

HELEN HAROLD
January 19, 2000

Today is Wednesday, January 19, 2000. Anne Andeen and myself, Ann Townsend, interviewers for the Town of Paradise Valley, are privileged to interview Helen Harold, a long time resident of the Town and active member of the PRIDE Committee, a committee that has done much to improve the looks of our Town. Thank you, Mrs. Harold, for allowing us to interview you today. May we have your permission to quote you in all or in part of this conversation?

Helen: Sure.

Ann: Thank you. Tell us, are you a native Arizonan?

Helen: No, I went to ASU in 1939/42, so I've known the State for a long time. I went away then and didn't come back until 1955, with my husband, an English trained doctor.

He decided to practice here. We lived in an apartment for a couple of years and were always driving around for some place to buy and found this house for sale on the desert.

We came by and looked at it, liked it and bought it.

Ann: And that was here in what would become the Town of Paradise Valley?

Helen: That's this house.

Anne: We didn't know him real well, but we were acquainted with him.

Helen: We had it appraised. He figured a high-class development was going to spring from the Biltmore to Paradise Valley Country Club. The area you want to buy in is going to be totally overlooked and no one is ever going to want to live there.

Ann: Isn't it wonderful that he was very, very wrong.

Anne: I bet he lived to regret those words.

Helen: I imagine he forgot them as quickly as possible because within a year of our buying the house, Barry Goldwater started building his house. All of a sudden, we became a very hot property.

Ann: Have you always been involved in Town improvements from the time that you moved here?

Helen: There was no Town when we moved here. Becky Madden lived down on Stanford and she really spear-headed this area, petitioning for annexation to the Town. The Town had only been founded for about six months. Phoenix was trying to annex us, and instead of just taking a vote on this area, they were including an area from Camelback or the canal, all the way north of the mountain. Because the people north of the mountain wanted city services so badly, they were 100% for annexation. We would have been annexed willy-nilly. At that point, Phoenix did not have an acre zoning category. Becky organized people, we carried petitions, and got accepted in the Town. I suppose because of that, I kept on going.

Ann: After the annexation, what was your first project?

Helen: The first thing I found in my files was a letter written in 1967 to Jack Huntress saying we've got too much traffic on Palo Christi, please can we do something?

We had a neighborhood meeting at the old Town Hall, and they said yes, they'd do something and here we are. But they haven't really done anything. Now through the younger women who live on the street with young children, it's starting all over again.

The only thing that helped the traffic was Phoenix building 32nd Street. The traffic now is about half of what it was before 32nd Street.

Ann: Do a lot of people come down off Lincoln and try to cut through the Palo Cristi and

down to Stanford?

Helen: Yeah. At first we thought it was mostly Phoenix Country Day School, but it really isn't.

Anne: Commuters in a hurry.

Helen: Starting in the northwest and going to the southeast, they cut through. I don't think the Town really believes it, but they did some counts. I carried petitions for undergrounding utilities on the street, and that took seven years, because SRP had never done it before and really didn't want to do it. Then we agitated together to get a recreation path out front. And then we had a neighborhood cooperative group with the Town to plant the area between the walk and the road. Town paid for planting it if we paid for the trees.

Anne: Did you lead that effort? And was that before the PRIDE Committee was established?

Helen: Yes.

Ann: My next question is, did you establish the PRIDE Committee?

Helen: It was David Hann's request.

Ann: How long has the PRIDE Committee been going on?

Helen: It's been over six years because David was Mayor, then Joan Horne, and then Marvin Davis.

Ann: You brought the issues and the needs up before the Council, backed it up with proof, and submitted the facts.

Helen: And they would say, "Yes, we'll do it," or No, we won't." PRIDE has not been active at all for the last two years.

Ann: You are still meeting though, aren't you?

Helen: Yes, we meet. At the moment we've been meeting because Dan Schweiker decided to get into it to get bus stops. Then we started pushing for, not bus stops, but bus benches, because the stops are already there. The RPTA already said where the buses are going to stop. So we thought we ought to add benches and shade. Finally, the Council has decided that it isn't too bad an idea. So we've been meeting to come up with some kind of a design.

Ann: Are you designing it or do you have connections with somebody who can do design and material suggestions?

Helen: We may get some professional input on the choice of the bench. They really have to go to the RPTA, which is the Regional Public Transportation Authority, because there are certain regulations laid out by the ADA that you have to have access for wheelchairs. I think there are regulations about the height of the bench and whether you have to have a back on it. I'd rather not have the back.

Anne: Is Tatum the only place that has bus stops? I don't think I've ever seen one.

Helen: Well, you wouldn't. There's just a little sign. There are 17 in the Town, mostly on Tatum and a few on Shea. There aren't any on Lincoln because the bus is stopped on 32nd Street, or maybe even on 24th Street, and then it doesn't start again until Tatum. We really don't want one of those metal things that Phoenix has and we don't want any of the creative metal trees that Scottsdale has. We merely want a desert shade tree with a bench under it. It would be nice if it's inside a development or resort, where there can be a water fountain. People who walk or run often carry their own water. It's one amenity that the Town could provide its residents.

Ann: That is a good idea.

Helen: There was a time when any resort asking for remodeling or restoration, was also asked to put a public water fountain where it could be accessible. Some of them have, not out in front, but they put them within the complex. Of course, one organization that doesn't have a water fountain outside is the Town of Paradise Valley. I think they have now put one inside the post office which we had really hoped would be outside the post office. They put one inside the police building instead of outside the building.

Ann: I wonder if they are concerned about vandalism.

Helen: If they can't protect their own complex, Lord help us. Although someone stole my Christmas Star this Christmas. I've had it for twenty years. I had it made and the man who made it said he would never make another one. Why would someone steal a Christmas Star? What would they do with it?

Ann: I don't know, just to be ugly, I guess.

Anne: It was probably at Park 'n Swap the next day.

Helen: Mountain Shadows. It interests me that so many of the Town's previous mayors and council members have or are living there because when Jim Paul wanted to get the zoning for it... He went on to develop Rawhide later. He got the zoning and built it and all the people in the area were so furious that they got incorporation papers.

Now they're all moving in there. I can see that if you don't want to maintain a lot of land around your house, it is easier to live there.

Ann: Probably a lot of them came so much later that it wasn't an issue with them. Was Colonia Miramonte established before Mountain Shadows? It is a very similar set-up.

Helen: After Mountain Shadows, and I don't remember much of an uproar because it

wasn't in the Town then. They applied for annexation later. Over the years, I've been to so many Council meetings and Planning and Zoning meetings where the developers would think they were going to do that, and on and on. Everything the Town has done restrictively throughout the years made the land more valuable. Some people who have land have profited from it but the major people who profited are the developers and builders.

Ann: On of the things that has made our Town more valuable are the wonderful things you have accomplished. You've been saying how you didn't think you had accomplished much in a way, but how much nicer our Town is thanks to you. We have trees in the medians and we have sidewalks, for example.

Anne: And it's tastefully done.

Ann: This is such a beautiful home and I can understand why you want to stay here, but I'd wish you would live in other pockets of town because you have been so incredibly successful in improving the areas in your neighborhood. Other parts of our Town need your influence.

Helen: We did have a neighborhood Town cooperative arrangement where a group of neighbors could come in and say, this is what they wanted to do.

Anne: I didn't know that, Helen.

Helen: The Town would pay for a landscape architect to tell them you need five desert trees, desert bushes, or whatever. Then the Town would order them wholesale and the landscape architect would put in the flags and the Town would plant it. Then it was your responsibility to maintain them. Now Camelback Country Club took advantage of it.

Some neighbors on Tatum, between Lincoln and McDonald on the west side of Tatum,

also took advantage of it. That's not as good as it could be because they switched some plants. They got all the approvals for the landscape design and had a very good landscaper, and then the project was sold. Someone called a new landscaper who had the idea that since somebody else's landscaping had been approved, he shouldn't use it. So he went off on his own task which wasn't very good. But the two developments on Lincoln south came in and wanted a walk and plantings. It really looks terrific compared to what it use to. I think there are a lot of neighborhoods in Town that can benefit from this program.

Anne: Is that still part of your job description?

Helen: I don't know because nobody has really come in who wants to do it and the Council hasn't pushed it. I haven't heard anyone object to it.

Anne: I didn't even know that that was a possibility.

Ann: I didn't either. If people don't know something is possible, how would they know what to ask for?

Helen: I know when we first did it, which would have been six years ago, I wrote a couple of articles for the *Independent*, but not everybody reads the paper. I think the Town can't take care of every tree planted in the Town. I think the residents need to take a share of the responsibility, but I think this is another change in the Town because when it was first founded, it was, "Leave us alone." Nobody wanted anything. They wanted little fire protection. They were glad when the police came along but they expected the County to come, if it was necessary. They certainly didn't expect any kind of maintenance or garbage collection, or anything.

Anne: Maybe too many people have moved here from full service communities.

Helen: They really expect the Town to do everything now.

Ann: At that time, there was only about 2,000 population in the Town and now it is almost 14,000. That's quite a difference.

Helen: We should be able to do seven times as much work.

Ann: Is there any particular project that you've done that you are most proud of?

Helen: I don't think so because it's so ongoing. When we first did PRIDE, I thought, "Well, we'll come up with the guidelines for planting." That began the PRIDE Committee. But staff changes, Council vision changes and it just seems to me that nothing that you do...sure, I think the PRIDE Committee made a difference in the Town, but it isn't anything that cut and dry. It can change next week or next month if there isn't a continuing Committee. Look at the maintenance of the medians there is not a continuing commitment there. It really discourages me because anything that you read, by people like Neil Pearce or any kind of community planner, John Munier, the architect at ASU, the emphasis is always on a unique community, to maintain your quality of life, be sure that you have a sense of the place. It isn't like Kansas City, Missouri, or Cincinnati, Ohio, it's Paradise Valley, Arizona. We have an Arizona flavor, but it is not as strong as it was in the beginning. I think it takes real work to keep it desert like.

Maybe nobody wants to. Maybe there are not enough people that want it or care.

Ann: Or not enough people who are willing to seek out and put themselves forth like you have.

Helen: And a lot of them don't want to do that. It was a very good article and agree with you.

Ann: We've been here 16-1/2 years. In that time, I've seen a change in attitude for the Town from the citizens. I feel it's become more and more polarized in the sense of people concerned for only their own property and not the community as a whole. They don't want to do the work it takes to preserve this great Town.....let someone else do it.

Helen: I don't think the gated communities make any great contribution to the sense of community.

Ann: It isolates them more. I think it's a false security and was mostly for what they felt would be security against intruders, vandalizing, and so forth.

Anne: But they can scale the walls.

Ann: Yes, that's what the police told us a long time ago.

Helen: I was delighted when Dan Quayle found an intruder.

Anne: In Finnestere.

Helen: I think that the precedent is there and when the Judson School housing group comes in and Matt Cody comes in, for sure they will want a gated community. I was talking to Ron Clarke last night and said, "You know anytime anyone comes in and wants a wall, I'd like them to be asked to give something back to the community." I don't care what it is, whether it's an extra mile of recreation path where we wouldn't have one for another five years, or a drinking fountain, or a bench under a tree, or something. But if there're going to isolate themselves, I'd like to see them give something.

Ann: That's a creative idea. What was his reply?

Helen: He said, "That's a good idea." Whether or not he'll remember it when an application comes in is another thing.

Ann: I think they're probably waiting for your creativity to come up with a plan.

Helen: Well, I don't know.

Ann: Is there any particular procedural changes that you would like to see to implement improvements. Can your job be done more efficiently to get to the "okay, let's do it" point?

Helen: The process is incredibly slow. It always has been. I can't blame this Council for it or any other Council. I honestly think the previous Councils had been working for six years and they just said yes and appropriated the money for it. Things like the Lincoln medians went in and the McDonald medians went in. I would surely like to see accountability. I don't know how you get that because the staff is serving the Council.

Anne: Did you interact with one person on the staff in your planning?

Helen: The first six years of PRIDE, we had the Planning Director attend the meetings.

Ann: What was his name at that time just for our history?

Helen: Bill Mead was the Acting Planning Director. Then they hired somebody whose name escapes me and was there briefly. Bill Mead was back and then Neal Pascoe was there. He left for awhile. Then he came back. I know there was someone else there. If you forget about Bill Mead, we've had three Planning Directors.

Anne: Bill Mead was the one I worked with on the Equestrian Trail Committee. We still don't have Doubletree squared around.

Helen: How do you feel about Doubletree?

Anne: It's a very busy street.

Helen: I meant the flood control.

Anne: I don't even know what the latest plan is. For awhile it was, "don't raise the bridge, lower the water" type of thing. I used to attend the meetings that they had at

Cherokee. There have been so many different plans that I honestly don't know what the latest rendition is.

Ann: I'm confuse on it, too. Do you know?

Helen: Some of this Council and some of the Flood Control Board are supporting a \$13 million dollar flood control project that brings water from two washes to the north down to Doubletree and uses Doubletree as a wash basically. I just think it's crazy. I know some of the residents up there don't like it. I do not understand why the Council is set in concrete on it. Previous Councils have looked at the plans and have said, "You know this is really expensive and maybe we ought to try something else." They cleaned out half of Cherokee Wash by hand and did a really good job of it. They never cleaned out the other half. Residents along the washes tend to throw Christmas trees in it and are not really responsible about keeping the washes clean. I would rather see them go in and keep the wash free of debris and get the residents involved and redo Doubletree road improvements. But not do this massive flood control.

Anne: I think a lot of people have objected to that haven't they? That's not a definite at all.

Helen: But when you get to the point when you spend so much money on planning, the next Flood Control Board Meeting is Wednesday, and I guess it will be up to them. Just because they make a recommendation one way or the other doesn't mean that the Board of Supervisors is going to take it.

Ann: I don't want anyone flooded, but to see what a 100 year flood is with our own eyes, with cameras to record, we can really double-check that we are doing the right thing. It has been so long since there has been a sizable flood along there, people have moved out

and people have moved in, most people don't even know what reality is.

Anne: Where Cherokee Wash empties into the Indian Bend Wash, those people do have problems. It's off Mockingbird Lane.

Helen: I guess you can't really control nature 100%. In 1972, we had the heaviest rainfall in the Valley right here. I mean seriously, between Stanford and Bethany Home Road, we had six inches in four hours. We got water in the bedroom. We got a backhoe operator to deepen the wash on the north side of the house and made the berm. We haven't had any trouble since. It never occurred to me to call the Town and say, "Do something, my house is flooded." When they do aerial photographs of that Doubletree area, you can see apparently when comparing it with old photographs, where people have blocked the washes.

Ann: Water follows the path of least resistance. I also understand, that Phoenix to the west of our Town had made some changes to the earth so that it increases the flow of water into the Doubletree flood prone area.

Helen: You can see the funnel. Phoenix is not going to have any part of helping with this project.

Anne: Well if they contributed to it, they should.

Helen: I agree. But they don't or won't. We spent three years of our lives on the Arizona Canal Diversion Project.

Ann: Tell us about that. That was a big job.

Helen: Originally, it was supposed to stop at 24th Street. Somebody got flooded one year. Sandra O'Connor was in the State Senate, and they called her and said, "We need help." She said, "Are you sure you want help?" And they said, "Yes, for sure they did."

So she put in an application to extend the ACDC from 24th Street to 40th Street. Well as soon as we all realized what was going on, we started opposing it. In a way, it developed the same way as Doubletree. There were dozens of public hearings. The people supporting the ACDC would say, "Well, we've had all these public hearings." What they didn't say was that they had to get facilitators to run the meetings because the residents were so angry. The Corps of Engineers representatives and the Flood Control representatives were so totally on the defensive, there was no way they would speak to each other. Even though they had hearings, you could not say, "Okay, we had a hearing and everybody understands, and everybody supports it." We had hearings and everybody was more opposed to it than they ever were. The stretch from 24th Street to 40th Street cost \$100 million dollars. Again, like Doubletree, a lot of things had changed since the heavy floodwater. They had put in retention basins, some washes had been deepened, and of course more houses had been built. But it was just a major overkill. One of the things that Flood Control had was a car in the wash that flipped off 40th Street and down the wash. There are lots of pictures of it. Well, you'll remember about six months ago, we had three cars in the wash and the people had to be rescued by helicopter. In terms of making 40th Street safer, or cutting down the water that came down that wash, it did absolutely nothing. When you look at the intake basin down there after a heavy rain, there may be six inches of water. And maybe a 100-year flood will come along and in 10 or 15 years will make a liar out of me. It certainly has been really wasted.

Ann: Do you feel some of the people who live on Doubletree are familiar with this (ACDC) issue and it causes them to be more wary if the right choices are being designed or even the need for it?

Helen: I think most of them are aware of it, but I think what has really made them suspicious is that they have done a tremendous amount of work in getting facts (the residents), and when they speak to the Council, or when they speak to some of the Flood Control people, they don't have those facts. Flood Control still has not come up with a real budget, to say it's going to cost this much. When I heard their presentation and saw the map, not about what the road will look like, but just where exactly the water is coming from and what kind of volume they expect and at what times. It seems very inadequate.

Ann: How much will this project cost if it goes through? You said the ACDC cost \$100 million.

Helen: This will cost \$13 million as of now. But whether that in fact is the real price or not is another matter.

Ann: Time goes by and the price increases.

Helen: When you look at the road design, they're talking about meandering roads. Well, most of the meandered thing would be on the north side, I presume, because there is a big drainage ditch which is not used really on the south side (unless it's used as an equestrian trail). But it really doesn't seem to carry very much water according to people who live out there. It's awfully hard to meander a road effectively. You can meander a path.

Ann: Maybe they're using that to slow the traffic down.

Helen: This is what they're saying or it's what the traffic engineers and designers say. They don't want it to be a dead straight tunnel because you see they're going to drop the level of the road. Maybe it was a wash originally. Maybe they built Doubletree through a wash.

Anne: As long as I can remember, they have had to put bridges across to get to their property.

Helen: That's fine with me, I think it adds interest to the property.

Anne: No, I mean this hasn't just come up in the last 10 years.

Ann: It would be interesting to see aerial photos to see prior to any development out there to see what nature was.

Helen: I think there are pretty early on.

Anne: I think one of the big problems is that all the houses are clustered on the Camelback Golf Course, along Cherokee Wash, those folks really get hit. Those homes weren't there and really should probably have never been built. They're the ones that are screaming. I've been over there because we had a couple of committee meetings when we had some heavy rain, these people opened the back door and the water came right through. It is a problem but I think the builders and the developers are responsible for that because they really should not have built there in the first place. But they're there and we have to handle it.

Helen: I'm not sure that you have to handle it the way they're handling it though. I would start with Camelback Country Club and see what you could do with that.

Anne: Like I said, there have been so many plans that I really wasn't sure what was going on. I guess they haven't settled on anything yet.

Helen: This is the latest one and I think a meandering road is crazy. I think the landscaped road is fine, but when you look at the plans for the road, by the time you take the medians, the road, the recreation paths (equestrian path) and the plantings, you get a very wide space of road going through there.

Anne: With all the traffic that it carries, I really question horses even being there because the path would be right next to the edge of the road. I wouldn't take my horse down there.

Helen: You can't do it. I was pleased to see horses coming down Palo Cristi the other day. I think it must have been Paul and Barbara Barrish. Do you know them?

Anne: I know the name but I don't know them.

Helen: She knew Mary Ann Brines. She rides and she's been riding with saddlebags. They're nice. One thing we did do with the ACDC is make them spend another \$2 million dollars so that they covered it and relandscaped with indigenous landscaping using a top landscape architect. You didn't know the ACDC was there for this stretch anyway.

This was three years of a lot of people's lives.

Helen: Scott O'Connor was on the Council at the time. Once he got convinced it was worth doing, he was for it. Then he took people around and they went back to Washington to the different offices that they needed to talk to. Eventually, he got support for it. I still don't know how he pulled it off. People said, "It was a done deal." That was the Corps of Engineers' favorite phrase, "Stay out of it, it's a done deal."

Ann: What other project do you have in mind that you would like to see accomplished? I know there was something recently in the paper. There was controversy about adding more walls, or landscaping like oleanders, shrubs and all.

Helen: I would just like to see any hedge treated like a wall. If a wall can only be six feet high in a given location, then I think that's as high as a hedge should be. I feel you can't do anything much about the trees people want to plant in their backyards, but when

they plant 60-foot eucalyptus trees, I guess I would like to see the Town give them a list of eucalyptus trees they can plant. There are 150 different varieties of eucalyptus trees. Some of them grow at about the same size as the desert trees. So if they're hung up on eucalyptus for whatever reason, they could plant some of the smaller ones and that would be fine. I have no problem with that. Ron Clarke gave me the MAG recommendations for planting in sensitive desert areas, now admittedly these are recommendations, and I don't know if MAG carries any weight in the individual communities. But they are really restrictive. They say that imported plants should only be in an enclosed atrium or backyard area depending on how sensitive they feel about the areas that are being planted. They used to have to be 20 or 50 percent of the area. That includes grass that has to be screened from the road by....

Anne: By a wall!

Helen: No, not by a wall. One sequence is arid landscaping, without saying indigenous, and then the outside buffer has to be indigenous landscaping. Washes have to be preserved and where a wash hasn't been preserved, it has to be restored. Washes are much preferable than man made drainage.

Anne: They are where they ought to be.

Helen: Yeah. If the town accepted even 50% of the MAG recommendations, I wouldn't have anything more to say.

Ann: On that order, I was sitting here and reflecting; with water a critical issue, do you think that it would be valuable to.... A lot of people move here from the east and they want their big green lawns; maybe restrict them to 10 or 12 square feet of green grass in their backyard, if they feel they really need it. Otherwise not allow grass in the front

yard, to reduce the water usage.

Helen: I don't know that you could do it. I think golf courses, for instance, can only be watered by gray water. To police individual residences to that extent gets really tough. And yet, however invasive it is, Phoenix has a very restrictive list of what can be planted and what cannot be planted. Apparently, they enforce it.

Anne: And PV doesn't?

Helen: No. The only place that the Town has control over planting is on the medians and publicly-owned property. That was all the PRIDE came up with now. If a developer comes in, with previous Councils, he would have to plant an indigenous plant between the road and his wall. This Council is saying that indigenous plants go in the public right-of-way, but from the public-right-of-way to your wall, that's up to you. That's private property. Chandler and Gilbert are not exactly sophisticated communities, and yet they have far more restrictions than Paradise Valley does.

Ann: Do you think because Paradise Valley is in a higher economic level that there's an attitude, "I have the money. I can pay for it. Don't tell me what I can do."

Helen: I don't know, at workshops, I have not heard it from the residents as much. I've heard it come from the developers; but I have never seen an uprising of individual residents. When Planning and Zoning were having their various meetings on the open space, I would say 75% of the people who spoke said trees, eucalyptus and pines, which are not indigenous, do a lot more to destroy open space than peoples houses.

Ann: So basically the interpretation is that people plant what they want.

Helen: Well, you know this is up to Council. I don't honestly think this is what the resident's are saying, at least the ones that are being heard.

Anne: Don't the residents, at least on hillside, have to present a landscape plan?

Ann: They sure do. We had to present a landscape plan when we build on hillside.

Helen: Then there was that big uproar about the house at the end of Mummy Mountain.

Ann: The Shaulis residence.

Helen: They wanted to plant some palm trees and hillside said no. I think they went to court because they wanted their palm trees so badly. Palm trees on Mummy Mountain. I think there's a tendency to back off if they think they're going to lose. The more they back off, of course, the more they get chomped on.

Ann: Who's the "they" that back off?

Helen: The Town.

Ann: Tell me a little bit about how you feel about big houses.

Helen: Usually things like that never go far enough. John Amory started the first one about four years ago. They made some changes.

Anne: The footprints.

Helen: The Planning and Zoning Commission have made it more restrictive. Again the Town is not the only place that's shrieking about big houses. It's all mansions in some places. There was a feature about a community where houses were on 2-1/2 acre sites.

But really, given the price of land here now, you put it on one acre.

Anne: Do you have 2-1/2 acres here?

Helen: We actually have four acres.

Anne: That's just right for somebody to come in with a lot split.

Helen: We've really enjoyed it. Jason wanted to buy land years ago as an investment and said, "I think I'll buy it right around me so they won't start to develop it when I'm

not looking.”

Ann: Very wise.

Helen: We had 10 acres and we sold five ten years ago. We’ve enjoyed this place.

Ann: As we were sitting here earlier and talking a hawk flew out of the trees in back here. That’s a pretty special moment.

Helen: It’s when they eat a pigeon that makes my day.

Anne: We have a Rock squirrel that comes on our porch and eats the cat food.

Sometimes he tours the house. I would love to relocate him.

Helen: I blame the Corps of Engineers for the pigeons. We didn’t have any pigeons until they tore up the canal. The ACDC was under construction for years. I think all the pigeons that were down there went looking for quieter places.

Ann: Are there any other projects? One of the recent things that appeared in the paper the other day was that the people want new entrance markers for Paradise Valley. Can you give us some background on it?

Helen: Of course. Joan Lincoln designed the first markers in the 70’s. I think they were fine for that period. I think Paradise Valley has gone beyond that. I think we need professional input again. I really have had a tremendous number of people come up to me spontaneously in the last few years and say, “If we’re going to have new entry monuments, what I’d really like would be a boulder because that seems to fit the Town. It’s not man-made.” Although I think if we did get one, it probably would be man-made.

Ann: It would have to say, Town of Paradise Valley, on it.

Helen: Right. If it’s true that you can’t have an entry monument that’s going to destroy cars, then you need something man-made.

Anne: I didn't know that.

Helen: That's what Joan Lincoln says. This was one of the criteria she was given that it had to be something that would self-destruct on impact rather than destroying the car.

Ann: I suppose they feel that that way it's not life-threatening to the driver.

Anne: What about telephone poles?

Ann: They are created in a lighter material that are supposed to not kill a person like the wood poles do when their car runs into it.

Helen: We had eight poles go down up here in a wind storm. A lot of places like The Boulders have used the artificial boulders and you could not see the difference if they're well done. That would not be an issue.

We have 27 entrances to the town and we only have four signs left. Somebody liked the blue and white signs, but those were temporary. But I'd like to see a couple of competent landscape architects submit designs. I'd be perfectly happy with a boulder, frankly. Bernie Barry said, "Well you know the developments in Town have some really attractive signs." Personally, I think they're a little more sophisticated than my personal vision of this Town is.

Ann: Joan Lincoln is a professional artist who has been given numerous contracts to install her ceramic creations in the U.S. She does have a Masters Degree in art. Has it occurred to anyone to just ask her to come up with a new or revised design?

Helen: I don't think they did.

Ann: I think that would be a real courtesy. She has the best interest of the Town at heart.

Anne: Didn't they have Joan Lincoln redesign the fish pond? I know I saw her making new ceramic fish for it.

Ann: She did do repair work on the fountain, as it needed it after so many years. Also, people would steal the ceramic fish. I forgot how many she said she has replaced through the years.

Helen: One of the reasons on the bus stops I wanted a professional involved if possible because I think the scale could be wrong. The kind of bench I would put out there, they picked a very mediocre one for the Town Hall that they put by the front door. It's one of these things that's molded out of concrete. It doesn't have any real texture or integrity to it.

Ann: It's not southwest, it's sort of contemporary with a hint of oriental influence, that doesn't fit the architecture of the building.

Helen: It doesn't fit where it is. People like it and the employees go out there and sit when they have a break. I think that's fine but it just could have been much more attractive. They want to put a trash bin next to the bus stop, and that's fine. Then I look at this one outside the Town Hall which I think is emptied every day, the black plastic waving in the breeze. It's just tacky. I don't know what will happen to the entry monuments.

Ann: Would this be a good time to ask you if you have suggestions or a message you would like to leave future Council people?

Helen: I think to put the Town first. I think so often people have personal agendas that get in the way. You should decide what your interest for the Town is and then talk to the residents.

Ann: We want to thank you very much Mrs. Harold for your many contributions to the Town. Thank you too, for talking with us today.

