain. And the Sonoran. So, we have very...
- And the tourists. I mean it's, really, they wear it out.
- PS** Well, there's a lot of territory for them at least.
- ML** Yes. We'd like to keep it for them that way.
- PS** Is there anything special about the mountain preserves that you want people to know?
- ML** I want them to protect them. And stay on the trails. And it wasn't easy to keep the preserve there. And I want them to continue preserving it.
- PS** Do you think if you, if you hadn't done the work your group did to preserve them that we'd have houses up on top of Camelback Mountain.
- ML** We might have. Barry Goldwater really was an instigator for, uh, Camelback Mountain. And he did as much as anybody could do because it was in private land. It was privately owned.
- And when he was in the Senate, he got some of the companies to donate the Camelback Mountain. Margaret Colburn (sp?) was the council woman at the time, and she was very active for helping Barry here in Phoenix. And, I got involved. With, because I was on the high school board at the times (sic), so we had...the high school students were collecting pennies to help save Camelback Mountain.
- PS** of course his house was about as high as you could get on Camelback.
- ML** Well, he's not really on Camelback. (**PS** says something, can't hear) Because his house (**PS** says something else, can't hear) ...in that area.



PS Not on the mountain itself. (**ML** – No.) But it's right in that...but there's a good view up the mountain.

ML Yes. Everybody likes the view.

PS I know Sam Goddard had a house up...that was just at the base of the mountain also. I don't know if he got involved with the preserving of it. But I did interview him at that house, which was right below the mountain.

ML Right off of Lincoln Drive, was it? He did have a house right here, off of, uh, 7th Avenue and 3rd Avenue at one time. (**PS** murmurs) Oh, no. That wasn't Sam Goddard. (**PS** – I thought he...) That was Babbitt.

PS Yeah. Okay. Yeah. In fact, I used to run into Babbitt when it was Squaw Peak.

ML Yes.

PS Always met him...I was going up and thinking it was early in the morning...

ML And, he was coming down. Yeah. Right.

PS I lived in Tempe. It was harder for me to get there.

ML Oh, absolutely. (laughs)

PS Well, you've had a lot of other honors in your, your life. Um. And I guess one of the big ones was the, the Phoenix, uh, Woman of the Year for the Phoenix Ad Council?

ML Yes

PS Tell me about that.

ML Oh, that was quite an honor. And, uh, John Driggs was the Man of the Year at the time. And, uh, it was, uh, not run by the Valley, uh, leadership at that time. So, it was not the, as big as it is now.

PS What year was that?

ML 1980.



- PS** How did you feel when you found out they were going to name you for that?
- ML** How did I feel? (**PS** – Yeah.) I was honored and, and, really didn't know why they had selected me, but I was very pleased that they had.
- PS** One of the things that I think I read about, and I think Chuck mentioned just briefly, uh, the, the book of, the family book that your daughters put together (**ML** – Yes.) for the stories. Can you tell me about that book?
- ML** It was a surprise for Chuck, uh, 60th wedding anniversary. And they, uh, collected all of the stories that he had written and had it printed and put into a book that was called "What Didn't Seem Funny at the Time." So, it was a surprise to him. And there were some things that he would prefer to have said or not said in the book, but, uh, he didn't have the opportunity to edit it. And so, we, uh, printed them. And now we're out of books.
- PS** Maybe I could get one. (laughter) So, did you help put it together?
- ML** No. The girls did.
- PS** You knew about it though. (**ML** – Yes. Yes.) You didn't get to edit it either?
- ML** No. I wouldn't get involved there. (laughs)
- PS** Have you done any writing?
- ML** No.
- PS** Even though you were a teacher.
- ML** I let other people do that for me.
- PS** Well, I know you've been involved with the Arizona Farm and Ranch Hall of Fame.
- ML** Well, yes, though, uh, my husband and, uh, the ranch. And we think it's really worthwhile in that, people forget the Four C's. And, uh, I was honored to be able to mention the four C's to the Historical Society because they don't have very many people who were ranch people. So.
- PS** Four or five? Sometimes we talk about Five C's.
- ML** Well, you added climate. (laughs) The tourists added climate. (laughs)



PS So, what is, what it about the, the ranch...well, it's called the Farm and Ranch Hall of Fame. What makes that important?

ML It's history. And I think it's important that people realize that you don't get chocolate milk from a brown cow. So, I, I think it's very important that people know their background and how Arizona was, uh, originally, uh, settled. And that, people take things for so granted, you know. You can...so many choices, but you have to realize where they come from. I think it's important that they know that.

PS And there's still some farming and ranching in Arizona, too.

ML Absolutely.

PS And people like from New York City...

ML There are lots of ranchers.

PS You don't remember that. (**ML** – No.) It's still there. (**ML** – Absolutely.) Do you still stay involved with any of the, the farming and ranching community?

ML Not any, not any more. (audio glitch) their own farm.

(someone off camera asking about scholarships) (**ML** – Oh, yeah, I'd forgotten about that.)

ML The Arizona National Livestock, we're involved with that, and they give scholarships every year. And we're on that committee, Chuck and I are.

Outstanding young people. You just, it's a shame that the public doesn't know about how many outstanding young people there are out there. It's hard to make a decision. But we've been on that committee for quite a few years. For Arizona National. And then...

PS Scholarships for something special?

ML They are scholarships given to college, um, students who have been active, uh, with the Arizona National Livestock. And basically, they're Arizona students, but we do give some to out-of-state if they're really, really, really outstanding.

PS Are they, do they need to be studying agriculture?



ML No, not necessarily. But they have to have an agricultural background of some kind. And work with the Arizona National Livestock. That's the most important thing, that they are involved with the show every January.

And then we're on a Horse Lovers Foundation's scholarship as well. And, Horse Lovers Foundation, uh, has, uh, scholarships for people who are involved with industry, with equine program.

PS The scholarships are for college?

ML Yes. Yes.

Then there's ARCS which is, uh, Achievement Rewards for College Scientists. And that's for the graduate program. And that's through, uh, the three universities.

PS You're involved with a lot of scholarships.

ML Well, it's important.

(someone talking off camera)

PS What have you contributed?

ML Well, um. I don't like to talk about these things.

The, uh, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences built a, uh, Life Science building, and we helped, uh, to establish a plaza. So, it's the Lakin Plaza at the University of Arizona.

And, uh, we've got some benches out there with the girls' names on it, and with Chuck's parents name, and my name and my parents' name.

We got this there, for the plaza. And, uh, so we were pleased about doing that.

PS That's great. And, of course you gave land to the Hall of Fame Museum.

ML The farm did. Hmm-hm. And it's a private corporation, so the, uh, the, uh, whole corporation did.

PS Involved with it any other ways?



ML No, just seeing that we have very good people working on it.

PS Well, tell me, talk a little bit about how you've seen Arizona change since you first came here.

ML Well, it's just growing and growing and growing.

And, we, when we bought this house we were in the county. And now I say I'm in the Inner City. So. (laughs) It's just growing and growing.

PS Just grew right around you.

ML Right. Exactly.

PS I remember interviewing Jack Williams and talked about when he was mayor, I think the city limit was like McDowell (tape glitch) Road.

ML That's exactly right.

PS That's hard for people to believe. (laughs) How do you see the future of Arizona?

ML I think it's going to be fine. Um. We've got some...we need to find good leaders, young leaders.

I don't see the volunteers now that we used to have when I was volunteering. I think it's, there's so much for the young people to do now, that I don't see 'em volunteering as much as they did. And I think we need to build, uh, some real leadership and, and not just somebody who happened to be going by and ran for whatever. (laughs)

I think somehow...I think Valley leadership's trying to do that. And we need to find more people who are interested in volunteering and being a leader.

PS And, as a volunteer, what has volunteering meant to you?

ML Well, it's been my whole life. (laughs) My husband told me I could do what I wanted to in the daytime as long as I was home at night. So, I was busy.

PS What would you tell young people? Why should they volunteer?



- ML** I think it's broadening for them. They get out of their world of, of raising children, going to work, or something, and they get a different outlook about what's going on in the community. And I, I'm sorry to say that so many people come here and home is still some other state. It takes them a long time to say that they're an Arizonan.
- PS** But there are a lot of young people...I find...if you go to a, a, a high school class and ask how many are native Arizonans...
- ML** Most of them are. Right. Yes.
- PS** So there are a lot of new native Arizonans...
- ML** and I want them to appreciate where they are. (laughs)
- PS** What advice would you have for them if they're trying to decide what they want to do with their lives?
- ML** There are so many choices out there for young people now, it's very difficult for them to decide what they want to do. And I know they keep saying, well, what are you going to do when you grow up? And what are you going to do when you graduate? And I think they're still struggling to decide. And, I want them to look at all avenues because there's lots of avenues for them to, to go to.
- PS** I know when you were growing up, even when I was growing up, you could be a, as a girl you could be a teacher or a nurse.
- ML** Right. Exactly.
- PS** (can't understand at first) (**ML** – Right.) How, how do you hope that you'll be remembered?
- (doorbell) (dog barking)
- ML** Well, that I just did (hear people in background) what I wanted to do and enjoyed doing everything that I did. It was great.
- I don't regret any of the time I've spent.
- PS** Is there anything that you still want to do?
- ML** Well, I still belong to organizations. And I'm not as active as I was, but, I still (audio glitch)



oversee it. And, and continue as long as I can.

PS and I'm trying to think...I know you talked about where you were born. Did you ever tell me when you were born?

ML I did. But I'll tell you again. It's September the 11th, 1922. Santa Barbara, California.

PS I understand Santa Barbara. Yeah. Okay. So, you're already in your 90s.

ML Yes.

PS You're doing good.

ML Thank you. (laughs)

PS and I see more, more...particularly women...in their 90s.

ML Yes. Yes. I have friends that are in their 90s.

PS Betty White.

ML Yes. (laughs) Don't know her personally though.

PS 1922. My mother was born that year.

ML Okay.

PS and Betty White was born (**ML** – That same year. Right) (laughter) That must have been a good year. (laughs) And, of course, you know Elizabeth Ruffner?

ML Yes. I do. She can't be that old.

PS She's in her mid-90s.

ML Really?

PS Yes.

ML I always thought she was younger.



PS And, she's still driving. It's just...

ML Well, I'm...good for her. So am I if I can get away from my daughters. (laughter)

PS Is there anything I didn't ask you that I should have?

ML I have no idea what you should have asked me, so (laughs) I can't say.

PS Anything you wanted to tell me that I didn't ask you about?

ML Well, I want to say thank you very much for the honor for Chuck and for me. It was quite a surprise. And, we feel honored and...not really why we're there, but we'll do what we can do. (laughs)

PS Carole, anything you think I should have asked? (hear voice in background) Well, okay.

ML Done?

