

*ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW*

*With*  
*Jerry Milner*

*Conducted By*

*Tom Miller*

*April 1994*

**ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW - JERRY MILNER**

Today is April 26, 1994. My name is Tom Miller; I'm conducting audio histories for the City of Glendale as a volunteer. It's about 9:15 in the morning and we are sitting with former Mayor and long-time resident Jerry Milner. This is one of the City's audio history program interviews and we will be talking to Jerry about his experiences in life here in Glendale.

Tom: Jerry you've reviewed the list of sample questions there that the City has prepared. Maybe we'll start right at the beginning. Can you tell us when and where you were born please.

Jerry: I was born in Boulder, Colorado on April 21st 1930. I just had my 64th birthday.

Tom: And how many years did you stay there?

Jerry: Well, that becomes very complex. I'll just tell you that when I was three we ended up in Cheyenne, Wyoming and I lived there for nine years and that was the beginning of the Second World War. My father worked for United Airlines and we got transferred to the San Francisco Bay Area in 1942. So I went to high school down near Palo Alto. Then I went back to Boulder to the University of Colorado for five years...

Tom: And studied?

Jerry: Electrical engineering and business.

Tom: And after you graduated from college?

Jerry: I went to work for Pacific Telephone in Sacramento and I lasted three months, and I got a letter from the President of the United States sending me greetings. Then I went off to the Korean War.

Tom: Was this in 1950...???

Jerry: It was in '53 and they signed the armistice while I was still in basic training at Fort Ord.

Tom: They cut you lose right away?

Jerry: No. I spent almost two years in Philadelphia as an engineer working on guided missiles. And I came back to work for the phone company in Sacramento.

Tom: What brought you to Glendale?

Jerry: Well, the telephone company transferred me here to Glendale in 1962. My job was in Glendale and we had lived down in Sunnyvale, Cupertino, and I've been traveling, commuting by

train from Sunnyvale to San Francisco for three years so when the opportunity came to live in the same town which I worked we decided that we would live in Glendale and we really expected to move back to Northern California within two or three years. So our first house was over on El Miradero which is by Brand Park. And after about four years when it was pretty obvious that we weren't going back right away and our kids were getting larger, we needed more room. Then we bought this house. So I've lived here since 1966.

Tom: And this isn't very far away from El Miradero.

Jerry: No...

Tom: About ten blocks, maybe...???

Jerry: Yeah, yeah...

Tom: And you were saying we, tell us about we?

Jerry: We, was my wife Patsy who passed away in 1986. And our son Mark who is 34 and lives up on San Gabriel right around the corner of the Oakmont Country Club. And our daughter Elizabeth who is 32 and lives down in Irvine. Each of them is married. Mark and his wife Valerie have a little three-year old, Amanda, and a one-year old, Jarrett.

Tom: Some of these questions are geared around people who are born or perhaps raised here and that doesn't seem to fit here, but give us an idea of your family's lifestyle when you moved down here in Glendale. What was the composition of life on El Miradero around Brand Park?

Jerry: Well, it was not too far different from what it is now but in other ways quite different. It was a very neighborly group of people, and it was a very short time before we knew everybody up and down the block. It was a long block but only that long block from Mountain to Bel Aire. We knew everybody in the block and when the kids were small we used to take them Sunday mornings up to Brand Park. There was a Scout House or whatever it was called, wooden structure behind what is now the library, and burned six or seven years ago. But in front of that there were stoves, gas stoves and we used to take all of the stuff and go up Sunday morning breakfast and have pancakes and eat out every Sunday. Every Sunday was a picnic.

Tom: Was that, when did you...

Jerry: For a couple of years.

Tom: Did you have other family practices on Sunday morning after breakfast?

Jerry: Obviously we went to church frequently but when the kids were that small when we moved here Mark was only three and Elizabeth was one. So, it was easier to take them up there for breakfast than it was to take them to church. They could run and play and that was very pleasant. It was a very small town atmosphere. One of the comments in the questions that you have has to do with what it was that attracted us here.

First of all, the fact that the job was here. But I only worked in Glendale for thirteen months and I never had a job in Glendale again, although I worked for the phone company for the next thirty years, almost thirty years. That was the only time I ever worked here. So it was an easy place for which to commute all over the L.A. basin which is what I did and yet during the time, the first year that we were here we used to ride the bus. Get the bus on Kenneth and ride the bus downtown where my office was on Harvard.

Tom: You know, it is conceivable that we have ridden the same bus. I used to pick it up at Kenneth and Allen.

Jerry: Is that right?

Tom: On my way to Hoover. Landmarks, while your talking about things as you did family and kids, what favorite landmarks maybe of yours or perhaps of theirs do you recall?

Jerry: Well I'm not sure about theirs. Like a lot of kids, Mark living here now, but he's only worked three years I guess. When they go away, they forget everything. I mean that's part of the process I guess. I was thinking about landmarks, what landmarks I would comment. One of the first things that came to my mind is the only Carnegie Library. That was on the corner of Kenwood and Harvard. I was on the Commission. My first involvement with the City was in about '67 and a guy named Ken Stevens was the mayor then and he was in our Kiwanis Club. This is Eve (introducing to Tom Miller).

Tom: Hi Eve!

Eve: Hi Tom.

Jerry: And I was to the Library Safe Committee. We traveled around and looked at some libraries in Southern California and we

ended selecting the site. It is caddie corner from the City Hall on the corner of Isabel and Broadway, just west of the County Courthouse. It was a Council Member at that time named Howard Peters who also was in our Kiwanis Club. He was very reluctant to spend anybody's money; mostly his but anybody's. He would not want to spend the money to buy that corner. We wanted to put the library as a part of the City Hall Civic Center complex. He didn't want to do that so he persuaded the other Council Members to put it in what was then called Central Park where it is now because they didn't have to buy the land. They used green space, the lawns and all that sort of stuff part of which is still there. But that's the site of the original Glendale High School. And then it became a park, and then it became the library.

Tom: Now that's at Harvard and Louise?

Jerry: Harvard and Louise, right. It's the only part that will come through.... The original library was a part of the hundreds that the Carnegie Foundation built all over the country and thus the Carnegie Library. By the time it was torn down, really dilapidated building which was where the Casa de la Paloma whatever that senior housing project is on the corner of Kenwood and Harvard.

Tom: And that was the original main library?

Jerry: That was the original main library.

Tom: But it was called the Carnegie Library? And it was named after the Carnegie Foundation? Did they fund it outright?

Jerry: My impression was that they did. All over the country especially the smaller towns built libraries that was Carnegie's recompense for his business ways and lots and lots of people who have lots of exposure to books of all kinds because of that. I was never at a Carnegie library in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Came about the same way.

Tom: Is it still there? Still standing?

Jerry: I have no idea. I haven't been back in Cheyenne in years and years. I'm going there this year. Eve and I are going to ..... near Cheyenne.

Tom: Did the Carnegie fund currently the new main library?

Jerry: No. That's all city. Anyway, that was the first day of "Landmark" that I thought and the other one is the Glendale

Federal Building at Lexington and Brand which was and still is very unique.

Tom: With the blue pins.

Jerry: With the blue pins. Edwards said that came closer to getting him fired by his father-in-law, that he had ever done.

Tom: Uhum. Uhum. And they still use those as air conditioning process.

Jerry: Oh yeah. Yes. To reflect the sun.

Tom: That's a landmark for many people I'm sure. Any other thoughts about that?

Jerry: I mentioned the wooden building that was up behind the library in Brand Park; for that particular reason. These were the only ones that I really think I guess as landmarks, of any consequence.

Tom: So you work, actually work in the city for only fourteen months?

Jerry: Uhu.

Tom: Where were you transferred to, downtown or?

Jerry: From there I went to Pasadena and then I had a job in Burbank, then back to Pasadena after that, then I worked in Alhambra and Sherman Oaks. And then downtown L.A. and Anaheim, and two or three times in downtown.

Tom: What were your duties? What were your job positions?

Jerry: Well basically what I did was supervise operators. I was what was called district traffic manager which was the corporate parlance for getting telephone calls through. When I came to Glendale the telephone building that fronts on Brand, south Brand, just south of the Galleria parking structure. It's about a 5-story building in Glendale city alley, and then there is the ... building which is on Orange. The building on Brand used to have the long distance operators. So I was responsible for that office, and on the second floor of the building that is still on Harvard was the directory assistance office. It's the biggest information office in Southern California at the time. Those were the only two offices that I had.

Tom: Was this still the days of patch cords?

- Jerry: The long distance building was, yeah. It was maybe two years after I left there that they finally took that out. Because everybody was going to direct distance dialing.
- Tom: And now we're to the point where you just touch tone your own phone and it directs wherever you want to call. Any schools? Did you ever go to Glendale College Adult Education?
- Jerry: No. I was thirty-two years old then.
- Tom: But to learn art or drawing or woodworking? How about your thoughts on schools from your point of view about your children, Glendale schools? How have Glendale schools changed? Are they the same?
- Jerry: In my own high school days in Northern California I went to go to school called Sequoia Union High School in Redwood City. It was a very, very fine school. And when I went away to college I was a year ahead of everybody in my freshman class. The school both my kids went to, Keppel and Toll and Hoover. And they got a very reasonable education. I wouldn't say it was an outstanding education. Mark went to Stanford and he was significantly behind most of the people in his freshman class at Stanford. Outstanding example maybe because of my engineering/science background, but the vast majority of the people he started in college with had already been exposed to calculus and he had not had calculus although he had taken all the math that was available.
- Tom: It wasn't even offered?
- Jerry: No. But it was adequate. Obviously good enough to get him into Stanford and Elizabeth into U.C.L.A.
- Tom: When you moved down here, actually I guess you received the job position down here, did you look in other places? Burbank, Pasadena, Eagle Rock?
- Jerry: Yeah. You mean for living?
- Tom: Right.
- Jerry: Yes. We explored a few places. But basically since we thought we were only gonna be here for a couple of years, three years, and the fact that the job was here to begin with even though I knew that I might have another job some place else before we went back to Northern California. We were pretty convinced. I was here for three months before the family came. Patsy came down for weekends and we looked at

houses. But as I got acquainted with people and talked to people, Glendale is considered a very, very good place to live. And of course I was working here so most of the people I was talking to had close connections with Glendale but I've never had any negative feelings about having made that decision. I've enjoyed living in Glendale.

Tom: Do you recall any of the particular attributes that they said they liked?

Jerry: I think it was the small town atmosphere and the fact that it was a totally separate entity from the big city of Los Angeles. In the years that I first was working in Pasadena I was only very aware in the evening coming home across the Arroyo the area was much better on this side of the Arroyo than that side of the Arroyo. There were all of those things that made this a very ... place in which to live. It would have been very pleasant to work here longer than I did. It is, everything is accessible. Even commuting to Anaheim and back which I did for almost a year. I was in the City Council at the time I was doing that so it was, I used to leave my office at noon on Tuesday and stop at McDonald's and get a Big Mac and a fries and chocolate shake and eat on the road. It was doable.

Tom: Do you still find those same attributes pertinent today?

Jerry: Yes. I think so.

Tom: Even though it's grown up a lot, do you find it still feels like a small town environment?

Jerry: Yeah. Certainly, and especially I think Tom as you and I know those of us who have been fortunate enough to be involved, it's almost incestuous. We all know the same people. So that group of people who are involved in this community foundation, are the chamber, or involvement with the city and politics or whatever it is. It's a very small town. Obviously its changed in the last 10 to 15 years, changed dramatically. But still those basics are still here and they're very positive. I'm quite sure that a vast majority of people don't see it that way because they're not the ones who were involved.

Tom: Let me ask you about that. Nat Read has said or written that there are two hundred or four hundred people. I forget his letter but Glendale four hundred or so really are involved and do a lot of things. There are service clubs, there are commissions. They are involved and yet we are two hundred almost, almost two hundred thousand people in this town. And

even if you go back ten or fifteen years, still we had a hundred and twenty thousand people. Have you always observed that it is, it seems to be a core of about four or five hundred people? Any thoughts on why more people don't get involved?

Jerry: Well, certainly during our lifetime and I remember when, this sounds old, this is the old man talking. I remember when television first became commercially available. It was right after the second World War. I was in high school and it was really a dramatic experience. As that has become more and more refined, more and more people get their entertainment and use their leisure time sitting in front of the tube. Some organizations that have not adjusted to that, and the first one that comes to my mind is the Masonic Order. People just don't get involved in things like that anymore 'cause its easier to stay home and watch television in the evening.

Organizations such as you and I belong to, like Kiwanis as an example, that has stayed .... people are more interested in being involved in those things. But there's a relatively small number of people. The vast majority in something that I was trying to convey to people in the community in the City Council, in the City staff when I was a Council member is that Glendale is still basically a bedroom community. I always use the phrase every morning, 50,000 people get into 50,000 automobiles, to go 50,000 different directions and work outside of Glendale. The vast majority of the people that live in Glendale who work for a living do not work in Glendale even with our new office buildings and the jobs that have been generated. A vast majority of the people work outside the city.

Tom: Do you think it's just a time factor, an hour perhaps maybe more to commute and that takes away some of the opportunities for volunteering?

Jerry: Sure.

Tom: And it's also common knowledge among those who are involved that you see the same people work the same events and sometimes those people are criticized for it, and turned insiders, turned wheeler dealers.

Jerry: Anybody who wants to put any time and effort into it and contribute to the well being of the community can become what the others call insiders. I got involved and I think this is maybe a really significant point. When I came here with the phone company, it was an era of time when big corporations

wanted their significant managers to be involved. And there were three of us at the same level in the business whose headquarters were here in Glendale. And one guy, his name was Ed Johnson, was in the host Lions Club. He was the general partner, district plan manager. And that guy always belonged to the Lions Club. There was a fellow named C.T. Brown who was the district commercial manager, ran the business office and that sort of thing and was kinda the official company representative, and he was in the Rotary Club. The district traffic manager was supposed to be in the Glendale Kiwanis Club. There were then several people go through that job that I got in a short period of time. Our Kiwanis Club had said we really don't want people just coming in and being for a few months and going. And we're not sure that we want this new guy. And Art Clark was a good friend of the promotion manager and was prevailed upon to push my case. And so I became a member of the Kiwanis in January 1963. Through that involvement, because I really enjoyed that, I had a good time, I met a lot of people, I was impressed by the people that I met. People like Clark Arnold, who you never had a pleasure of knowing, ??? Kiefer, Don Packer, ????. These were the old insiders. Don Ballinger, a bunch of those people who had been in that club since the early 1920s when it was started. And I was really impressed by that, and the things that they did, and the things that they had done. It was there in Glendale Kiwanis that I met Ken Stevens, and when he ran for the City Council he asked me if I would help him and that was just, he was looking for people to help and we had become friends.

Not really close friends, but friends and I accepted that opportunity because I enjoyed being involved in Kiwanis. And from that then grew my involvement in partisan politics and all of the other things that I've done all came from the fact that I was expected to join a service club. And I just was very fortunate in getting in the right, the best club around and I visited with lots of service clubs of all kinds all over the State of California for various reasons giving talks and that sort of thing and there is none like that. Anybody who wants to get in and get involved and spend some time and meet people and be willing to stretch themselves a little bit can become one of those insiders.

Tom: This is a nice segue to the, one of the next questions that they ask about and that is clubs, organizations, churches, synagogues, civic associations and so forth. You just said that you have a lot of fun and enjoyed your time in Kiwanis and being involved. Can you give us some ideas of some of the activities that Glendale Kiwanis or any other organiza-

tions? For example, today you, this is priority 1: almost every activity of the Glendale Kiwanis Club, almost every one has something to do with children. I've known that, I have known it for many years and even experienced it. I had a guest last Friday at lunch and I was trying to explain to her with the emphasis on you. For some reason last Friday, I'm setting you up here for a question. Every, almost every person who went up to the microphone to make an announcement about a club activity, one thing or another, everyone was about youth. And I just thought, I just told her we're doing the interview. Now here's every single person, it was youth. Is that all that's been the emphasis of the Kiwanis, Glendale Kiwanis?

Jerry: No, no. That evolved in Kiwanis International maybe fifteen years ago, in the late 70s or early 80s and there's been more emphasis on young people than there was before. But for example, in the late 60s, I was chairman of the Key Club Committee for a couple of years. I really enjoyed that. That was a fun thing. I was in my mid-thirties. I could relate to high school kids a whole lot better. During that time there used to be a Gateway Club, sponsored the Key Club at Glendale High School. But they were kind of losing interest and it was kinda going down. So I proposed that we take on both clubs and during that period of maybe six to eight years that we had both the clubs, we did very, very well.

We had the Lieutenant Governor, was ??? 'son, outstanding student, really bright kid. He became the Lieutenant Governor, I take it back he was a District Governor. Sal Gangi and I, a couple of years in a row maybe three years, each drove a car ..... and Monterey and Pacific Road to the State Convention. But anyway, those kinds of things were where the youth orientation of the club were. There was always ....fifteen years, they got on to the young children and really ..... and it was continued year after year but basically dictated.....

Tom: Do you remember any of those other committees, the activities that are not necessarily committees, but the activities that you ....Kiwanis that particularly struck your fancy. Like the ... trip or work on other projects such as painting houses?

Jerry: Well we used to own what was called the Scott House, on Arden between Pacific and Kenilworth. We end up building in there but it was used by several scout troops. They key club used to use that as a project about every other year to muck it

out and paint it... But everyone in those key club things, I really don't remember....

Tom: Are other clubs, organizations, civic activities aside from public life, what are the organizations that you belong to especially those....

Jerry: I've been involved with the symphony for many years. I am on the Board, I would guess almost twenty years. The last two years, the previous two years I was president of the symphony. I've been a chamber board for the three years since I left the Council and that's the second time I've had a three year stint on the Board of the Chamber. The other one was in the early 70s. I've been in the Board of Verdugo Club. Oh, going back to Kiwanis, right after I was president in '72 I became involved with what was then called the ??? Basketball Tournament which was community college level. We just never got a lot of people out. Never made any money on it. Jim Bishop and Bob Crumb(?) and I decided that we would make it a high school tournament. We got the Vice Principal of Glendale High....

We started the Glendale Kiwanis Holiday Basketball Classic. That went for fourteen years and at one time it was one of the two or three best high school basketball tournaments in Southern California. That was really a fun thing. I was very involved in that. I was the Assistant Director and somebody from the school had to be the Director... It was a fun experience. I can't tell you a time I've been able in so many community activities. I was very involved in partisan politics. I was president of the local Republican Assembly at a time when we had 800 members. It was a big deal in the early 70s. It was really big. I'm still involved with the Chamber, Friends of the Library, support group for cancer patients called Wellness Community- facilities in Pasadena. I've been working with a guy Dr. .... who was the Director of Mt. Wilson Institute trying to get telescopes back on-line. Just lots and lots of things, I've forgotten all of them.

Tom: Any others?

Jerry: I'm sure what I've left out some that at one time was very, very important. Your comment about the 400 people or whatever it was, when I first ran for the Council, started this in 1982. That's when I-- precinct list...the list of the people who had voted in the last general election. We went through there and marked the people that we knew. And she was always involved in PTA, and her sorority and my organization. Not

so much in PTA, that was never big in her mind but she had several things in which she was involved.

So we went through... that we knew and I used them as my base. Then we sent a personal letter to 800 addresses in Glendale. That translates to something over 1,600 people because in some cases they had older kids that were voting age but still at home. That was my political base. But you think about people like us who have at that time been here twenty years knowing close to 2,000 people. But yet as you point out, at that time there were 160,000 people. 2,000 is a very small percentage.

Tom: I've wandered exactly how accurate or even how serious Nat Read was when he quoted 400 people, maybe it was an emphasis, an illustration. But the recent earthquake is a perfect example of Red Cross, was inundated for volunteers, so I understand. People who would cook food at home would just show up there and get some food, and get enchiladas or whatever. I suspect there are probably more than 400 people. But the illustration remain that it's really a small minority.

Jerry: Oh yeah. If you just take our club; even if really the ones that are really active. That's half of that four hundred. And then you have the Rotary and all the other service clubs. That takes up over four hundred right there. Almost all of those people are involved in something other than that service.

Tom: Red Cross, Chamber, Community Foundation?

Jerry: That's right.

Tom: Any other comments on the social, service clubs?

Jerry: No. I think this again with some notable exceptions were struggling because people spend more time, than more interested in things other than that service unless there is a disaster like the earthquake. I think that our club rather than having so much emphasis on getting more members for us, we had to be working hard to get members for West Glendale, Gateway, and the other clubs that are really struggling.

Tom: And the new Galleria? They're doing pretty well I guess.

Jerry: Yeah but they all do for a year or two. Then one of the people who originally got involved began to fall by the wayside for one reason or another. Sometimes moves and different business requirements. Then they struggle. Lions

Club used to be a very big thing in Glendale and it isn't anymore. Very, very small. The Gateway used to be well over 100 people and that's pretty important. I really think that instead of always, this probably is not history, but it's an interesting cycle people go through. Yeah those things build up the wall and they're... people are enthusiastic and they begin to tail off and unless there's some help from the stronger organizations to bolster the weaker ones and help them get back on track they eventually disappear because of the vast majority of the people are unwilling to take those responsibilities over and over and over and over. And yet a service club maybe has twenty members. That's tough.

Tom: Glendale certainly has changed in terms of the composition of its residents in the past 15 years or so. We've had a lot of immigration, people who come from places where they are not familiar with Kiwanis, Rotary, Lions, Elks and any of those. They don't understand, only because they've never encountered the philanthropy and community involvement. Any ideas on how those who are involved can interest the newer arrivals in this kind of thing. Or maybe it's a very slow process. Any ideas on how that might be accomplished?

Jerry: This is historic. Something that should've been done a long time ago. This house is 63 years old and, after the second World War and everybody talked about they wanted to upgrade and elevate the vast majority of these houses that were built in the late 20s and late 30s. They did things that destroyed that was indigenous to that time period. And in this house one of the things they did was took out two pedestal lavatories in the two bathrooms upstairs and home sinks on the wall 'cause that was new and that was the thing to do. And I really should have done this a long time ago but since I'm getting ready to sell this now I wanted it to work as good as it can. So I was able to find a couple of pedestal lavatories which they've installed and it makes all the difference in the world on those bathrooms. You realize that that's really what was supposed to have been there.

Tom: Well that's part of the changing phase of Glendale.

Jerry: Yeah it really is and I kind of think because, I probably will get in trouble for saying this but I'm going to tell you anyway, I have always felt that the only criterion for my acceptance of anybody who wanted to come in Glendale was that they would respect the city and the rest of the people in the city the same way as the 400, and that they would get involved. And I understand the difference in cultures, but I did quite a bit of research, seven, eight years ago. To try

to find whatever it was that transpired over one or two generations as other ethnic and cultural groups came to the US. Whether it was the Irish or the Italians or the Germans or Eastern Europeans or Scandinavians, whoever it was that consequent from the European area, and there were some things that I found that were common. That it still took a couple of generations for those people to really assimilate. And so when we see the impact of the Asian, or Middle Eastern, or Hispanics that have taken place in the last 15 years in Glendale, I think it is unrealistic for us to expect that more than just a handful of those people are going to be even passing or involved. It just doesn't happen that way.

One of the unique differences was in the first two hundred years of this country, the vast majority of people who came here were eager to accept certain aspects that was "American" or "U.S." like. In principle that was the language. And there were certainly enclaves where they continue to use their original languages. That by and large, parents wanted their children to learn English because they saw that as key to success in the community, in the country. And right now I think with the tremendous influx of people from these different areas, that does not have the emphasis that it did in the past. The children, my perception, children are discouraged from speaking English. That makes it much more difficult for everybody and the Glendale school system talks about having 57 different languages. They're the primary languages, you know. Politically charged issue. I really think you learn English first. Once you learn the language, kids, that's the time for kids to learn languages. As old as I am learning a new language is difficult. But when they're young, it's very easy for them. That's where the emphasis should be. This business of English just the tone, sets me on fire. English is not the second language. English is the first language. Whatever your parents speak at home, that's the second language. Until that happens, getting these people involved in the community is not going to happen.

Tom: You think it is concessions by the government? I don't necessarily mean Washington although that's probably included, Sacramento, City Hall, our school district. But it is my observation, again this is not my interview, but maybe you could comment on this. Is that our established political system has allowed concessions that do not encourage, they may not discourage people from learning English but they don't encourage people to learn English.

Jerry: Yes. I do think that's the case Tom. I think there's also a philosophy . There is something that runs through the wealthiest of families. The third, fourth, fifth generation of very, very wealthy families. Whether its the Roosevelts, or the Harrimans, or the Kennedys, those are the people that tended to be the most liberal, politically, philosophically liberal. And again like Andrew Carnegie, its almost, from what I've read, a compulsion to make up for the fact that they have garnered so much material wealth that they want everybody else to reach out to the less fortunate.

The real conservative, if you have to label it, is the more Republican approach of people who are working hard to acquire maybe not that much wealth but are trying to get as far as they can within the system who really want everybody to work for the things that they get. The people who have tremendous wealth who can't ever even conceive of even giving it all away are the ones who are saying we have to reach out to these poor people and let them speak the language. And of course they're involved in politics and it's probably at the federal level that it really originates. I mean the whole concept of the Civil Rights business, and I'm not opposed to this, doing things that needed to be changed.

But in changing them, Abraham Lincoln is probably the best example of all, lots of quotes from his writings and his speaking. And of the things that... "You don't give a man a fish, you teach him to fish". You can never truly help somebody by giving them something. You have to teach them how to get it themselves. It's not Republican versus Democrat. It's not Liberal versus Conservative. But it's a feeling, become a part of a lot of us even though we may be conservative Republicans that we have always had so much. And people are so much concerned about the cultural minorities, racial minorities, the homeless, all these people that need something. But we give them the wrong thing. We give them a placebo and not the solution to the real problem.

Tom: A penicillin, not the inoculation?

Jerry: That's right. We're off the track.

Tom: No. this is part I think. I mean you are finding out observations that you developed over thirty some years here in Glendale. I'm speaking with the principal of an elementary school here in Glendale last year. In fact he just retired. He said that his observation is that the children on the playground, traditionally that don't speak English, want to learn English because they see that, they want to fit in.

And they see their peers all speaking English. So he would push the children, not only are they able to learn faster, they are motivated, but when they go home and Mom and Dad and Grandma and Grandpa and everybody else doesn't; and in his perception I'm not trying to, that's the kind of self-defeating situation. On the other hand, the three literacy programs which I'm aware in Glendale; the library, the college, the YWCA, they're constantly booked up. Maybe what you said about the generation, the time that takes a generation to move through the system, persistent and with patience.

Jerry: I had some correspondence over maybe a year with a couple of people from Stanford who were studying the same issue, cultural assimilation. Far better connected to get information, far brighter in assimilating and analyzing it, and they were not able to identify what it takes other than time. In all the groups, there was always the conflict. Out of those conflicts were words that we don't use anymore. The Appalachians were virtually cultural... Maybe we're better off now because we don't resort to those kinds of... But just, it does take time that's all.

Tom: Public transit is one of the questions they ask us to talk about. We live in Southern California where everybody seems to have 1.25 cars per person. Nevertheless, you mentioned that you used to take the bus. Any, how much experience did you have in public transit in Glendale? How has it changed? Beeline, railroad?

Jerry: Well, you know the bus system when I took it was accessible to me and having commuted on the train on the peninsula in Northern California for three years and having growing up on the peninsula my mother used to take the train into San Francisco to shop. The Southern Pacific while I didn't like being in the commuter passenger business, we were forced to do that. We went through everywhere, a period there after the second world war. They used public transit, organizations trying to get out of the business, because the dream is for everybody to have a car...in the freeways. People didn't live far enough down the road literally and figuratively to see what happens. When you build a bigger freeway you attract more cars. And nobody ever did that.

For years and years and years I was always amazed and I talked about it, but not politically and certainly did not have the access to the people, time that I first became aware and start talking about this. We had major railroad that parallels every freeway in Southern California. But the railroad, the SP, the Union Pacific, the Santa Fe, none of

'em pulled passengers 'cause when we took passengers you have to get them there, pick 'em up on time and deliver 'em on time. And railroads still saw themselves as being in the railroad business, probably the most heavily subsidized industry in the world, was the American railroad in the first hundred years. They saw themselves as this wonderful thing and they didn't realize that the world was passing them up which was why they've all struggled. New York Central, ...they ended up with Amtrak which was stupid because it's... Deregulated the telephone business at the same time that we socialized the railroad. But it would be pretty simpler in my mind, which started with lots of practical problems, if we don't do it right in getting people to commute by train.

And Metrolink is an ideal example. The tragedy of the earthquake, lots of people couldn't drive. But Metrolink didn't do it right. They did finally get more... those kinds of things, but what they should have done was say, we got to have somewhere, a lot of money so we can really subsidize these people who are riding the train. We have to keep emphasizing and improving the way we get them to the train, and get them away from the train once they get to where they're going. And they get so financially attractive that when the freeway opens up again, the commuter who lives in Simi Valley says, why am I gonna get my car and drive an hour and a half to downtown LA when I just learned, and forced to learn, that I can get on the train and in an hour, get there, and I can read the paper. The best part of my day I was... when I commuted into San Francisco on the train than I've ever been because I read the newspaper from front to back in the hour that I was on the train. And I went through my workday, I pulled up to the older stuff that simply had to be read that came to my in basket and put it at the edge of my desk while I left the office. Business in San Francisco was built around commuting. The road shut down at a quarter to five because the first commuter train left at 5:13 and there was a train that left every three minutes for about thirty-six minutes and they were just...to Mountain View before it stopped and the next one stop a little bit further up. The one at six o'clock, there was a train stop at almost every station on the peninsula. Its never had a chance to go up in Southern California because we've always put the emphasis on the automobile.

When I was on the Council we started the Beeline and the idea of the Beeline which incidentally, has been lost and we need to go back to it. The idea was that people could circulate in the downtown area. Once they got there and park their

car, they shouldn't have to use their car, until they got ready to go home. You can't subsidize a bus system which for a quarter is competing against the MTA that cost \$1.25 and run on the same routes that ten MTA buses that went in each direction in front of the college in the three hours of commute time in the morning and two and a half to three hours in the evening. Ten buses an hour each way. So five would be foolish to take the money that should be used in the downtown area and apply that to a quarter bus system that only runs once an hour or something like that to provide super service and compete with that. The Beeline was intended to be downtown, to move people around. Through the TMA, Jeanne got a grant from the State for a concierge service. They were trying to find how do we keep people, how do we provide services for people so that they don't have to use their automobile.

First thing is we ought to have enough buses so that if you come out of 550 North Brand and you're wantin' to take the bus to the Galleria to shop and have a quick bite to eat on your lunch hour, and just as you come up the front door the Beeline bus goes by, you are not gonna stand around and wait for an indeterminate time, should be ten minutes but it varies. You should be able to see within sight hopefully a block away another one. The Downtown Beeline should be as close to a moving sidewalk as you can possibly get. And it should be free. If you have problems with commuters and the homeless making their home on the bus, they have the power to kick 'em off. Just, that's the system that ought to work. Mass transit as opposed to rapid transit, 'cause your rapid transit is your automobile from door to door. Your selection of the route, we talk about mass transit. Mass transit in metropolitan Los Angeles I don't think would be very sophisticated for another hundred years. Big deal is we all voted some of the taxes that... the Redline and the Blue line and all that stuff. And I was on the RTD Board for two years and I went through this political conflict between RTD...

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Jerry: ...in rebuilding this MTA which is, hopefully the same organizational structure that they had 25 or 30 years ago, when they decided the right thing to do was to split into the RTD and LACTC, and the end result you could really see this over and over, is the most political thing in the world. They don't have any money. All the money is gone. They didn't organize it correctly and it's too politicized. I

don't mean this to be kinda discussion of political philosophy but in an area like this, and Glendale is an integral part of the megalopolis, third largest city in L.A. County, so we don't have any choice. We're all caught up in these regional issues. Transportation is a major regional issue just like air quality is major, water delivery is a major regional issue, waste management, all of these things. They need to be ran without regard to the political boundary of Glendale-Pasadena-Burbank-Los Angeles. If you're gonna do that those people need to be elected by the people.

As it is now, if you and I don't like what the MTA is doing there is no way that we have any impact on that because each one of those people is a pancake through at least one intermediary and sometimes two intermediaries. Whether the supervisor is there or he's appointed somebody else which in most cases is the case. The Mayor of Los Angeles and his appointees, or whoever is appointed by the Council in Glendale, unless you are willing to take that person off of the Council, you can't affect what happens to the MTA. And that's only one person. It is a crummy system but we'll never get this to where we want to be. And yet we recognized that what built Metropolitan Los Angeles was the transportation system. The wood cars. L.C. Brand and Huntington were the guys that put the Pacific Electric together. That's why Brand Boulevard is where it is and the way it is. L.C. Brand ran the street cars on Brand Boulevard after he had bought all the property on this side of the street. Things that we would now, put somebody in prison for are the reasons we are all here doing what we're doing.

Tom: The way we're doing it?

Jerry: One of the other things, and I know you have some more questions but recognizing some time element here, I think one of the things that I wanted to be sure to get down here was my feelings about what happened in the eight years that I was in the City Council. The period since the early 70s, the last 20 or 22, 24 years because that has been a really significant part of Glendale which someday will be history. Today maybe it's so close that it isn't history. But someday and I hope that this stuff in the oral history which I applaud tremendously last long enough to become worthwhile.

During this period of time, the 80s was a tremendous period of growth. I'm most grateful that I had the eight years that I was on the Council basically in the 80s and could participate in building in what we now see in downtown which some

people don't like of which I still defend and hold ... for two or three days running.

Tom: You're a friend of redevelopment?

Jerry: Yeah, yeah. I got involved in many things that helped me decide to run for the City Council. I was the appointed the Chairman of an Ad Hoc Committee to study redevelopment in the early 80s. Then there were people who would come back ten years after the Galleria had been started and redevelopment was instituted. They were not happy with redevelopment principally because the whole redevelopment process was not being done as well as it could be and so the Council appointed seven of us as I recall to study the idea and what we could do to improve it.

As a part of that I learned a lot about redevelopment which I used in my campaign to get elected. But the end result was, that during the eight years that I was on the Council, we brought eight major office buildings and a hotel. The hotel was finished after I got off the Council but that hotel was built on a 3-2 vote. The vast majority of the people don't understand that. The columnist in the News-Press wrote a stupid editorial about decisions being made in the back room. I don't know how old he is. He's not very old but he's older than his IQ. They just don't understand how all of these things happen. That was a 3-2 vote. The Homart building was a 3-2 vote. Not everyone of those 8 major office buildings was a unanimous decision. But people who want to point an accusing finger that governmental bodies assiduously avoid the facts and don't take the time to really find out what happened. But we built eight major office buildings and the hotel. We did something that had never been done before and I take credit for being the trigger to make this happen. Then we covered the wash between Brand and Central. That had never been done before.

Tom: You mean new in the country, covering a wash like that?

Jerry: In Southern California. I don't know about other parts of the country but in Southern California which is one the few places that has those kinds of facilities. The Corps of Engineers and the County Flood Control District did not realize that they owned valuable property, raw rights, over their channels. It cost the Redevelopment Agency a lot of money to do that. But when you look at that hotel and you see all of that green space that covers that wash, you realize what we did when we made those two decisions, just absolutely unbelievable changed the face of Glendale forever. My

reasoning and I was saying this to Marlene Roth again, the other day when we were at the opening of the ??? senior citizen place there at Monterey and Louise. The next phase of that wash that needs to be covered is from Jackson to Louise. That would create a beautiful urban park. Principally for the use of those other people who live in that part of town.

But someday I believe the wash would be covered from Jackson to Pacific. That would make a really neat green space downtown. Public art and with the winding walkway that goes through there. Joggers and bikers, people who want to get out there from their office building at noon time. They'll have a great place to go and to take advantage of that and it enhances Glenoaks Boulevard and would really make that whole area much more attractive and much more utilitarian part of the city. But it takes money to do that and the Redevelopment Agency was set up and is set up to generate that kind of money within a prescribed time period. By the year 2019, that money won't be there anymore. So the intent and the direction of the Redevelopment Agency was during the 80s and should be now still to get as much of that stuff done as they possibly can.

But at this point, through what I think are some bad decisions in the last few years we wasted significant amounts of money and did not get done, or are not now getting done. Things that would be there for a long time for the people of Glendale and we're putting money into things that are much more temporary. Much more transient. That redevelopment of downtown is something in which I take a great deal of pride, I consider myself a key part in making that effort. I was the Chairman of the Redevelopment Agency when we made the decision to give the contract to Red Lion to build that hotel. The Mayor's Park...

Tom: Off of the 2 Freeway...

Jerry: That was my idea. It took five years to get it done and went through two or three (alterations?), most of them didn't get done because they allowed the landscape architect to make a monument out of ????. It was just far too expensive to build. The original idea was simply to find a place, a park area where we could allow each person who had ever been a mayor or his family if he or she were deceased. To put two trees, where you would have something that would be living and beneficial to commemorate their dedication, those people. It turned out to be something that was much bigger and much more expensive. It's nice, it's good, and I'm glad it's there. I'm glad it happened at all, but that was far more

expensive than it was intended to be and didn't really need to be that much at all. But that's something that someday somebody is going to say "how did this ever happened?" Sometimes the little plaque that has all of our names on it doesn't tell you the real story of what happened 'cause it takes time for an idea to generate to get to the point that a project is initiated let alone the time it takes for it to complete.

The first piece of public art that the city ever commissioned is the ??? statue at the library. I'm the guy that did that. Bill (Holderness?) introduced me to ??? who was the artist. We were looking for art for his project in The Exchange. She was showing us pictures of the things that she had done and I saw a picture of that I knew that that was what we want Glendale to be, a family unit. I had the opportunity of working with her for a couple of years. But again, it took months to get it to the point that it was "initiated" on the Council agenda and then of course another year or so before she was able to get a cast and install it. I feel very good about being the guy that instituted the first piece of city-owned public art in Glendale.

The thing that I feel most strongly, that I take most pride in, that I hope somewhere down the line becomes a historic, a valued historic situation is the total rezoning of the city that I worked on for seven years. The last seven years I was on the Council, that reduced the potential number of housing units and therefore the potential population in Glendale from something that was astronomical 'cause no one ever expected that that has happened in the 80s and the early 90s that ever happened. When I asked the question in December 1983 about six months after I was on the Council, I asked if anybody knew how big Glendale could get. Nobody had ever asked the question, nobody had ever thought of asking the question. They went back and studied the zoning and they came back with a number that if housing units were built in Glendale based on the zoning permission that there could be 350,000 housing units.

Tom: Housing units? That's seven hundred or more thousand people.

Jerry: Yes, yes. So we began to back off from that because in the original zoning in the early 20s, 350,000 based on 173, 175 thousand housing units. 350,000 people. When the zoning was first done in the early 1920s, when the US Supreme Court said that it was legal as was the case in all the US, among the leaders in the political arena or the influential people in the political arena were real estate developers. So the vast

majority of the flatlands of Glendale were all zoned R4. It was a marketing ploy that said you come to Glendale and buy one of these lots zoned R4, but you build a California bungalow, raise your family, and get ready to retire, you can sell that lot and the house to somebody who wants to build an apartment building on it. And its much more valuable to you then for your retirement. So people came and they did just that.

They bought lots for relatively little money. The developer made a bundle. They built a bungalow and they forgot that it was R4. All of these flat areas were single family residences and occassionally somebody would buy one and build an apartment but that is no big deal. But in the 1980s three things happened all at once that impacted Glendale.

First of all, interest rates dropped dramatically. They've been in double digits and they went way, way down very quickly. Much more money is available. There was this tremendous influx of immigrants who brought a lot of money with them. Whether it was from Asia or Middle East they had money. They recognized the opportunity which most of us who had lived here for years didn't recognize and were not interested. But they came with the idea of making a killing. And they took advantage of that. The S&L legislation, and you're familiar with this with your experience with Glendale Federal that changed S&Ls to federal banks allowed them and encouraged them to literally give somebody... I mean it was a land draw. The guy put down \$100,000 on a piece of property and by structuring his loan properly he could literally get all of his money out on the basis of the loan which he used to construct an apartment and then took his \$100,000 and invest in another property. We just kept permitting that all the way down the line. We never had much more than \$100,000 at risk at any one time dealing in several million dollars worth of property. He's making tremendous profit off of a relatively risk free small investment. So those three things all happened at once.

And as a result we had this influx of people coming in and buying single family houses in neighborhoods where everybody there thought were single family and started to build apartments. We went through... it took five ordinances. The first one took three years to do what was called the Consistency Plan which made the zoning much more consistent with the General Plan, which would be mandated by the State, which we had the liberty changing the zoning or even questioned does the zoning meet what we said, what we wanted in terms of moderate growth in this General Plan. Then after that it took four more ordinances to make further adjustments to get

down to the thing but instead of having the ability to build as many as 170...175,000 housing units, we could only have 83 to 85,000, "roughly have".

That whole thing was exacerbated by, in the 70s the number of people per housing unit was going down and everybody said, it was closing and getting rid of field school, closing a park, all of the things that the school district did because school population was down. But with the influx of these immigrant families not only did they bring a lot of kids with them but they also would in what they thought was a palace by having four families in a house like this. We had four people, they would have twenty people on a house like this and think they were living in luxury.

Tom: Compared to where they came from?

Jerry: Compared to where they came from. So a tremendous increase in the number of people per housing unit which is why you end up what was struggle and if the Council never changes anything in the zoning, well in the Building Code it was strictly the number of units on a multi-family lot we end up with somewhere between 210-220,000 people. But that's much better than the 350,000 that we would have had we not changed the zoning. It could have been even more than that if the influx of people who lived or people in housing... The one failure that I would live with for the rest of my life is that I was not able to get the overnight restriction on parking.

That's because I thought I had the votes and somebody backed out on the last minute. It should have a 3-2 vote in favor and it turned out to be 3-2 against. But the only way you can restrict the number of people who live in a housing unit like this is to restrict the number of automobiles. I was going back to this transportation issue.

In Southern California, in order to get around you gotta have a car. If you can't park the car on the street overnight and it must be on your property overnight. You restrict the number of people who can be there. You can't limit them to one person per x number of square feet. You can't limit them on the basis of how many toilets there are or anything like that. Because you gonna have to get a search warrant. By the time you did they'd be gone. Nobody would ever get caught because they didn't comply. But if you can't park your car between 2 a.m. and 5 a.m. on the street...

Tom: You can't find out who's...

Jerry: And then they just you know... and the proposed ordinance was very, very workable but I didn't do well enough in terms of getting a rock on those three votes. As a result we still have the problem and the problem is going to get worse before it gets better. The only way it's going to get better is to be strict in... I wanted that on tape. In my opinion, two really significant things in local legislation that will become landmarks in the history of the city. One of them was the establishment of the Redevelopment Agency that took place in the early 70s. The Council at that time, people like (... Howard?), Jim Perkins, Mesick, and Garcin and Garcia I think saw the need for that. Was very controversial. They had the guts to pass it. They had so much pressure that they rescinded, it then went back and re-worked it and passed it again a year later.

Tom: I didn't know that.

Jerry: That was in '70, '71, '72. The impetus for that was the Galleria which was attempted by a part of development. But he had to buy individual lots in that area. There were typically two or three holdouts. Those two or three people who simply would not sell caused him to go bankrupt. The Chamber understood that there had to be something done to rejuvenate the business area of downtown Glendale. They were fishing for the Galleria. The only way that could happen was through the concept of redevelopment. Glendale did it right. There was only 1.5% of the total land area in Glendale involved in redevelopment. The only way you make redevelopment work is to build something like a big retail facility like the Galleria, or a big office building where you generate a lot of tax increment. That was the first major thing that someday will be looked upon as a very historic moment in the City of Glendale.

I like to think that the other one was the downzoning of the city to restrict how many housing units can be here. The Council today, this afternoon could change all of that if they wanted to. There are people who are pushing to change it... They don't understand that Glendale is still basically a bedroom community. The vast majority of people who live in Glendale who work for a living work elsewhere. What you want to do is have this core downtown that you attract people to spend their money in Glendale and generate sales tax revenue for the City. But you also have to understand the more people who are here, by and large generally more demand for public funds than they generate the funds. Despite the fact that it doesn't sound good, you don't want to attract more people to the City.

Tom: Water use, sanitation, police fire, parks, the whole bit... Well you answered many of the next several questions regarding politics, elected officials, controversial issues. I don't mean at all to get you off to something else. In fact I'll open it up to anything else that you would like to add about that and if you have nothing perhaps you could opt for this. You must have skin thicker than alligators. I can't help but think anyone who's been in the position... Ginger Bremberg, Dick Jutras, you go back to...all the way back to Carl Parcher's father for goodness sakes.

To serve in that kind of a capacity obviously you cannot make everyone happy. You've already pointed out how redevelopment was controversial and in fact remains controversial. How the downsizing, downzoning remains controversial. Unless you have any other thing you'd like to talk about, what tips might you give someone who might have thoughts of helping the community, influencing the community, I presumed that people go into public life ideally with the thought of improving the quality of life not just having power. What tips might you have for someone who might be thinking that maybe someday going to public...

Jerry: I'd go back to our earlier conversation about the relatively few people who are active in the community of Glendale. The thing that bothers me most, Tom, and I went through this a year ago, with the last city election. The people who are active, the people who are in a position and this is gonna sound strange but I think you'll understand what I mean. In a position to realize what is really the best direction for the city. They have a home here, they have a business here, and they have paid their dues and there are a lot of people who don't like that term but they have done the volunteer work and they have become friends with a lot of people who have similar truly good thoughts and ideas about the community.

They are normally financially in a position where they are able to spend their leisure time almost anyway they want. They are normally in business situations where they're under pressure for their own businesses. As a result, the challenge is to find one or two really good people who do have those more altruistic feelings about the community who are willing to put themselves into that situation for four years or eight years. You know how I feel, I think. No one should serve more than eight years 'cause you do change. And the alligator skin not only protects from the barbs of the outside but it keeps you inside and keeps you from making your-

self... It eventually builds up to the point that you think you know it all.

Anybody in public office who denies that is a liar. You do get to the point. Everyone of us has gotten to that point. Some of us show it more than others. You can't in addition to fending off all of the barbs and arrows, you get lots of strengths, lots of accolades, lots of people telling you how wonderful you are. Sometimes for reasons that are totally underrated to whether or not you think you're wonderful. But they know that's the way to break down the defense and get to you so that they can begin to plant those seeds let you to do what they want you to do. You change; no one whether it's a US Senator, Congress member or anywhere, every elected office. None of those people should be allowed to make a career out of it. Out of any one office.

Tom: Out of any one office?

Jerry: Out of any one office. You can be a career politician but everytime you have to run around to a different office the parameters are different and sooner or later the people are gonna get to the point and realize that maybe you are a good member of the City Council but you are not gonna be in a position to be a US Senator, or President of the United States. I truly believe that if this country survives long enough to make all of us this stuff that we're talking about historic, that one of the things that has to change is that there must be a limit and the kinds of people who ought to be in those offices are not the young people, with all due respect.

None of the Republican candidates were veterans... 32 years old. Very successful in Silicon Valley. I'm sorry you don't understand that government is different than business. We all say we want to run the City of Glendale like a business. Euphemistically that's good terminology. But government doesn't run like business. You need people who get to the point of being sixty years old, having been successful in business over a long period of time or a profession and say "Now I want to give back something. I want to retire. I don't have to be concerned how much they pay me for being a Council member. I'll give my time for four years or for eight years to do what I think is best based on my long experience and my maturity to make the city better".

The unfortunate thing Tom is that most people don't want to do that. They don't want to subject themselves to the barbs that you talked about and you can't make everybody happy. You

have to decide what it is that you think is really important and say hey I'm gonna try to not be an idiot about the way I do this. I don't want to set out to make people mad but I do understand that some people are not gonna like what I do. I think this is important and I think I can defend it.

Tom: Let me challenge you a minute on term limits. How would you respond to the response that term limits is contradictory to the Constitution? The free world of the public. The belief that the public has the, theoretically the knowledge, the skill, and the desire to vote whomever they wish. Basically term limits are preventing anyone for voting for a candidate.

Jerry: I'm not sure that that can be answered philosophically. I think it can be answered pragmatically. When you realize especially in offices like Congress and the State Assembly where you have to run every two years, that's all you do is run. If you are going to spend your career in a job like a member of Congress, \$135,000 a year plus expenses plus all of the perks of being in the elite, and it is an elite, 535 of them in a population of 300 million. That's pretty elite. Once you get there, the overriding drive is to stay there. There is not a member of the House of Representatives or the Senate who has ever been motivated by doing what is right. They've always been motivated, and until there are term limits, they will always be motivated by "if I do it this way, does that improve or hinder my re-election?"

When you get a member of Congress who derides the fact that there's some guy who just passed away in the last five months, six months who'd been in the House of Representatives for fifty-three years. He was the chairman of one of the major financially oriented committees in the House and had to be removed from his chairmanship because he was totally incapable and he died real shortly thereafter. The man who was denigrating him for having outlived his usefulness has been in Congress for twenty-two years.

Tom: So maybe it is true. The public cannot actually watch and vote after...

Jerry: They cannot, they cannot, they cannot. The Constitution in my opinion, and I'm not a Constitutional scholar, but in my opinion the Constitution did not anticipate the red eye special from L.A. to Washington. Being a member of Congress, being a member of the Legislature in any of the states at that time is a part time job. It was only, you had to be a landowner. You were a part of the gentry in order to participate at all. Yes, the people who were bright enough to

understand what was going on should have the freedom to elect these people. But just like George Washington did not serve for more than eight years or philosophical reasons maybe that for practical reasons he couldn't stand, he couldn't afford to stay away from his plantation that long. He had to get back to managing his business. When your business, when you have full time legislatures, full time Congress, and you pay these people at very, very high levels, that's the best job any of those people ever had with a few minor exceptions.

But the vast majority of them could not earn that kind of money if they had to work for a living. Many of them had never worked for a living. In our own, recently a new assemblyman is a very good example. He worked for as a grant at a downtown law firm for a couple of years while he was solidifying his position in the party and he worked very hard to get elected. He was planning to be a governor of the State of California someday, which is why he got into trouble. I think people who have earned their way into those positions and not have spent their life in politics. I understand the pragmatic aspect that you have to serve, you can serve in this for so long, and then you can go on to another elective office and all of that. I'm not saying that everybody is bad, but I am saying, ... is more interested in getting re-elected than they are in doing what is right. That's not part of the history of Glendale.

Tom: But you are, and your opinions are. We could jump on to recreation. You mentioned Jim Bishop earlier. The basketball, what other activities, recreation, do you recall that you particularly enjoy? You play golf, or tennis?

Jerry: Yep, yep. I think some of the people and I gave Jerry Wasser a whole long list of people who ought to be talked to and when I realized now that I did not mention was ??? Gallagher who was so involved with the Little League program. Mark played T-ball when he was very young and it was a very good experience for all of us. He's generally a good program... All of his adult life. I remember when I was in the Council when we dedicated the Little League field on Canada... I think our Parks Department does a really good job. I think the schools can do a whole lot better job than they do with athletics and those kinds of programs.

But generally those things are cyclical just like the Holiday Basketball Classic was here for ten or twelve years. Kind of outlived its usefulness and that caught up again in politics. Different interests, it will be back. Someday Glendale will do that again. You know at the time Bill Boyd(?) played

basketball at CV. They had three or four really top quality basketball teams up there and they just... CIF this year. You can't argue with that kind of success. It takes a whole lot of kids, playing a whole lot of playground basketball to end up with ten guys that are juniors and seniors in high school to be able to go that far. These programs are basically good. Once again, there are the changing phase of Glendale. We got a lot of heat because we voted to take out the big swimming pool up at Verdugo Park. You couldn't repair it, you had to rebuild it.

To rebuild in today's world would be so expensive. It just wasn't worthwhile, if you asked lots of people, not low income people but lots of people had backyard pools and so having that kind of a pool was no longer the kind of thing that it had been at one time. The Y has a great pool, and they sometime in the past had great swimming teams. I don't hear so much about 'em anymore but again that's one of those things that goes through a cycle.

Tom: I guess the newest outdoor public pool is Cambridge, over in Burbank?

Jerry: It could be although that's been there for quite a long time. Big pool. Double olympic size. We've the Pacific Park pool down on Pacific by Riverdale. It's a big pool down there. It's owned and operated by the city.

Tom: Oh, I know that one. It's a public pool?

Jerry: Uhuh. It's in the park.

Tom: Can go swimming in there?

Jerry: I think it's free.

Tom: Thirty some years and I didn't even know about it. Anything else?

Jerry: No. I think there's a key in every case, whether it is part of somebody's job or whether it is just a volunteer effort. Because some man or woman has a son or daughter who has some talent, could be one of these things is generated by somebody, individual who gets involved in the community. Maybe the Director of Parks and Recreation and the city. Maybe the YMCA Director, maybe the coach of a high school, or maybe... I got involved.

My first involvement was with Indian ??? when my son was six years old, first grade at Keppel. There were boys who needed that kind of experience but there weren't a lot of dads who were willing to take the responsibility. I liked that kind of thing. Besides I wanted my son to have a good experience and so I agreed to be the Chief of the Cherokee ...My son was always a very good runner. He was on the track team at Stanford. In those days six year olds, he took the name of Swift Eagle. Can you imagine what my name was?

Tom: I can't imagine.

Jerry: I was Bald Eagle. But we did that for three years. Out of that came Grayline(?). No other dad would do it, I liked it, so I did it. I was the Coach of the ??? which was then maybe three times as big as the Cherokee. All these kids went to Keppel and all in the same grade and out of that three out of the five starters in the basketball team in the senior year had been in my (Grayline?) program. About four guys who started on the football team were in my program. Two or three swimmers that came out of that. Couple of guys in the track...

I really enjoyed thinking about those experiences as I'm going through all of my stuff that I collected over twenty-eight years. I came across a newspaper, an article that talked about... Olympians. Great experience but there has to be one dad or one mom who says "yes I will devote my time to make sure that this happens". There are parents who are willing to bring the... do that kind of thing. Somebody has to take responsibility. Same way in politics. That's certainly a part of this history of Glendale. When I was mayor the first time in 1985, I was the fortieth person in 79 years in the history of Glendale, to be mayor. Since then, the only new ones, Zarian, Raggio, Givens have been mayor since I had my first experience.

Tom: And that was in 'Eighty...?

Jerry: It was '85 that I was..

Tom: That's almost ten years?

Jerry: See I was mayor a second time. Larry has been mayor twice more. Ginger has been mayor twice. And Raggio was mayor twice.

Tom: We have about ten minutes left on this tape and they've put in some kind of, almost random questions here. Let me just

throw out some of the topics. Any of them appeal to you, you have something to say, please say it. If not, then talk about whatever you'd like to. Gang-related problems of the past especially perhaps thirty years ago. Initial perceptions now, wild animals, impression of law and order, newspaper. How has the newspaper changed in Glendale over the years? We talked about transportation already. Any of those have any...?

Jerry: Well, I guess in the years of the second World War there were the Zoot Suiters that were basically Hispanic gangs. And that goes through cycles too. I think that once again, without sounding like being critical of people who are on accounts are now after I was there. I don't really intend to be that way but my philosophy is that the basis for government is we all band together for self-protection and therefore when we deal with budget problems that the aspects of governmental protection which is the Police Department first and foremost and Fire Department. Those things do in fact have to be sacrosanct. We ought to be spending a lot more money on the Police Department. During the years, in the 80s, when we had a lot of money, business was booming, tax revenues were very good, we could do a lot of things.

The problem is that like a family or like a business when you go through a cycle where the income is reduced, you gotta cut back on some things. You can't continue to do all of the things that are fun to do. Young couple gets married and they're both working, they're making quite a bit of money. They can go to Maui for a week, do the some of those things, sports car and all that kind of jazz. When they start raising a family and for whatever reason one of them has to stay home and take care of the kid. And that reduces the income by 50 percent. The weeks in Maui and Jag convertibles gotta go. There are things that families have to do, and businesses have to do, and there are things that government has to do when the income stops.

The difference between private business and government is government decides how much you're gonna spend and then tries to figure out how they can tax the people to get the money to do what they already decided they want to do. Business can't do that. You may have to figure out a new project so that you can improve your alignment and so forth. But you only spend what your income is or you don't stay in business very long. Government has a license to be in business for as long as they want to. They can go deeper and deeper into debt. Federal government being the best example. We ought to be

spending more money on dealing with the issues of gangs and drugs. Part of the problem again in my personal opinion, may be someday it will be historic, I think the legal fraternity and the judicial system is the major point of fault. If somebody kills somebody and it can be proven in court, I'm sorry there's no reason for that person in prison. Get rid of them. They did not even give the victim an opportunity for a trial, so to speak. And I think we have to be much, much more severe in punishment. And I do think that the knowledge that you're going to be punished severely is a deterrent for a significant percentage. Also it teaches the guy how to fish, instead of just giving him a fish. But you and I both know a number of people who are in business who decry the fact that they can't get enough people to work. They can't get people who are willing and capable of work. And sometimes these are very menial jobs, it's a way to get started. But we all started in that respect. The difference is that you and I and others like us have the motivation to do that. You have to do that but you also have to say "hey you mess up, you're gonna be punished, and you're gonna be punished severely." The foolishness of the Menendez trial, that's ridiculous. Absolutely ridiculous and it's costing you and me a lot of money to do that. I mean we're even paying the defense lawyers for the second time. They've already admitted they killed their parents. Who cares what the motivation was. Until that happens, I personally think western civilization is on the down side, and I think that the reason that ultimately... is to leave the fraternity in it, in our judicial system.

I understand we go back to the concept of the Constitution and the world has changed. Nobody ever contemplated... 300 million people in this country and we're still stupid enough to ignore the fact that people come here illegally and we give them more benefits than the people who were born here. Absolutely ridiculous. Till we change that, we're the only country in the world that does that. The only country in the world, and fifty years ago we were the strongest, most significant nation the world would ever know. And now we're third rate, third world country. We're not even competitive. The only reason we're allowed to exist is because we're stupid enough to give everybody anything they want. ...I have strong opinions.

Tom: How about Mayor's 20/20? That was something, wasn't that yours? That program? Is it still going on?

Jerry: Yes. That was an ad hoc. We studied a couple of dozen different issues that... Out of that we wrote a very short two-page paper. That was the three areas that the city staff had to look at. Partly that was born, that was my idea, it was born out of this issue of the downzoning and the increasing population. In fact nobody had ever looked how big the city could be. I thought we really ought to be looking at what is Glendale. What might happen in the future? That really intelligent City Council and city staff can anticipate and do something about it before it really becomes a significant and controversial issue. I don't remember exactly the details now but none of the issues that we said were really critical was labor demographics.

We had a guy from the RAND Corporation, talk about the fact that as time goes on there's a smaller and smaller percentage of the population with very well educated, very highly motivated, very highly paid. I relate this... There is an ever increasing percentage of the population who are functionally illiterate, probably not educated well enough to ever be re-trained into the new jobs that are coming along. And a good example of this is the gardeners. We've gone through a drought where people are being discouraged from having lawns and gardens and to have xeriscape landscaping where you don't need a gardener. What happens, and as you haul off what used to be single family lots with multi-family units, there's less and less to do. What happens is people who came here and were able to earn a legal living by mowing lawns, and there are no more lawns to mow, they can't be trained as computer programmers. They have, they don't speak the dominant language and they don't have the intellectual educational background to be trained to do something else.

That was one of the major things that we thought that the City ought to contemplate. I don't know what to do about it. But somebody ought to be thinking about it because someday that's gonna be... There are two others that we worked on, I didn't even think about that; I have to go back and look at that document and see. 'Cause that's more almost four years ago. But there were three issues that came out of that, and then we just banded.

Tom: Let me ask you one last question. It's a personal question but it's certainly might be historical too. Is there any one person you encountered in your thirty years here in Glendale, who influenced you the most.

Jerry: To say, to say one would be pretty difficult. I kind of think, and interesting I haven't thought about this for a

long time either. When I was first elected to the Council, my acceptance speech I talked about two or three people that were really significant to me, in Glendale. Not to my life in general but in Glendale. One of those was (Park Arnold?) who was probably, truly one of the best, kindest, most intelligent people that I've ever known. It certainly a grandfather figure, and was strong enough that his influence felt dramatically by this city. And the second one was (Ken St???).

Ken was one of those people, he was young at the time, early thirties, he had a successful business as a printer. And yet he was one who was willing to take time out of his developing life to be in the City Council and be the Mayor. And he died while he was in office. I don't really know what the problem was. It may have been cancer. But he certainly was a significant influence on me and someone who I think meant a great deal to the city. I think probably those are the two that I would really think of.

Tom: ...

Jerry: ??? originally managed the lumberyard and I don't know... who built the big house that's over here on Valley View and Kenneth, across the street from...that big house

Tom: Is that that "Gone With the Wind" house?

Jerry: No. This is Valley View.

Tom: Oh, Valley View.

Jerry: Yeah. And it's on this side of the street that is right on the corner. It's a big, big, big house. ...owned the big lumberyard in Glendale. (Park?) worked for him and I think was the manager ultimately. He was a very, very strong Baptist... He became very, very involved in Kiwanis and as you know was ultimately the International President. Somewhere along the line he had enough money that he bought some land down around Long Beach, a place called Signal Hill. He had very prime income from all royalties for many, many years. When I knew him, of course he was quite (elderly?), very active and very involved even then. He was an investor and in fact was an investment counselor... People that they had grown up with in Glendale. They all trusted him...

Tom: Thank you very much. Anything else you'd like to add before we close this?

Jerry: No. Except that I think that this is a really good program. You may know that many years I tried to do this with video tapes. And I told Wasser that Glen Cornwell(?) has a tape of an interview that I did with ??? Cornwell who was the original owner of Cornwell ??? . And I did one with Carroll Parcher. I think it was in second term as mayor. I lost track of that. I don't know where that went. But I tried to get people from the college who were in a video class of some sort and that was like, tough. There are so many people who are gone now that I really wished that we had been able to get people like that like (Don Packer?), (mentioned more names). I told Wasser, I bet I gave him a list of sixty people that you guys ought to talk to.

Tom: He and I talked. In fact I asked him, I suggested, let me see the list and I can identify the people I might know and... a little relationship there and make it easy.

Jerry: Many of them you would know.

Tom: You mentioned somebody's name. Oh ??? Gallagher(?)

Jerry: Yes. If you get a chance, excuse me for interrupting but somebody ought to get to Alice ??? soon. She's really getting old and she's been here a long time. Her husband certainly... very significant players in this community. There's a great percentage of the houses in Glendale that are ... houses. She designed most of them. She's very significant.

Tom: Is she on that list now?

Jerry: She's on the one that I gave to Wasser. But I would really hope

(end of tape)