

**MARVIN DAVIS**  
**January 24, 2000**

Today is Friday, January 24, 2000. Ann Townsend and myself, Anne Andeen, are interviewing former Town Mayor Marvin Davis. Mr. Davis, may we have your permission to quote you in all or in part of this taped conversation?

Marvin: Yes.

Anne: First of all, for the records, when were you Mayor of the Town?

Marvin: I no longer remember the exact dates, but it's the Council just before the current Council.

Anne: It is 1996 through 1998.

Marvin: Roughly.

Ann: I'm curious of how you became interested in serving the Town. Have you done this where you lived previously?

Marvin: Our family moved here in 1987. I remember the exact date; it was May 27th. I had not served previously in Massachusetts where we came from, on neither the P&Z Commission nor any other public group. But I thought it a good way to get involved in the Town from the very beginning and it was something that I was interested in given my work as a lawyer. I knew a fair amount. I had some background in real estate and development. It seemed natural to offer at that time to be on the P&Z. I was selected at the time Kent Wick was the Mayor. There were two openings. Peter Lendrum was chosen first and I was chosen for the second opening. It was really interesting in getting involved with the Town, meeting some people as a newcomer, and doing it in an area where I thought I had some background. I was on the P&Z from '89 or '90 to the point where I joined the Council. On the P&Z, I served two and a half terms as

Chairman. The half term was because unfortunately the current Chairman had a heart attack and retired midstream.

Anne: Then you were on the Council thereafter?

Marvin: Did you say it was '98?

Ann: '96.

Marvin: I was sitting on the P&Z at the time that I ran for Council.

Anne: I know that you campaigned on preserving open spaces and the character of the Town. What do you think you've accomplished along those lines while you were Mayor?

Marvin: It's been almost two years since our Council stepped down and I haven't given this a whole lot of thought since then. So, I won't have a complete list. But things that come to mind in no order of importance. What you're doing now is something that we initiated. It was our initiative to form the Historical Committee and begin these interviews and work toward a book on the 40th anniversary. We appointed the first Committee with Joan Horne as the Chairman, and funded it. That's really the start. Other things that were first. You see some art on the walls that now rotate as exhibits. We were the first to begin that Committee as well.

Anne: That was one of my questions, if you had had a chance to further art, since we have a number of artists living here in the Town, if you had found a way to involve artists in the Town?

Marvin: What we had hoped to do and actually did start was to get a series of rotating exhibits that would use the Town Hall walls, and think of it not as a gallery, per se so much, but as a place for local people to exhibit. We had one such exhibit while our

Council sat and that Committee has continued. There have been at least two exhibits since then. So, I think we've been successful in that. I'm looking around for other things that I see that we initiated was to re-institute the award for the best worker. I forget what it's called right now.

Ann:           The Mary Ann Brines Exceptional Performance Award.

Marvin:       Yeah. That had been discontinued for a couple of years and we started it up again. Those are small things that I just see in front of me but there are a couple of others. On open space zoning, those are the keys to our Town, preserving the lifestyle. Lifestyle grows from the physical communities and keeping the zoning is very key to the lifestyle of the Town. The General Plan that existed at the time hadn't been revised, updated or seriously rethought for probably about 10 years. We did the first General Plan update in that period of time.

Anne:         That's a big job.

Marvin:       Oh, very big. Sylvia Yoder was the person who led the way with some others, including the current Chairman on the P&Z, George Adams. Then we had some people from the neighborhood, including an environmental designer from ASU, John Munier. It was a good Committee. It was effective, and within our short Council period, which was only two years, the General Plan was completely redone and got passed. I think that was one of the things that really brought most people in the Town together. Everyone was very supportive and appreciated the results. When I go to the Council meetings, it is still referred back to as the authority. The Plan says this is what we should aim for and then the comparison is made as to whether the proposal complies with the plan or not. I think that was key. One more, and I'm thinking as we go, is that for maybe

ten years or so, various people have tried to start a Mummy Mountain Preserve or Trust. We accomplished that. We formed a Trust, drafted the instrument, formed a Committee, and again within that short two-year period, actually had as much land as the Town owned transferred into the Trust, and it continues today. That's five things off-hand without giving it a whole lot of thought.

Anne: I think that's pretty good.

Ann: Wonderful, and in only two years.

Anne: Those were a few things that I was interested in discussing. Did you have any impact on the hillside zoning?

Marvin: The Hillside Ordinance existed before us. We updated and amended some of the administrative procedures. The selection of the head of that review Committee was modified to some extent. The key regulations as to what you build and how much you can disturb were already in place.

Anne: Did you have a question about that?

Ann: No, are there any particular things in the grand scale of focusing for the future you felt was more important than others? Any particular items you thought were more critical?

Marvin: What's special about the Town is the physical place, which means that it has still the resemblance of a desert community. As you build more and more houses, the land gets cleared. But to the extent that your General Plan updates and your zoning ordinances, and then just the way in which you handle proposals in front of the Council or the P&Z, to the extent that you preserve the zoning codes, you then preserve in turn the physical place, which then allows you to preserve the lifestyle. All that is key and I

think consistent with all the other Councils before us who also keyed in and preserved the Town through its zoning code. As the groups go forward, I think that will remain the key. If it ever was not, then the Town would change dramatically. We did have a few inquiries, mostly to me directly rather than through applications to the Council, about some of the parcels in Town that have not yet been developed. Most of those are on arterials and they could potentially go commercial. We were able to discourage people sufficiently so that those commercial applications didn't come forward. The challenges to the Town as it goes forward are what to do with a single acre at Tatum and Lincoln because it's hard to put a residence there and it's hard to know what to do with it. There's some space at Doubletree and Scottsdale Road, which is sufficient for a subdivision. When I first joined the Planning and Zoning, there were no residential subdivisions at Lincoln and Tatum. But we encouraged and actually brought in builders who have now completely built out two successful subdivisions there. At that time when I joined there was empty space where now exists Cheney Estates and Cheney Place. Both of those, because they were on Scottsdale, were thought to be potential commercial sites, or at least sites for a higher density than R-43. We were able to actually go out and seek and then encourage applications that would bring R-43 zoning and residential subdivisions, all of which were high-end and successful to those corners. There's a few such places left. I mentioned Doubletree and Scottsdale. In the other direction, as you go towards Jackrabbit and Scottsdale, there's an open space there that's been of interest to Scottsdale North Hospital, and other commercial users. The challenge right now is to encourage residential builders to come to those areas so that the Town becomes completely built out with residential and the threat of commercial no longer is there.

The second challenge. The Mummy Mountain Trust went a long way to preserving land that the Town owned and giving the vehicle for people to contribute new properties to the Trust. We focused on land that was about 1500 feet elevation and above. That's not simply the top of the mountain, but it also doesn't extend all the way down to the bottom. The 1500-foot elevation is consistent with what they have done at Camelback Mountain. All that land above the 1500-foot mark is in a trust that was originally set up by Phoenix. That was essentially the model. But with a mountain, you can't just simply draw a line all the way around and think that 1500 is the right elevation. So we're trying for everything that has any height to it at all. As we go forward, the more that we can provide in estate planning vehicle or other reasons for people to contribute to the Trust, the more we will preserve the mountain and have something visual that will benefit everyone. There are a couple applications pending that date long, long back that threatens that. The current one is the Donahoe property and the Town, in my mind, had a vehicle to put that into the Trust. Our Council started a condemnation suit but the current Council decided not to continue that suit. Now they need another solution. There's just a few, really two or three parcels like that, which if put in the trust, then the crest of the mountain would be preserved forever. There's the Donahoe property and at the end of upper Glen Drive there's some property owned by a single individual. There were four or five lots up there, we've got all but one and put it into the Trust. There's one remaining which is at the far end of upper Glen Drive. It's a very difficult place to build. For engineering reasons, it may never be developed, but it's still in private hands. I would like to see the land on top of the mountain, high up, purchased, if necessary, or obtained through donations and put in the Trust. Some will think that we should not purchase

because it's expensive and could set a precedent of sorts, but I think for what you're obtaining, the money isn't really the issue. You're just trying to preserve the mountain and once gone, it's gone forever and there's no way of getting it back.

Anne: I just read that Scottsdale has secured 240 acres more in the McDowell Mountains.

Marvin: And they purchased them.

Anne: I think everyone is getting on the bandwagon to preserve what we have.

Marvin: Toward upper Glen Drive, when we purchased the four lots, all but one that's left there. I don't remember the purchase being criticized. I thought there was Town support for it because the result was a good one.

Ann: This one lot, are they holding out or is it just not for sale?

Marvin: It was not for sale at the time. It was in the hands of two private people. We bought everything that one of those persons must have had or owned but the second person just wasn't ready to sell.

Ann: Come back down the mountain a little bit, do you have any suggestions for the northeast corner of Tatum and Lincoln, the lot you were referring to a few minutes ago that was a problem lot?

Marvin: It's approximately one acre. I know there are current plans to put a right turn deceleration lane at that corner. Even with that right turn deceleration lane put in, there would still be a remaining one-acre, so it could be built. However, it will be difficult.

Ann: Who wants a home on the corner where 100,000 cars go through the intersection every day?

Anne: I know when my husband was on Council, they thought that would be a good place for the Town to have its library, apart from Town Hall. And it wouldn't be a commercial enterprise necessarily but it wouldn't be a residential either.

Marvin: I will come to that question again. There's another one-acre lot at Mockingbird and Cheney. The owner of the lot at Tatum and Lincoln at times has wanted to exchange his lot for the lot at Mockingbird and Cheney which is owned by the Town. That can be built as a residence. It's also one acre. Then if the Town owns the lot at Lincoln and Tatum, you could at least preserve it against the threat of commercial. If it had no other use, you could make that into a public space that was well planted and be more attractive. That's important in its own right, but it would also take the threat out that it would be used for anything that we didn't want. Now a potential use are residence or for some public facility as you suggested a library. When the Town thought it needed a second fire station, that was considered. It's a busy corner but it was at least considered. But some other public use like that. But even a pocket park or just a landscaped open space would be of good use and a protective use. And the Town at the moment probably has no use for the acre it owns on Mockingbird. If that private owner was still interested, it's at least something to explore.

Ann: That would be very interesting. It seems like a nice fair trade too. It's a nice location at Cheney and Mockingbird.

Anne: I would think it's far better residential at Mockingbird than all those cars going at Tatum.

Marvin: The property at Mockingbird, because it's on flat land, is not a candidate for going into the Trust either. The Town, at the moment, I'm not aware it has any

intended use for it. I think it's at least worth considering. There's always other ways to slice the apple. I'm no longer involved in those discussions. During the period of our Council that was at least a consideration.

Ann: Do you know why the owner of the lot at Lincoln and Tatum is not pursuing that?

Marvin: No I don't.

Ann: I'm curious, it seems like such a good deal on trade and we could use a lot more plantings at that corner to reduce the carbon dioxide.

Marvin: Exactly.

Ann: It would be beneficial to humanity as well as the individual.

Anne: It would look nicer. Were there any changes or should there have been some changes in Town services in your opinion, for example, garbage, fire?

Marvin: One of the things that you could add to our credit and others might think not is that we gave more attention than previous Councils to just what kind of services and infrastructure improvements should be provided. Because the Town doesn't have a property tax, and I support that, the Town historically has not provided services. We have contract fire protection and we have police protection. Apart from that, individuals contract on their own for garbage or whatever else they might want. But because we don't have property taxes, it has also meant that we have not tried to get into the water business like most cities do so they have control over the mesh that supplies the water. And we do not have our own wastewater treatment system and we do not have other things where we control utilities that most towns or cities try to do. But during our term, we at least tried to get a handle on the kind of infrastructure improvements that would be

needed over about a 25-year period. We actively started a program over a shorter period to replace all the recreational paths and sidewalks, and to extend them more. By the end of our Council term, there was a list which prioritized every rec path and sidewalk in need of repair and where new sidewalks would go. Historically, we haven't catered to the walker or to the young kid who doesn't drive. But at least it's a start. This will still predominantly be a driving community, but it does no harm to have places to walk as well.

Ann: Just out of curiosity, do you have any idea of how many miles of walkway there are?

Marvin: I don't know what the miles was but we put in about \$200,000, or something like that. I forget now the exact amount, but we had a dollar figure that we spent each year, whatever mileage that bought is what we did. I might be inaccurate on this so you might want to check, but what comes to mind, and this is a couple of years old now, is \$200,000 for each of those two years to build whatever that purchased. At the same time, water supply is given through private companies and that's easy administratively for the Town. But we have two or three and their service has not been uniform throughout the Town, and in parts of the Town, including where the Andeen family lives, the water pressure has not been up to par. During that period, we did negotiate with the City of Phoenix and were successful in getting them to update the system that serves that part of Town. That required an expenditure of nearly \$9 million dollars to put in new booster pumps to push the water up the mountain and to lay new pipe to carry it. I know at the time there was a slow down in construction because you couldn't approve lots that wouldn't have domestic water service. That has changed. Lots

that could not be sold then can be sold now. People who didn't have force in their showers in the morning now have it. That was part of a coordinated effort just to get a handle on the water companies and bring them up to a minimum standard. It wasn't simply in your area of Town, all of the companies, because they were left on their own, needed a little oversight.

Of course the big controversy in our Council had to do with sewer service. We successfully negotiated for Phoenix to provide sewer service to the west half the Town. Our negotiations with Scottsdale were a little bit more difficult. There was roughly a ten-year period of neglect where there was no contract with Scottsdale or Phoenix. As a result, there's no certainty about the services and how many new people could be tied in. I wouldn't suggest that the Town should be in the wastewater sewage business; that's a big expenditure for a Town our size. And it was always my preference not to have a treatment plant in our Town. Of course, that was the result. But in the course of those negotiations trying to bring things up after a ten-year period of neglect, bring them up to speed and bring prices current, services current. The big jump that occurred when something was silence for ten years and then came forward ten years later was controversial and a difficult period. But we now have sewer service for everyone; Phoenix and Scottsdale, to the point where at full build out, there will be service. And that would not have been the case without those negotiations.

We also have a capital improvement plan over 25 years to install sewer mains in every part of Town, which has never been the case. Our Town was founded at a time when septic systems were the norm and that's what most people have. Septic systems have a life span and they can be replaced but the County policy is to abate them so that

they eventually disappear. Again I forget the exact numbers, but we now have an improvement plan over a 25-year period that will bring a sewer main within a quarter mile of every house in the Town. And should a street want to tie into the sewer main, there's also a program where the Town assists them to bring those lines from the street to the sewer main. Long term that was significant though it's probably not well appreciated. The news didn't get out as well as it could but that was a significant improvement for the Town.

Anne: When you mention sewer lines, I'm thinking of underground lines.

Marvin: That program for undergrounding electric utility lines was started several Councils before ours and we continued it under the existing contract. I won't say that we added to that but we facilitated it by hiring someone full time to oversee the districts. All of the Town was divided into districts, and I forget the exact number. Now there's a full time employee, Bob Ciccarelli, who organizes those districts, educates the people as to what they could and could not do, how much it will cost and then simply organizes the project. So in our period there were a lot of those districts that actually came to fruition and subscribed their money so that the undergrounding took place. The history of that is that the contract had been place for years but no one was undergrounding because we never got around to it. It was a partial payment from the Town and a partial payment from the services. But we never got around to collecting any money from the residents so nothing actually went underground. But that's happening more and more now and part of the influence is that the contract expires relatively soon. If we don't use the money that was available, then it would be gone. I believe that most of the districts that want to

underground are now organized and are just waiting for their turn to get the contractor to come and do their area.

Anne: As far as garbage collection is concerned, we have three that serve the Town.

Marvin: There's three that serve the Town.

Anne: Were there that many serving the Town when you were Mayor?

Marvin: Yes. There was a discussion about a master contract with one or more garbage collectors.

Anne: It seems that somebody always has their trash out every day of the week and there's always a truck going by.

Marvin: Right. The focus is that since there's three companies and three separate schedules, there's always a loud and noisy truck coming by very early in the morning and could we be better served if there was either one schedule with one company maybe under a master contract, or if the Town was going to take on that service. We considered it late in our second year. The Town itself again did not want to take on the service. There's an administrative burden there and just the expense because we don't have a tax base; we'd have to install a tax. But there's another way to skin that cat by having a master contract analogous to our master contract with Rural/Metro. Give the service to one company and you set the standards and you'd oversee the standards. Now that's some administration, but far less than taking on the service yourself. I believe that discussion continues. We did not complete it at the time when our Council stepped down. I don't know if it's been pursued by the current Council. But the direction that things were going at the time was to have a master contract like the Rural/Metro contract where we set the

standards and the schedule so that at a minimum, there would be one truck, and only one truck, maybe twice a week going through the neighborhood. It wouldn't be as it is now in some places where you have three trucks disturbing your neighborhood. Again, I don't know the status of that discussion with the current Council.

Anne:           Was there any discussion during your time about the width of streets and traffic problems?

Marvin:        Yes, traffic, as a problem was a high concern. Traffic engineering as a concept was the focus of much attention. At the time when many of the subdivisions in the Town were built, traffic engineering principles emphasized broad streets so that cars would be separate from each other. What they found an unintended consequence of the wide streets was that cars were separate but they went very fast because there was more room to speed. In those earlier subdivisions, you'll find also had a lot of straight streets. The current thinking on traffic engineering is that if you have curvilinear streets so that there's not a straight tract for people to speed. And second, if you have a narrower street, there's a perception that you don't go as fast because there's less space. Understand that there's a rotation where all the streets get either slurry sealed, or repaved, or refurbished in some way and then stripped. Every street is prioritized and there's a time period when you know your street is going to get done. When that was done, at the time those streets were then re-stripped, in many instances, we did narrow them so that the appearance would act as a traffic deterrent. On a few select streets, there were also other traffic calming devices added. In the past, the Town has used speed humps and bumps, the difference being the height. We still use humps and bumps -- humps are lower than the bumps and cause less potential damage to the car as you go over it. We used those on

Quail Run, but we used them elsewhere as well. The new traffic-calming device that we started to install is the roundabout at Indian Bend. There are other things in the middle of the road on 52nd Street, and there are some pavers in certain areas where you know you are entering the Town because it goes clickty-clack and it is time to slow down to a residential speed limit. Of course, there are the posted signs and other traffic engineering methods with two additional policemen hired and a couple of extra motorcycle bikes just so there would be more presence.

Traffic was a focus. Another useful traffic calming device was to try to orient the traffic so that it stayed on our main streets and would not bypass through the neighborhoods. Some of that was done through "No Left Turn" signs during certain periods. Some of it was done just by barricading one end of what would have been a bypass. For example, if you were on Mockingbird and you were going to go down Horseshoe Lane, you could come out on Lincoln, up to the point about eight or nine years ago when that neighborhood put in a barrier and then landscaped it. So that bypass doesn't exist anymore. Things like that were done in other areas where the commuter traffic were using neighborhood roads to bypass the busy arterial. The goal was to put them back onto the arterials.

I mentioned previously that we had updated the General Plan for the first time in roughly ten years. Well the older General Plan was focused on zoning and land use, but it did not have a circulation component. So we added a circulation component and addressed these kinds of issues about bypass traffic and traffic calming.

Ann:            Would you define circulation component?

Marvin: Circulation is just how traffic moves in and out. Some of it is cars and some of it is pedestrian and some of it is bikes. You'll find now that you have more streets striped with bicycle lanes than ever before. You have more recreation paths for people to walk and you have the attempt, successful or not, I can't say, to put the cars on the arterial streets. I think we are successful in keeping the commuter traffic along Lincoln, McDonald and Tatum, and not on little streets like Horseshoe or wherever. We can't be totally successful because people go where there's least resistance. It was a new portion of the General Plan to include the circulation system as essential. I think that was the beginning of the focus for traffic calming. It helped that certain neighborhoods wanted to change their street patterns.

Anne: A few years have passed since you've been in office and I'm wondering if there is anything you would have done differently or would have liked to see done differently?

Marvin: Yes, but no comment.

Ann: Then how can future Councils grow and improve without your advice?

Marvin: Of course there is. Two years is a short period and some of us on that Council has been working with the Town and active in the Town Hall for nearly 10 years. Through my P&Z experience, I've been here one or two nights a week for almost 10 years. You have some sense of what you want to do when you come in. There were other people on the Council who had never served the Town before in any capacity and I believe there was a start up period so that it took awhile for them to get an orientation to know what they wanted to do and how best to get it done. In either case, whether you start in running or have a start-up period, two years is a very short period. There is

always a sense of things left undone. It was during our Council that we also passed a new -- it wasn't by ordinance, it was by referendum, meaning a vote of all the people in the Town, that the terms got extended to four years. As of the next Council, not the current one but the next Council, four of those people will serve for four years. I think they will have a better chance to complete things that they started.

I believe that we did a whole lot that of things that continue, like your Committee, the art, the Mary Ann Brines, the Mummy Mountain Trust, the General Plan and so forth. I'm sure that with another two years, there would have even more.

Anne:           You hardly get settled in, then you're planning to run again so that takes your attention.

Marvin:          That's right. About a year and a half after you're into it, some people are thinking of running again. So there's always a sense of being incomplete. I'll say also that you have no control over who you serve with. It takes awhile for that group to meld together, sometimes it does and sometimes it doesn't. But the success of the Council depends on a large part of who else is there. If you really want to be most efficient and get the most done, it is sometimes dependent on how that group comes together or doesn't.

Ann:            I'd like to know about your vision or what you think should happen on this Flood Control issue problem at Doubletree and Cherokee Wash?

Marvin:          That's an issue that dates back not just to our Council but to the Council before. We were one of the Councils that did fund the design period. I think we funded a 20% or 30% stage. We were interested to know whether the flood problems at that corner could be solved and how it could best be done. The balance there is hard to strike

because if you look at just the number of houses that are potentially threatened by flood, it's not a great number. But if you think on the other hand of what the responsibility of the Town is, even though it may not be a great number of houses, avoiding flood damage is something the Town probably should be responsible for. The issue then is if you want to do it, how best to get it done so that you help those who are in danger but don't cause too much expense or inconvenience to those who are not. Since most of the flood problem is focused on a single corner, you could call it a neighborhood concern, but when you're sitting on the Town Council, you have to think of it as something for the Town as a whole. I think that's probably why you have some disagreement among the neighbors now as to whether the Town should be focused on it or not. I think the notion of public service extends beyond the local neighborhood interest and therefore, it's proper for the Town to try to find a solution. I am not by training an engineer and never really understood what the best solution should be. I thought it useful though to fund enough of the design to know first if we can solve the problem, then what impact it would have. I also found it useful, and we were successful in getting the County at that time to commit to pay the lion's share of the cost. But when it started, it was about a \$12 million dollar project and the County committed to about \$9 million. I think those numbers have probably changed now but I don't know in which direction. At the time, relatively speaking, it was expensive, but the burden was mostly on the County. If it could have solved the problem, then I would have supported it. It's moved a lot since our time and I don't know what the technical solution being offered is right now. I'm not really in a position to say whether I now support the solution.

Ann: But you liked the solution the engineers came up with at the time of your administration?

Marvin: At the time, they were going to put what was essentially a large pipe underneath Doubletree Road so the water flowed underneath the street. In conjunction with that, they would have widened Doubletree and gotten rid of the irrigation ditch on the side. I think that was consistent with what was done on the other end of Doubletree towards Scottsdale. All of Doubletree would have been improved. The houses would have been brought out of danger and there was an expense and you should never ignore the cost of things, but long term, that should not be what pushes you toward a decision one way or the other.

Ann: It's quite a dilemma. I think it takes a good flood for people to see it again. Those who haven't lived around there assume it's not so bad.

Marvin: The focus now is on Doubletree. But our immediate concern was actually with the Cherokee Wash. First we spent the money to clean up the Wash so there would be a place for water to flow. Then we passed new ordinances so that it became a nuisance to throw stuff into any wash to impede water flow. Those are natural washes, of course. But we tried to address what had been a chronic problem in the natural washes in that people were using them as the dump. I believe nowadays, Cherokee and the other washes in Town serve better as a result. But we never did solve Doubletree because the design work never got past that initial stage.

Ann: Were you ever able to get Phoenix to participate because it's my understanding some of the work they had done from years past actually facilitated more

water coming than was originally? I had heard that they were balking and didn't want to help with a solution.

Marvin: Our efforts were mostly with the County Flood Control. I wasn't aware of what you're referring to about Phoenix though. We were not talking to Phoenix and I think the proper jurisdiction is with the County Flood Control District. What we also do nowadays is have retention in each subdivision so that there is both retention and detention. But in any event, the water no longer sheet flows as we used to allow in the past. Part of the problem with that corner is water coming down the mountain just to the west and sheet flowing across these properties. It is difficult to retain or detain water on a mountain, but there is other flow from the flatter portion of the land that could have been handled differently over time, going way, way back. We have better control on this during the subdivision process now. We do have it now, but historically, we didn't have retention onsite.

Anne: Any other questions?

Ann: I'm just curious. This isn't really on all the political stuff we've been talking which you shared with us so well. I understand you have a doctorate in anthropology? I just find it fascinating from anthropology to real estate attorney. Did you teach anthropology in a university?

Marvin: Law is really a second career. The first career I was a university professor and have a Ph.D in Anthropology from the University of Chicago. I taught roughly from 1973 to 1987. My fieldwork was in a village in India, where I lived for four years. At the time, I spoke Bengali fluently and I have two published books, one from Cambridge University Press. I enjoy teaching and when I first began practicing law, I actually taught

at ASU in the Anthropology Department in the evening, until two jobs became too much. I enjoy teaching, but at the same time, after doing it for roughly 15 years, I wanted to expand a little. The transition was not as great as it might first appear because at that time, my focus was due processing outside of a court setting. I was teaching that course in part to law students at Harvard Law School. In that context, it wasn't too hard to get interested in law proper. I was also sponsored by the National Science Foundation to do studies on what was then called de-institutionalizing dispute processing, now called alternative forms of dispute processing. But the question was how best to settle things without going through the expense and time of formal litigation, not simply in the U.S. but around the world comparisons were made. That was prime material for the anthropologist, but you can see how easily transition to a law course.

Anne: I see it now but I didn't make the connection before your explanation.

Marvin: Even as I was teaching anthropology, but focused on dispute processing, I was going to law school and have a law degree. Now I practice law full time. As I said though, when I first began practicing law, I continued teaching. Frankly, I think I gave up teaching at the time I joined the P&Z in this Town because then there would have been three jobs.

Ann: P&Z is a full-time job, especially now that we're in a period of quite a boon for building. What particularly did you do in India? You said you spent four years there.

Marvin: I lived in a village in West Bengal by the name of Dharapur. My initial topic had to do with the caste system, and how people were linked by their behavior and other attributes. I ended up writing about dispute processing.

Ann: Did the caste system get involved in disputes in the sense of one feeling where they are in a certain caste of getting along or not getting along with someone else of another caste in the village?

Marvin: The short answer is yes but I'm not going to expand too much. But after writing about caste, I wrote about dispute processing, and then I wrote about the extension of modern political and legal systems from Delhi and other big cities into the villages, and that was under the general heading of modernization theory. In roughly 15 years, you go from topic to topic, but for me it was always focused on India, and then to a lesser extent on Bangladesh.

Ann: What made you choose India as your concentration of study?

Marvin: I went to college in the '60's. In the '60's, India was a popular destination. Many people take their third year of college and go to France, or Mexico, or places like that. I went to India. I stayed there for about 15 months.

Anne: Did you already have the language facility or did you learn it as you went?

Marvin: At that time, I didn't. I was an undergraduate and I had to learn it there. Universities in India are taught in English. But when you leave the university and travel around, I picked up the local language. The neat thing that happened in that 15-month period is earning an MA degree from the University of Annamalainagar in Tamil Nadu, Madras State. Now called Tamilnadu. When I came back, I was still an undergraduate, but in India I had an MA degree. That first exposure solidified my thoughts about doing anthropology, and I went on to graduate school. But in those days, there was money to learn what were called critical languages. India was then one of those countries that was considered critical to the national interest where there was a lot support for language

studies. I did have roughly three years of course work in languages before I went back to India as a doctoral candidate. I lived in the village again for another year, and then kept going back and forth after I had my doctorate and was teaching for renewed periods of research.

Ann: Was Gandhi an influence on your life then?

Marvin: By reading. He was not alive at the time. But I did meet Nehru. I was about the same age as his daughter whom you know is Indira Gandhi. At the time I knew the family and I occasionally visited with them.

Ann: You've led a very fascinating life.

Anne: We thank you very much for sharing with us and taking time out of your very busy, busy day. We appreciate it very much.

Marvin: Thank you, it's been fun.