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I am Catherine Kauffman, from the Historical Committee along with Paul Dembow here to interview Lois and Robert LeMarr.

Catherine: Do we have your permission to quote any or this entire interview today?

Robert: Sure

Paul: When was the first time you were in Paradise Valley?

Lois: We moved here in 1958

Robert: Let me start with a little story about moving here – into Scottsdale and this area. We moved to Scottsdale in the spring of 1958. We lived in an apartment down on Camelback just east of Scottsdale Road. In those days, Scottsdale Road did not go on through – you had to go down around the canal to continue on Scottsdale Road. Scottsdale Road stopped at Miller. That summer of 1958, on the northeast corner of Scottsdale Road and Camelback, we had a circus. The circus came in and set up tents, animals and everything in the summer of 58. So you can imagine what has happened on that corner since then. The street that is now 68th Street was Monte Vista – so things have changed in a lot of different ways particularly in that area of Scottsdale.

Robert: We purchased this lot in this subdivision in 1965. We had looked all over – it was way out then. Tatum was just a two-lane paved road. It seemed like the thing to do. There were lots of lots available. The lot we have here goes through both streets, so it was a big property. It was a nice move for us to come to Paradise Valley because that is where we wanted to be. We didn't want to be in Phoenix. We never really lived in Scottsdale other than that apartment house because we had a house off 68th Street, which was a little County Island.

Paul: When you first moved to this house, how many houses were between you and Camelback Mountain?

Robert: There were 2 others in the subdivision – one down on the end – but only four houses in this subdivision.

Paul: Who were your neighbors at the time – anybody of note?

Lois: Herb Stevens who had the Lincoln Mercury Dealership, Harry Cavanaugh, the lawyer, lived on this end.

Catherine: From whom did you buy this property?

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Robert: Gene Mitchum developed that, and Kemper Marley Jr. actually was the one who developed the whole subdivision. Gene Mitchum was a friend of his and he was a builder and he built the houses that were in here. We built this house ourselves. We started it on May 19 and the fellow who was doing the earthwork went bankrupt – the builder McMillan Construction - we ended up by taking it over building the house and we moved in on October 7 – just those few months. Scott worked hard. I was doing a lot of work – but Scott did a lot in building this house – particularly running the electrical wires and so forth.

Catherine: Is your subdivision just Crystal and Sparking Lane?

Lois: No, it's Moonlight also – Moonlight, Crystal and Sparkling.

Paul: What is the subdivision called?

Lois: Paradise Valley Country Estates

Robert: At the time, Tatum and Lincoln and some other streets in Scottsdale were not part of the Town – they remained in the County and for that the County did not have a lot of development so the agreement was that the Town would leave Tatum and Lincoln in the County. The County then came with funds and developed both of those streets as it did Indian School and Scottsdale which was a great benefit, but they had all the income, the Town didn't have any and that's how it got started.

Catherine: When did this neighborhood get incorporated into the Town?

Robert: I'm not sure exactly what the agreement or vehicle was but I think it was well understood – leave those out so we can build them, and you don't have to build them. So, when we purchased this house, it was already in the Town – clear beyond the Tatum curve.

Robert: When we moved into this subdivision there was a streetlight down at Tatum. The developer, which was Eric Cavanaugh's son in law, his name is Mitchum, developed the property. He had the streetlight put in and we as neighbors paid Salt River Project every month to have that streetlight. That was the only streetlight any place up around this way. We have the streetlight there today.

Robert: We've been in this house now 45 years. We moved in October of 67.

Catherine: Has this house always been this size or did you start out with a smaller house?

Robert: It's had about 8 or 9 face-lifts. We built it ourselves.

Lois: Periodically - it gets a redo

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Paul: What is your first memory of Town government or your interfaces with Town government – getting the permits while the house was being built?

Lois: We used to have a family on the northwest corner that was just unbelievable. They had “gazillion” children, they had a motorhome and it was terrible. Neighbors kept turning them in for the motorhome etc., which they weren’t supposed to have. You can have one out for a few days at a time but that’s all. The Town would go check in with them and they wouldn’t let them in. It smelled so foul that you couldn’t bear it. But the Town only had so much it could do but they did keep track. That was our first experience with Town government.

Robert: I think Jack Huntress was the Mayor about that time. I ran for the Town Council in maybe 1969 or 70. I got 535 votes and I spent \$80 along with my friend sending out postcards to everyone that we knew. I was next to the last one getting votes. So that was my experience with Town politics.

Robert: The Town Hall was a little old house. Maryann Brines ran everything. She was the Town Clerk and did absolutely everything. I think there was one room in the house that was a jail. Rural Metro did all the firefighting. Mountain Shadows was there. It was completed in the late 50s – early 60s. Mountain Shadows had a summer club and you could go for \$50 for the summer with your whole family to swim and use all of the facilities. That’s how they attracted people from Scottsdale. A lot of hotels did that though there weren’t as many big hotels then as there are now. When we first moved here, the entrance to Paradise Valley Country Club was a little bit further south – right at the top of that little knoll and then it was moved after there were several accidents coming out at the top of that knoll – no traffic light - just a stop sign.

Catherine: What did you do for a living?

Robert: I was involved in real estate development. I came here and I was involved with an engineering company, an aerial mapping company. I did a lot of work in Latin America. I was with Del Webb Corporation. After that I was doing some developing and of course that was the “kiss of death” to run for the Town Council when you built a couple of apartment projects in Phoenix and they figured “uh oh this is getting the nose under the tent business.”

Catherine: Were you part of Del Webb when they were building Mountain Shadows?

Robert: Yes

Catherine: Is that what brought you here originally?

Robert: No – I went with Webb after I sold my interested in the aerial mapping company. But it is an interesting story about Mountain Shadows. Webb had the property, had the hotel, and

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part of their hotel operations. Jim Paul had developed the property around there. The houses at that time - in Mountain Shadows West sold for about \$25,000. And when Mountain Shadows East was completed – those houses sold for about \$10,000 or \$12,000. They had that little pitch and putt golf course that surrounded the perimeter of Mountain Shadows East, which they don't have any more. An Ironic story about Mountain Shadows was that one of the things I was doing when I was with Webb was the company was divesting themselves of properties that their pension trust had. They had some of the Kings Inn Motel places out in Sun City, they had a corner in Luv Field in Dallas and another one at the airport in St. Louis. They were liquidating a lot of properties – I don't know exactly how the Mountain Shadows Hotel property fit into that, but I was involved with trying to market that. I had met with a man by the name of Miller Adams. Miller Adams was a retired fellow who had been involved with developing the Fred Harvey system. He was here and was working as a consultant to a development company that was owned by American Airlines. So, it was suggested that I approach Miller Adams about having American Airlines purchase Mountain Shadows. CR Smith was head of American at the time and they had a lot of interest in Tucson. They had no direct flights into Phoenix. I said that it would be ideal for them to make a destination resort here. The price was 3.5 million dollars then in 1963. They decided not to do that and of course the hotel went on after that for quite some time. Del Webb then refinanced it with a Texas insurance company. I don't remember exactly when the property was sold but that was the history of that particular property there – at that particular time when it was a star in the Webb Hotel's portfolio.

Paul: Tell me about properties of note that don't exist anymore like when you were first out here – someplace where you would go for a meal or to have a cocktail or where Scott used to live in an apartment in Paradise Valley or close to it back in the day.

Robert: Judson School had a polo field. Judson had a polo team until I think the late 40s or early 50s. Of course, Judson is gone, the polo field is gone – all of that is gone. St. Barnabas, which has a beautiful campus there, in 1958, met in an old GI Quonset hut in downtown Scottsdale right off of Main Street and then of course they moved and developed the campus where they are now. The things have changed were all along Scottsdale Road - you had the Valley Club which now was part of the hotel. You had your Jokake Inn, and the Paradise Inn and of course the Palms. One man at one time owned all those and what was that man's name. Lois, do you remember his name?

Lois: I don't remember anything these days. I'm kind of superfluous to this conversation.

Robert: Well that's where we met for the Paradise Valley Methodist Church at the Paradise Inn on Camelback. That's where we had our Sunday services. And at the time on the southeast

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corner of Lincoln and Tatum, Graham had a real estate office there. It was an old house – he was operating that, and the church owned five acres just to the south of that on the east side of Tatum. There was conversation about building there but it was only five acres and so we had searched around and even thought about doing something up in Echo Canyon when it was starting to be developed. This was before Lincoln Drive went through. It stopped just on the other side of where the Methodist Church is now - so there wasn't much out there then – no houses or anything. We ended up by making a trade of those five acres on Tatum for twelve acres where the church is now on Lincoln Drive.

Lois: I used to have a boutique with some friends on Lincoln that's no longer there. It's where the Paradise Valley Design Center is.

Catherine: So, you're the non-conforming existing property - so now we know!!!

Robert: The non-conforming one was a four-plex or six-plex that just to the east of that and that's where Scott lived at one time.

Paul: There was an apartment complex?

Robert: Not a complex it was just a four-plex.

Lois: Four units

Catherine: I would be curious to hear about your boutique - how did it start?

Lois: it was a question of just getting bored and deciding we wanted to do something exciting and it was.

Paul: What did you sell?

Lois: Clothes

Catherine: Was there a building there already?

Lois: Yes

Catherine: Was it a house originally?

Lois: No, it had been a legacy situation – it had been a dress shop.

Catherine: Whom did you buy the dress shop from – do you remember?

Lois: We leased it from John Morse.

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Paul: He was in Morse Realty at some point – right?

Lois: He had a lot of real estate and he had home furnishings and that sort of thing next door.

Paul: Tell me about something scandalous that happened back in the day.

Robert: Well an interesting thing was at the time Paradise Valley Country Club was developed, the lots around there sold for about \$7,500 – now this was early on in the 50s. Camelback Inn was instrumental in a lot of the development of the country club because they contributed a certain amount of land – Jack Stewart had that – it was great because guests would come to Camelback Inn and since he had contributed the land an arrangement was made and the Camelback Inn had 66 memberships in the country club. So, his guests would come, and they'd go over to the country club and play golf and support the dining room. It was a very instrumental financial gift that gave back to the club in those days. The country club had the option to buy those memberships at any time Camelback Inn or Jack Stewart sold a property. When Camelback Inn was sold, those 66 memberships, were offered to the club and there was some conversation in the club about that time, oh boy, I don't know if we can afford to buy those and then some we're saying we're going to have all kinds of people playing here at the club. There was an assessment and then ultimately the 66 memberships were bought for a price around a half million dollars. Which Stewart then used that and went out and built the Camelback Golf course that is there now – thinking that he was going to develop the property around that at the time – he made the mistake of building the golf course and then trying to develop the property. That's how Camelback Golf course got started – with the proceeds off the sale of the memberships.

Catherine: Is this the Indian Bend Wash golf course that was part of Folkman's?

Robert: That is a different golf course. The Indian Bend wash was under the control of the Corp of Engineers and in about 1959 or 60, Maricopa County Flood Control District got a grant and took over all of the Indian Bend wash and started to develop it and brought it clear down through – it was part of a navigable stream – that's how it fell under the Corp of Engineers. It was not part of the Camelback Golf course. The Padre Course is the original golf course. Indian Bend golf course was the second one. This was about the time McCormick Ranch golf course was being developed. There was control then of the Indian Bend wash and that little depression there at McCormick Ranch had thick tall green trees and people didn't understand that was the low point on the Indian Bend wash.

Paul: Looking out straight ahead – a little bit down the hill – there's a Frank Lloyd Wright kind of house – now it's the U-haul house. Whose house was it back in the day?

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Robert: I think it was always the U-haul house. I think it was Schoen. Now it is just used as a company house – they don't live there but they did. Tour buses used to come and stop at the entrance at the top of the hill at Paradise Valley Country Club and then they would take off and go down to Country Club Drive or Paradise Drive and go around to Camelback Inn and that was their tour of Paradise Valley – here's Clearwater Hills, here's George Babbitt's house and around here is Camelback Inn.

Catherine: What was the attraction – were they selling property?

Robert: No – just a tour big bus – I haven't seen one in 20 some odd years.

Lois: The first night we moved in, my sister and her husband were visiting from Boulder, Colorado and we were in the sitting room in there and a gun shot came through the window. And we said, "Oh my God – is this is what it's going to be like living here every night."

Robert: We haven't had one ounce of trouble since then.

Paul: Have you ever seen a mountain lion?

Lois: No

Robert: Yes – we've seen big bobcats. There was a mountain lion just across the street just about a year and a half ago in that wash. Of course, we see coyotes all the time. We had a lot of trouble this last year from javelina coming in eating everything up.

Catherine: How many children do you have?

Lois: We have 3 children – Scott, Rob lives in Scottsdale and our daughter, Judy, lives in Marin County

Catherine: Is Rob involved in politics in Scottsdale?

Robert: He's on the Board of Adjustments and he's on the Fiesta Bowl committee. We raised our family here. We wouldn't want to be any other place. It's a great place to be.

Lois: Except in August

Robert: I was just thinking of Finisterre – that was all vacant land there. Lyons developed it and they did a beautiful job. They sold all those lots rather quickly in there for about \$ 30,000 - \$35,000 and people thought, "They will never go." Another beautiful development is Colonia Mira Monte which was developed by Transamerica when they came in and bought Phoenix Title and they had the properties down where Town and Country Village is – they did that whole development in there. And there isn't anything more desirable – it keeps getting better

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and better as time goes on. Those lot sizes are non-conforming. Another development that is non-conforming which has been very successful and an attribute to the Town is Casa Blanca. When we first moved here, we had an airplane and there was an airstrip there and we had it tied up there at Casa Blanca Inn. But since then, that whole thing has changed. They still had the hotel, the inn, for a long time and they developed the subdivision around there but then they developed condominium units making it more like a hotel and mirroring what you would like to see happen at Mountain Shadows – the remaining hotel with a subdivision around it - higher density housing and everyone is thrilled with it.

Paul: Thank you so much for your time