

Peter Wainwright

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I am Catherine Kauffman, chairman of the Historical Committee along with John Wintersteen here to interview Peter Wainwright. Also at the interview is Louise Wainwright Simpson and her husband Mark Simpson

John: May we have your permission quote you in part or all of our conversation today?

Peter: That's fine.

John: When did you come to Paradise Valley?

Peter: We were living in Albuquerque and I had solved some problems for my employer, which was EF Hutton, where I turned that office around. The Phoenix office of EF Hutton had the same problems or worse because it was bigger. The company transferred me over to the Phoenix area. We looked around and it turned out that we bought the old Stillman house on the southwest corner of Indian Bend near Scottsdale Road where the Sheraton is now. That house was 9600 square feet and on 40 acres. The entrance to it was on Indian Bend. We had four kids and it was for sale at fire-sale prices. The owner had been told to get out by his doctor because it was too much of a place for him. There was no way that I could afford the big house and 40 acres so we bought it on 10 (acres) which was just to the west of where the Sheraton is now. It was a heck of a buy at that time. So that was where we moved. The year was 1964.

Louise: I was eight years old.

Catherine: Did you buy the property from Stillman or somebody else?

Peter: Yes I bought it from Stillman

Louise: I thought you bought it from the Halls? Didn't we buy the house from the Hall's and not the Stillman's?

Peter: Yes (we bought it from the Halls), his doctor told him to back off from any exertion so they moved into the little cottages in the back of the hotel at Mountain Shadows – across from Camelback Inn..

Louise: It was Charlie Hall from the car dealership.

John: This was not the eye doctor – Gary Hall family?

Peter: No, it was Charlie Hall, a salesman for Cadillac for a time.

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Peter: He (Mr. Stillman) moved across Scottsdale Road. He had a miniature train there, which he moved over to the train park, which is on the other side now. You could see where the old tracks had been on the property.

John: On the 10 acres that you bought?

Peter: No, on the whole 40 acres. A short time later, one of the fellows I hired said: "There is a man wanting to buy from my father the 20 acres to the north of you." I said: "That's interesting. Did the man look like Korshak?" He said yes he did. What the man was trying to do was put the 40 acres back together. Apparently, the person trying to buy from me was trying to put the 40 acres back together. It was my 10 and the other 10 owned by the bank and then this other fellow bought the 20. They gave me some song and dance about the daughter or the wife or somebody who had tuberculosis and needed to move. It was a big phony sob story. But they ended up buying our house. Our kids, at least the two older ones, were getting out of the nest and we didn't need the big house any more so we were only in it for about 7 years.

Louise: We lived there for 7 or 8 years. They did have a train station that housed his trains on our property. It did have railroad tracks running around with a water tower.

Peter: The train was actually moved by then.

Louise: Yes but the remnants were there

Peter: Yes the remnants were there, including the train barn for storage. It had been all over the 40 acres.

Catherine: In the John Dawson interview, he talks about buying 20 acres to expand the hotel and was that part of your property.

Peter: No – As long as we were there, there was nothing else on the property.

Louise: The hotel was eventually put on our property but that was after we had sold it. It's where the maintenance was.

John: You said that you came here after the incorporation.

Peter: Yes, it was a fairly new town. Two brothers started it. They owned a sweet shop.

John: Huntress?

Peter: Yes, Jack Huntress and his brother.

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John: I think your highlight of the Town was as the Town Marshall and as the Town Police Chief. What years were you in charge of the law enforcement department?

Peter: I started out in the police department. I went to the County Police Academy. I was put on duty by the Town to become a Deputy Town Marshal in 1973. I was a certified police officer for 13 years. I was on the Town Council at the time and the Town Attorney said that it would not be appropriate for me to be on both the Council and be subject to the Town Marshal jurisdiction.

Peter: The County trained me so I worked for the County as a Reserve Deputy Sheriff. By two years, I was Reserve Major in charge of 300 Reserves and the entire posse too. I had one of the bigger police departments in the state because the entire posse came under my jurisdiction for assigning duty.

Louise: He was out in Apache Junction, Pinnacle Peak – it was a huge county that he was working and a manned a patrol car all by himself.

Peter: We had a murder at the time – a very high profile.

John: Which one was that?

Peter: It was Bob Crane from Hogan's Hero's

Catherine: He died June 29, 1978 in Scottsdale.

Peter: There was a fire in the house of a recently divorced wife of a major furniture distributor. It was near south side of Camelback Mountain. For three nights, I stood guard over the ashes as a Reserve Deputy Sheriff and I assigned people for the other hours. It was a crime scene because they discovered a body. Between the police department and the fire department, they had missed that - they thought it was just a fire. People were looking for her (the ex-wife) and discovered that she was in the kitchen underneath the kitchen cabinets that had fallen down on top of her. The police department and the fire department didn't look too good at that point and that's when they asked me to come from the sheriffs department as the Reserve Major and right after that I took over as Town Marshall.

Peter: One of the things the police officers from the Deputy Town Marshal's quickly got on my case for was the Town Marshal emblem on the patrol cars. They said we bought a car with the Town Marshal (emblem) on it and when we stop someone from California in the Town. They say, " You can't stop me, you're only a marshal." I got that changed. When I stopped somebody and they said that to me, I said, "Try

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me” and they got a ticket. A marshal in California is a process server not a policeman.

John: Like our constable – one of those terms that in different states mean different things.

Peter: So anyway, the fire department and the police department botched this murder.

John: The fire department was Rural Metro

Peter: Rural Metro was headquartered in Scottsdale nowhere near Paradise Valley though it was our fire department. They didn't have the presence there. They worked out of the fire station in Scottsdale. At that point (after the fire burned everything) the evidence was too messed up. I know who did it but I can't say it because the evidence was pretty well messed up. That's when I took over (as Town Marshal).

John: So the mishandling of the crime - the whole situation not only the crime scene but not identifying that the homeowner wasn't anywhere to be found for three days – where they couldn't put two and two together - that was the precipitating factor for you becoming the Town Marshal of Paradise Valley from being a Reserve Deputy Sheriff. Who did you replace?

Peter: Les Nauman had retired and there was at least one after him but before me. Les was a neighbor and a fine guy. He was not involved in that situation at all.

John: So you never worked directly with Les in a law enforcement?

Peter: No

John: But you knew each other while he was the Marshal and you were the Reserve Deputy Sheriff both sworn Arizona certified peace officers

Peter: I actually had a year as a Deputy Town Marshal. The Town had me trained by the Sheriffs Department and I served at that. But based on that service, I ended up getting elected to the Town Council and the decision was made by the Town Attorney and the Mayor that I couldn't serve in both capacities in the Town so I resigned my commission in the Town Marshal's department and served for several years in the Sheriffs Department. Then after this murder, that's when they had me take over the department.

John: Just so I get this straight, you were a Reserve Deputy Marshal, you became a Reserve Deputy Sheriff and you did them both at the same time.

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Peter: No not really - when I was elected to the Town Council, I had to resign or transfer my badge, if you will, or my police commission, to the county so I was no longer a Town Police Officer. I was a Town Councilman. I think it was in the middle of my second term that I was asked to talk to Oscar Butt the Town Manager and Jack Brock the Mayor. I served 5 years as Chief of Police. I retired from the Police Department at the end 1986.

Catherine: We have you on the Town Council from April 1974 to November 1981 Then you came back to Town Council from 1992 – 1994.

John: So Deputy Town Marshal Reserve, Deputy Sheriff Reserve and then you were called on to become the Marshal. So you had to leave the county, you couldn't be in charge of the Reserve Program, which was about 300 Reserves.

John: You had a police department that was as big as the DPS was in those days. How many Deputy Marshal's were there full time and Reserve's when you came over to be the Town Marshal?

Peter: There were very few Reserves. There was one really nice guy who was a dentist in town. I don't know any others – though only a couple of others.

John: A couple of full time Deputy Marshal's?

Peter: Oh no – these were Reservists

John: Reserve Marshal's, the dentist and a couple of others

Peter: The Department was some where around the mid-teens in size for the number of regular Deputies.

John: So in terms of all of Arizona, it was a pretty sizable law enforcement agency when you consider how many towns still had one Marshal or one Deputy. You had an agency that was probably in the top ten or fifteen percent by size when you came to Paradise Valley.

Peter: I hadn't thought of it that way. There were some problems in the Department that may or may not have contributed to not solving what turned out, after my investigation, a murder not just a "lost in the fire." It was premeditated murder.

John: I'm sure that got a lot of attention in news media. You took over as the Town Marshal under the eyes of the public as well as the media.

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Peter: Yes, there was some of that. We tried to keep that to a minimum. The guy that ran the Scottsdale Progress was sort of anti-police. I had problems with him later.

John: Was that Jonathan Marshal?

Peter: Yes

John: Well he made no bones about it. He was very liberal to say the least!

John: You take over this police department that is in crisis because of bad press and because you have come in, not as a stranger; they knew you both as a Town resident and as Town Councilman.

Peter: And I had been for one year – a Reserve Marshal for the Town.

John: What was the first thing you did to bring the Department back to the professionalism that Les Nauman had originally envisioned for a police department?

Peter: I was faced with one officer who was part of the problem in the Department and he had one buddy in the Department. I had nothing on them. I just knew they were a problem. Finally, after about a year, I went on vacation and he took a vacation while I was gone. He was in charge of the Department without even talking to the Town Manager, Oscar Butt, or even telling one of the other officers – one of the senior sergeants or somebody. So when I got back, that gave me the opportunity to fire him.

John: That's a pretty famous story that may even be known today in the Paradise Valley Police Department.

Peter: I was also able to eventually fire his buddy. They were the reasons that there had been problems in the Department. This guy was number two in the Department and he kept undermining everybody he didn't like. He was trying to run the Department without having the rank. Thank goodness they hadn't appointed him to be the Town Marshal.

John: That must have been the reason they brought you in. It must have been recognized by the Town Manager, Oscar Butt, that they needed fresh leadership.

Peter: That's true and Oscar and I worked very well together. He supported me every way possible. One way I gained some credibility or appreciation from the enlisted men or all of the members in the Department - they resented being called Town Marshal's in particular with the California cars they stopped. I went before the Council where I still had some good friends on the Council and asked if they

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wouldn't change it to a Police Department and make me a Police Chief. I didn't mind being the Marshal but some of the guys did. That's how it became a Police Department.

Louise: That's when they went from wearing brown (uniforms) with Stetsons and holsters to the blue uniforms.

Peter: Yes we went from brown to blue.

John: You have the reputation for not only continuing the professionalism that Les envisioned and I believe pretty much built, but you brought the Police Department out of the '40s and into the '70s - what was in those days pretty progressive for law enforcement. What kinds of other things did you do to bring the Department up to where it should be?

Louise: What about the computers and the alarms?

Peter: Yes, Tom bought an alarm system. I had a good friend who had been with Motorola, Onno Prinze. He was on his own and doing some high techy stuff so I asked him. He was interested in becoming a Reserve. We got him trained as a Reserve. He came over to set up the alarm system for us and also brought all of the computer stuff into the Department.

John: I knew him because he had been in the Dutch Underground against the Nazi's. He needed a certificate signed each year saying he was still alive. I signed it for him every year until he passed away. I went to his memorial service, which was about 5 years ago.

Peter: He installed the Town alarm system. It was not mandatory but a lot of people went on it. Is it still working?

John: Yes it is. The key thing is this was something the Residents wanted and that's why it still exists today.

John: Onno was the first supervisory level civilian the Department ever had. How did you come up with the idea of not a Deputy Chief but a kind of head of administration that would be a civilian rather than be lieutenant or a sergeant?

Peter: Well he was a reserve police officer but he was never a regular police officer. He had the technical knowledge to do it and did it well.

Peter: He was a bit older. His wartime stories were quite interesting. I'm glad he shared those with you.

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John: Yes I had some very enjoyable times with him.

John: In the police department today, there are still officers who talk of the Police Chief, you, who responded to an incident on one of the Town streets wearing a Bucky the Beaver T-shirt and helmet. Is this true or is this just a myth?

Peter: It's true but not in detail. The real story was that I was not on duty. I was playing tennis in my white tennis shorts and a tennis shirt. I got into my car and there was a call from Safeguard. Safeguard was checking a house and found a door open. He wanted a backup. I was just off the tennis court and only about 2 blocks away from where the thing was. I said I would be the backup. I showed up in my tenny's holding the guns - I didn't have my holster and regular uniform on - and backed him up. So that's how that story came about.

John: So there was no Bucky the Beaver T-shirt.

Peter: No, it was white tenny's.

Louise: Jonathan was young at the time and he used to have (toy) cars in the back of your car, the one you used for patrol, it had the light that you put on the top of the roof - unmarked and had the radio in the car. Sometimes you would have to pick up Jonathan and sometimes he had his toy cars rolling around in the back. One time someone caught that and made a comment. In general, he was right off the court at Paradise Valley Country Club playing tennis, which he was very active doing, with a lot of these people we know. Calls would come up and he would have his pulse on the whole community knowing everybody that was involved with Paradise Valley and outside and you would just listen and always be discrete even amongst the family. He knew all of the players. It was great.

John: Was there any particular incidents that might in hindsight be humorous that Town Residents and others in the future might like to hear from you.

Peter: The most notable thing that ever happened was while I was on vacation back east. A fellow who worked for the Wright family had his girlfriend in their gatehouse (the house had its own gatehouse) and the property owner ordered him off the property. The owner knew he was a bad guy. The girl was fine. He showed up one day fairly drunk and said: "come on baby, we are going to hold up banks and shoot police." Well he passed out in the gatehouse and went to sleep. She went up to the main house and called the police department. The sergeant and 2 officers came over. The sergeant went to the main house to interview her and the two officers were posted by the house - one hid behind a wooden fence that came up against a block wall.

John: Was that Ron Eck?

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Peter: Yes, Ron Eck was behind the oleander hedge and his police car. Bobby Van Camp was a sergeant at the time. The (bad) guy was asleep. The gal stayed at the main house and the sergeant interview her there. The dispatcher put out a call, which came over Ron Eck's radio and he heard what was obviously a police call. He came to the front door, which faced the wall where Bobby was and Ron was over there behind the hedge and behind his police car. He (the bad guy) had a shotgun with four rounds in it in his hands. He had 2 Smith and Wesson revolvers stuck in his belt and there were 2 rifles leaning up against the door. Those didn't figure in. He stood in the door and was looking around to see what was there. Bob came up from behind the fence, covering him, and said: "Drop your guns, police!" The guy shot at Bob with the shotgun. He hit the wooden part of the fence and Bob got a few splinters but no shot in him. There were six 45-caliber slugs. They were both shooting 45s. I let the guys shoot whatever they could handle well because they were buying their own guns when I took over. Bob had a 1911 and the other had a model 25 Smith and 45 Long Colt. There were six slugs in him. Bob had taken out the bridge of his nose when he was looking over where Ron was shooting. Ron got the shotgun. The guy had a heavy leather vest on so the only 2-buck shots from Ron were in his arms. He finally went down with the 45-caliber slug. He was tough and he kept shooting – finally he went down on his knees and then on his face. That was the scariest thing that happened and I wasn't even in town when it happened at the time.

Catherine: Where did this happen?

Louise: That was on the Wright (Carrie Wright) property over on Invergordon and Mockingbird – near the Indian Bend Wash.

John: It was later called the Mitchner property - James Mitchner, the author and now it is a small gated community. They had a posted rail fence that existed for many years after the houses were torn down. Ron Eck took me out to show me where he was (in this gun battle).

Peter: That was the biggest happening while I was there. I guess most of the time it was fairly tame. Traffic was our principle problem. I did have one fun incident. I did not give a lot of traffic tickets but every once in a while I would see something really egregious and I would stop the person and give him a ticket. The Chief Magistrate of the Paradise Valley Municipal Court spoke to me saying that he did not think it was dignified or proper for the Police Chief to be giving tickets. His wife had been on the Council with me. He had no authority over me to do that but I thought about it for a little bit and one time when I was coming back from a Rotary Lunch at Camelback Inn and just before I got to the Town Hall, I looked in my rear view mirror and there was a car cutting in and out of very busy post lunch traffic. He cut back so closely in front of somebody that they actually went off the road to avoid him. Then he came by me. I put on my light and I pulled him over – "she" as it

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turned out - right next to the Town Hall. She came out with painted nails flashing about to tear my eyes out. I got her to calm down and pointed out what she had done wrong. She said: "I'll see you in court!" I said: "Fine, that's what the court is for." About ten minutes later, in walks Jack Huntress. He said: "Put her there Chief!" I said: "What happened?" (Huntress said) "There's never a policeman around when you need one and you got that gal that forced me off the road."

John: The mayor was forced off the road!

Peter: Well he wasn't mayor then but he was the founding mayor of the Town. I said: "Jack, thank you for the compliment. You are here by subpoenaed to the court. " He said he would be happy to come. Remember now that the Chief Magistrate had told me he didn't like me to give tickets. I gave that ticket with a vengeance. Jack and I sat in the court when she came in the back of the court. I don't think he knew what was coming but the Chief Magistrate did and we called him "big bird" because he was a very tall lanky guy. Well "big bird" was in on it so he called Jack as his first witness. What could the Chief Magistrate, whose wife was mayor, when Jack Huntress said exactly what happened. This was the guy, who a few days earlier, was telling me he didn't want me to write tickets. Well he couldn't tell the Town Founder, Jack Huntress, a liar. Jack describes what had happened and of course he (the Chief Magistrate) had to find that girl "guilty, guilty." So that was my amusing story.

Catherine: Was that Von Ammon?

Peter: Yes, that was Phil (Von Ammon)

John: I was thinking that was who it was and that's one of the things that cut both ways in a great town like Paradise Valley. You, the magistrate and the mayor, everybody, all knew each other outside of the Town business. When something like that happens, there's other aspects to it than we're just enforcing the law.

Louise: Another thing my dad brought to the Town was he hired the first female police officers.

Peter: No, I actually wasn't the first. A friend of yours actually had been a reserve deputy.

Louise: No before that - you hired a cute little blonde that the Department was not happy about having a girl brought in.

Peter: Yes, she was a single mom who had come up from a little town south of the area. I knew the Town Chief there when she came in and applied for the job. I called him and he said: "I'd like to tell you that she's no good because I want to keep her."

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But she wants to get her son in a better school than we have down here and that's why she left us and wants to join you." That was fine but it didn't sit well with some people because Louise's friend had not done well as a reserve. That was the only female experience the Department had. On the very first night she was on the job, one of the guys who was most adamant about having a woman in the Department, made a traffic stop. He ran the plate and it came back "hot" – whether it was a stolen car – I don't know remember the details of why it was – maybe the driver was wanted and he asked for a back up and she came and everything settled peacefully. When he came in – here the guy that was so against her – several of them were – but he was the most – he said, "She came up and did everything absolutely right and in effect I have to eat my complaint." From there on in, she was very well accepted.

Louise: Wasn't there a "bar" scenario?

Peter: Yes and that's one of the reasons I took her. She had had a similar experience with a Hispanic sergeant that she worked under in this little town. When I talked about hiring her, the Chief told me that his guys were against hiring a girl and she was put as a training officer with a Hispanic sergeant. They had a bar fight call. They pulled into the parking lot and he said: "Alright little lady, you go in and take care of it."

Louise: It was a biker bar.

Peter: It was dead wrong of him. She went in and a few minutes later she came back and shoved the instigator of the fight into the car. So the Chief there told me: "I'd like to tell you she's no good, but I can't. I'm glad she's going with someone I know."

Louise: I always liked the way he always gave everyone a fair shot. Those that were the bad apples, he knew who they were too.

John: Mary Santa Maria, that was the police officer's name

Peter: Yes

Louise: A story I have is when I was 16 years old and just got my license. I had the tendency to have a bit of a lead foot and he said; "Not in my Town will you get a ticket or I will have to deal with you." So he made me drive a 1929 Model A pickup truck, that went tops 35 miles per hour. It did have running boards and spoke wheels, open cab, no windows but did have windshield wipers. I never did have a ticket in his Town.

Peter: That was the car the two of them (Louise and Jonathan) learned on.

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Louise: Do you want to say anything about the potholes on Lincoln and how the residents didn't want people driving through on Lincoln? Some of the residents wanted to keep all of the potholes in tack to keep the traffic off Lincoln. Did you have something to do with that as a Councilmember or as a Chief?

Peter: Peoria experimented with photo radar and rejected it. I got that they had been using it on a trial basis and our guys loved it. Traffic was the only big problem then except for the one shoot out and animals and things. Traffic was getting worse every year. I complained to the Phoenix mayor and said you are destroying our town with building all this new stuff right north of us. There was nothing up there originally. There was nothing I could do about it and there was nothing he could do about it. It just made Tatum and Lincoln really over loaded. I don't know what they've done about it now.

John: It's much better now. They built the 51 and 101 but when you were the Chief, there were no freeways. The only way to get north of the Phoenix Mountain Preserve was 7th Street way out there, Tatum and Scottsdale Road. So all of central Phoenix really needed to go through Paradise Valley. Can you tell us a little more about adopting the Photo Radar because to most people outside of the Town, that is the signature thing they know about us.

Peter: Do they like it? The people in the Town must appreciate it.

John: We've always had tremendous support not just from the residents, though there are always squeaky wheel, but also from the Council - the Council you served with and the Council since then.

John: Was there anything else in the Police Department or on the Town Council besides being the "Godfather" of Photo Radar and the Alarm System, that are your other main accomplishments?

Peter: Yes, I'll take some credit for both that happened on my watch

Louise: Was there any annexing of property?

John: I think there were some pretty major annexations and some really significant development agreements that set the conditions they were willing to come in.

Peter: The Town Attorney, Doug Jorden, my son Jonathan and I went around to get people north of Camelback Inn to sign on to join the Town. While I was Police Chief, I was getting so many complaints about people cutting through the Tatum curve going 25 mph. So I talked to Oscar Butt about it and I decided to go out there and parked my plain car but I had my red flashing spotlight. So I made a couple of stops. Then this car came by at 55 mph going south in a 25 - near Desert Fairways. I

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stopped him right at the Camelback Inn entrance on Lincoln. I walked up to the car with plain clothes but I had my badge on. The window was just cracked and the woman looked at my badge and she said: "But you don't understand officer, my hair is wet". So I gave her a ticket while driving with her hair wet!

Louise: Another funny one when somebody said the Town speed limit sign said 55mph..

Peter: Oh yes, that happened in court. They were charged going down McDonald, which was 25 miles an hour, and they were going 50 or 55. Well in the court, they pled that's what the sign said – 50 miles per hour. So I sent somebody out there. He said someone had stolen the 55 mph sign and placed it there afterward or after the event. But of course we couldn't prove that.

John: During this period of time, not only were you the Town Marshal and then the Police Chief but you were also the Town's traffic engineer by ordinance. Do you remember any of the road projects and things came up at this time?

Peter: I didn't know I was that (traffic engineer)

Louise: But in improving Lincoln – because that Mr. Von Ammon hated the idea – he wanted to keep it with potholes so people would avoid going through Town with their cars. Other people, much like my dad, were about making it smooth and safe - enforcing the laws – speed limits and stuff like that – but improvement of Lincoln was a big improvement as for access through the Town.

Mark: Do you remember when they wanted to build houses high on the mountain and you stopped that?

Peter: Yes while I was on the Council.

John: Do you remember during your second term as a Councilmember after you had retired as the Police Chief any big issues big controversies or big projects during that time you were on the Council?

Peter: The improvement of Lincoln Drive was the hottest issue we had to put up with. It was mandatory. We didn't get as much flack with doing Tatum – we got a lot of flack doing Lincoln. They said you couldn't do it. There was nothing you could do about it. You had to let the people through because those that lived here were stuck with all this traffic. Putting out all of their feelings and everything else – it was terrible.

John: For the record, this is when Lincoln became four lanes– before the islands were built – traffic calming type of islands. It required condemning land – on either

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side – back to people’s walls. There was a lot of financial negotiation. Kind of sticky wicket homeowners and things like that. Do you remember any personal dealing even if you don’t remember the names that you as a Councilmember listened had to – a squeaky wheel Town Resident?

Peter: There were two Councilmembers who were against doing anything. One of them lived in an area that was not like the rest of the Town – it was more like downtown Scottsdale - that one part in the east – down in the area of Scottsdale and Vista. He was very negative. There was another one who lived in Town whose wife ran the show. She was the Councilman but they fought tooth and nail not to widen Lincoln.

Catherine: Barbara Von Ammon in her interview talks about that as one of her big issues. She was for it and her husband was against it.

Peter: Barbara and I worked very well together not so much her husband.

John: What else would you like to tell us about anything related to the Town of Paradise Valley that we haven’t asked you?

Peter: It was a very quick decision on our part to move to there (Paradise Valley). It just appealed to both of us. We had lived in Albuquerque and been instrumental in turning a part of the county that was adjacent (to Albuquerque) that hadn’t been incorporated. I was very active in that – incorporating it as a separate town very much on the order of Paradise Valley. Peter (the younger) got on his horse. He was just a 10-year old kid. He went up and down and talked to people. He became an excellent salesman. We incorporated the town of Los Ranchos– it’s right along the river. I was transferred and I wanted to keep my job and do what I had done in Albuquerque office – to bring the Phoenix office back. I had moved it to Scottsdale.

Catherine: Where did you live after you sold the house on Indian Bend?

Peter: We moved up to Doubletree when the two older guys were just about to leave the nest. We crammed them into one room for a year or something. Then they each went their own way and got married.

Catherine: Were you neighbors with the Von Ammon’s?

Louise: Yes, right across the street – they were catty-corner.

Peter: We were in the process of moving from Indian Bend up to Doubletree. While the moving company was taking the refrigerator and furniture, the boys and I were unpacking stuff in the garage at the Doubletree house. And this “aberration” came stocking across the street. He came up to me and didn’t say howdy neighbor,

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welcome to the neighborhood or anything. He looked at me and said: "I don't want your two boys chasing after my daughter!"

Peter: That of course was Phil. The boys had not even looked across the street at her. I kept them busy unloading these boxes.

John: Did you build the house on Doubletree?

Peter: No, that was an interesting house. It has since been torn down.

Louise: The house was at 52nd and Martingale – right on the southwest corner. The entrance was on Martingale. Bruce Hally, from Discount Tire, lived right behind us.

Peter: It turned out that I came home late in the afternoon – it was starting to get dark and there was Mr. Hally with my wife chewing him out because he had suddenly lit up our place. He had put in a tennis court with lights for his girls. He put up a large garage or some kind of big building with a cupola on top that exceeded the height limit or something like that without getting permits. He could build his own business; he could build his own home the way he wanted.

Catherine: Were you close to the Tennis Club - where Tesseract is now? Was that there when you lived there?

Peter: The school was not there then. Liz Clendenon owned the Tennis Club, which was there. One night I got a call from the Department while I was asleep in bed and they told me they had a real problem with the lady and her kids. I went down to the police department in my bathrobe and here was Liz and her boy and a friend of his. They had thrown a party at the tennis club – a big party. Fortunately it was at the time of the shift change so there were extra policemen – every police car in town was there -this I found out later. When I got down to the police department, I stood there in my bathrobe and pajamas watching them in the conference room, the door was open, plotting about how they were going to get out of this. I just took it all in and one of the boys looked up and said: "What are you some kind of detective or something?"

Louise: What about Mrs. Tenny with her pharmacy on the corner of Tatum and Shea?

Peter: Oh yea, that could have been a real serious problem. When they built that little center up on Tatum and Shea, she was the first one in and we knew her kids – they went to school with ours. Before the place was really finished, the other office was completed. The pharmacy was set up in there. Two guys who had gotten out of jail or prison – I don't know which - that day couldn't wait to get their drugs. They spotted it. They thought it was in the City of Phoenix. They somehow or another

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had City of Phoenix police scanners. They went in through the unfinished office, through the wallboard and were helping themselves. The alarm went off and the (Paradise Valley) police got the call. They thought they were in Phoenix and were sure they were safe because the Phoenix radio hadn't said anything. The alarm had gone to Paradise Valley. Tony George, a policeman from the Paradise Valley, was standing there with a shotgun.

Louise Our house was burglarized during the "rock burglar" time. Dad was away – out of town – New Years Eve. They must have had my number for some reason – I live just a little bit north. My dad had sensors in the floor with the alarms as well. They (police) had surrounded the house with dogs and everything. The police wanted this guy because he had been terrorizing Paradise Valley. We were called and they had us waiting down on Martingale. They were going through the place with dogs because they were sure they were trapped inside somewhere. They had thrown the rock through the bathroom window.

John: You were also well known for your community involvement specifically through Rotary but some other things. For so many people you were the go to guy because you knew them from Rotary, Scouting, and Indian Guides etc. What can you tell us about your involvement?

Peter: I solved the problems in that (EF Hutton) office as I had done in Albuquerque and everything was going along fine until one person, whom I had refused to work for, was moved back from California and they wanted me to work as his assistant. He was the rising star but I said this guy was no good. I had been away from him for 2 years. I had been commissioner of the securities for the State of New Mexico where I had a run in with this guy and I wouldn't work for him any more. I had become a Reserve Deputy Marshal while I was manager of EF Hutton. Some bad guys were put in charge (of EF Hutton) and I quit and went to work with Jim Ray, who was a customer of mine. Seven years after I quit, the firm went down the tubes with 2200 felony counts against him and I had spotted the guy that was going to do it. They moved him from California to New York and put him in charge. It had been the fourth largest firm in the brokerage business. My dad who had been in the business in his own small firm was so proud that I was a manager at EF Hutton. It was a great firm. I guess I was doing something right because they moved me from Albuquerque to Phoenix, which was a great bump in pay to make the move.

John: You had your working life. You had your Town Council, Town Marshal, Police Chief but you were also active in many other things.

Peter: I stayed with Rotary when we moved up here (Flagstaff) and I'm still active. I teach the boy scouts how to shoot – firearm safety – to get their badges. I have a shooting range in the basement. Women come here too and get lessons on firearm safety. I was a police firearm instructor when I went to work for Paradise Valley.

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Shooting has always fascinated me. My dad cut me loose to take any of his guns to shoot when I was about 10 or 11 years old. He trained me. I don't think any of my students ever had any problems.

John: When did you get involved in Rotary?

Peter: I started in Albuquerque. When I moved to Paradise Valley, I joined the one that meets at Camelback Inn.

John: For the record, the Rotary Club of Scottsdale always met in Paradise Valley. It was the movers and shakers of Scottsdale and Phoenix.

John: Thank you for your time. It has been a pleasure