

PATSY LOWRY

NOVEMBER 3, 2020

Catherine: I am here with Kathryn Gasser and John Wintersteen from the Historical Committee and we are interviewing Patsy Lowry. Patsy, do we have your permission to record this interview and put it on the Town website?

Patsy: Sure

Catherine: Patsy please tell us your story.

Patsy: My name is Patsy Palmer Lowry. I am a third generation Phoenician. I was born in Phoenix at St. Joseph's Hospital in 1941. I'm the oldest of 6 children. My five brothers and sisters do not live in Arizona. Two live in Colorado Springs, one lived in Bend, Oregon but just moved to Boise. My sister, Abigail, lived in Anchorage for 45 years and she just moved to Boise. My brother, Paul was killed but he lived in La Jolla, California.

We lived at Camelback Road and 47th Street – on Launfal Avenue – it's right next to Berridge Nursery. I was raised Catholic and attended St. Francis Grade School. I went 2 years to Camelback High School and then junior and senior years at Xavier. I went to ASU. I have a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in Theater and Communications.

My grandfather, Dr. E. Payne Palmer Sr., was originally from Churchill, Mississippi. He was one of the pioneer doctors of Arizona. He opened his medical practice April 1, 1900 in the Professional Building, which is on Central – one block south of Van Buren – an old building with the most beautiful doors - it's still there. It was right next to the Adams Hotel. A few years later, my grandfather hired the first registered nurse in Arizona, Josephine Goldwater – Barry Goldwater Sr.'s mother. My grandfather was a doctor, my father was a doctor, my uncle Payne was a doctor and I have 2 brothers who are doctors. My grandfather founded the current St. Joseph's Hospital. I come from a medical family.

Kathryn: Did you know Bob Hurley's grandfather (Dr. Otto Ernest Plath)? He came in 1881 with \$8 in his pocket. He became a doctor. He died during the 1918 flu epidemic. Your grandfather took over his practice.

Patsy: I didn't know that.

Patsy: I don't know why my grandfather came to Arizona, but I know why my grandmother, Bertha Shantz Palmer, came to Phoenix. She was from Dayton, Ohio. Her brother had tuberculosis. This was the reason most people came here. She met my grandfather here and married him in the early 1900s. They were named "Citizens of the Century" for the State of Arizona in 1976. The only people to ever receive that designation. We went to a celebration at the top of the First National Bank building across from the Security Towers. Margaret Hance was mayor and she gave my grandmother a proclamation and a flag that flew over the capital that day. I always wanted to win an award so in the year 2000, I was named "Entrepreneur of the Year" by the YWCA.

My father, Dr. Paul Palmer, was born at St. Joseph's Hospital in 1911, my uncle Payne in 1910 and Barry Goldwater in 1909. All three were Sons of the Territory as Arizona became a state in 1912. I grew up with the Goldwater family. I'm telling you this because we have 5 generations of Goldwater's and Ed did the Goldwater Memorial Park in Paradise Valley. Since 1900, we have been closely connected to the Goldwater family.

When I was growing up, my father was a Navy doctor in WWII. His ship was torpedoed, and he came back weighing 88 pounds and never really recovered. He practiced medicine first at the downtown Professional Building and then at the Park Central Medical Building with my uncle Payne. My father wasn't well from the War, and they didn't have any help in 1944. After a year - I was 5 and my brother Paul was 4 - my father bought a 50cent tennis book - he had never played tennis - and he started teaching us to play tennis at the Phoenix Country Club. We had to play all of the time - before school, after school, all weekend. I did nothing my entire childhood but play tennis. I was the State Women's Champion at the age of 12. We all played tennis. Four of us siblings became champions. I had a good friend, Gary Herberger who attended Judson School which was an all-boys school in Paradise Valley in the 50s. I was at Xavier. Gary was 3 years older than me. Gary was going to play in the Judson Boys Doubles Tournament with my brother Paul. My brother got sick, so I ended up playing with Gary. I am the only female to have ever won the Judson Boys Doubles Tournament. Judd Herberger always asks me to tell that story.

When I was a teenager, they built John Gardiner's Tennis Ranch and I played tennis there. I met John Ireland and Joanne Dru. John Gardiner was excited to meet me because I was a Palmer. I grew up playing tennis there and at the Phoenix Country Club.

Catherine: Did you know Liz Clendenen? She had a tennis club on the corner of Tatum and Double Tree?

Patsy: Yes, my mother loaned her the money to build the tennis club. Liz came from St. Louis We were both tennis players.

Kathryn: She had a sister that was going to play Billie Jean King.

Patsy: She beat Billie Jean King. My sister Victoria also beat Billie Jean King.

Catherine: Did you know Ann Marie Robbs?

Patsy: Yes, we called each other "retreads." We played doubles at the Paradise Valley Country Club. We were very good friends.

Catherine: How did you meet Ed?

Patsy: The year before I was married, I lived in Madrid, Spain for one year where I went to the University. When I was there, I thought I was very sophisticated, and I went around with all of the movie stars and the jetsetters. When I came back, I hadn't graduated from ASU. I was in a sorority, Delta Gamma. I didn't want to go to sorority meetings on Monday nights because I was too sophisticated. I wasn't allowed to, but I took a class on Monday nights. There was this woman in class, she wasn't a student at ASU, she just took this one class. She asked if I wanted to come to dinner. Her husband owned Barrow's Furniture Store. Their names were Jane and Don Kauffman. There was a big Barrows Furniture Store on 24th Street and Camelback. This woman said to me, "My husband went to Stanford and he has a friend who went to Stanford and he just bought some furniture and I have to have him over to dinner and I don't know him. Would you take potluck?"

That is where I met Ed. At the time, I had a boyfriend who lived in Chicago. This was a great draw back because I was an Arizona girl. Unlike my 5 brothers and sisters, I wanted to marry someone who loved Arizona and lived in Arizona. Ed lived in Paradise Valley. I knew on our first date that I was going to marry him. Six weeks later we were married - February 1963. Ed is 10 years older than I am – he was 9 years younger than my mother. I moved from 47th Street and Camelback to Royal Palm and 54th Street and living in Paradise Valley. We have been married 57 ½ years.

Catherine: Do you have any children?

Patsy: We have two children. Our daughter, Rachel, and her family live in this beautiful suburb of Milwaukee called Mequon, Wisconsin. It's an old Indian name. You would think that Norman Rockwell designed the houses and laid out the streets. Rachel and her husband have two children, Kelley 18 and Butchie 17. Butchie was born at St. Joe's in 2003. Our 56-year-old

son, Ace, is a pilot for United Airlines. Ace was a nickname he personally acquired at a large family gathering. We are all athletic and very coordinated. When Ace was 1 ½, my brother, Butch, had this big blown up beach ball and he positioned our son with his arms exactly the width of the ball. He stood right in front of him and he rolled the ball to him. We thought it was a physical impossible for him to catch it and he did, so my brother said, "What an ace!" That's how he got his name. He lives in Aurora, Colorado – convenient to the airport.

Catherine: Since you were married, have you always lived in Paradise Valley?

Patsy: Ed's house on Royal Palms was built by Alfred Anderson. We lived in that house for 14 years. Then we bought 5 acres and had our current house built by Von Dix, who was building Echo Canyon at the time. This is the second house in Paradise Valley that we've lived in. We have lived here for 43 years. Though Ed's a lawyer, he is very artistic. He designed our house. Every day I look out at Mummy Mountain, Camelback Mountain and the McDowell's. I love our beautiful home.

We moved to Washington DC in 1969 where Ed was the Assistant Legislative Council for the Department of Interior under Hickel when Nixon was President. Ed was going to save the rivers and the cities – pollution – in the Interior Department but it didn't turn out as we hoped so we were just there for a year We lived in McLean, Virginia. I loved being there. Fortunately, we leased our house on Royal Palm and were able to return home.

Catherine: Did you work outside of the home?

Patsy: Before we went to Washington DC, I was teaching Speech and Drama at Judson School in Paradise Valley. When we lived in Washington DC, I began tie-dying fabrics so when we returned, Judson gave me my job back and I taught Speech, Drama and Art.

I am very connected to the Wick family. I met Billie Jo Herberger September 1, 1970 when we came back from Washington DC. She had just started teaching P.E. and cheerleading at Judson. Her name was Billie Jo Donovan. She lived on Mockingbird in Paradise Valley. On my way home, I would often go from Judson to Billie Jo's house. We have been best friends for 50 years. We love Barbara Wick. We were her favorite teachers. She is such a wonderful woman. I went to Barbara and Henry's wedding at a church on Lincoln. A lot of students from around the country and world came to our house and I still keep in touch with 5 or 6 consistently for the past 45 years. You have never met someone more in love with Judson School than Barbara. Henry Wick started and owned Judson School. Barbara was meant to marry Henry and live at Judson School. She has 100s of children. I think of all of the people I know that have a big heart, hers is the biggest.

Catherine: How did Ed become mayor?

Patsy: Ed was at Costco – I think at the time it was Price Club – and he ran into Oscar Butt. Oscar Butt was the Town Manager. Oscar said to Ed, “You know Ed, you should run for Town Council.” This was 3 weeks before the election. Ed ran for Town Council. We splurged and spent, I think, a total of \$250 on flyers. It was very surprising to me when I heard recently about the thousands of dollars people have spent running for Town Council. This was in 1998. Ed attended a few meetings. We had no idea if he was going to win. Three weeks later, he won by a landslide. They called him “Landslide Lowry.” That night they elected him mayor. The old Council was voted out, including the former mayor, Marvin Davis. The thing that was amazing was that I had a dinner party and you would think people involved in the Town, running for Town Council, would know each other. No one knew anyone. We had 14 or 16 name tags! It was amazing. That is how we met Ed Winkler. Many of them were on Ed’s Council for 6 years. Ed became mayor, Ron Clarke became mayor. Ed, Ed Winkler and Ron Clarke have remained best friends among many other wonderful people involved in the Town. Ed totally dedicated himself to improving Paradise Valley.

I can remember our friend, Sally Brophy Nejafi, invited us to a dance at the Heard Museum a few years ago. We met a couple at our table, and they said, “Ed Lowry, oh my God!” like he was the king. They said, “When our son was an Eagle Scout, you handed him his badge.” He went to the schools when they wrote essays to hear the winning essay. He did everything he could for the Town and continues to do so.

Catherine: Did you serve on any Town committees?

Patsy: No, I just supported the mayor.

Ed: She knew everything that was going on in the Town because she would have to listen to me.

Patsy: I was the Town of Paradise Valley Artist of the Year in 2000. One of my flower paintings is hanging in the Town Hall. It was hanging near the manager’s office.

Kathryn: They changed the entrance to Town Hall. Because of Covid 19, we haven’t been in Town Hall since our February 2020 Historical Meeting.

Ed: The changes they made to the Town Hall – rearranging the mail office and the other things - they really did a nice job. There’s a lobby so you have a sense of being in a public building, not just a little post office.

Patsy: Both of us were artists of the year.

Catherine: Can you tell us about the Goldwater Dedication and who had the idea?

Patsy: The idea of buying the property for the Goldwater Memorial came when Ed remembered a property purchase he negotiated for the Heard Museum. Ed has been on the board of the Heard Museum for over 60 years and in the 1970s he was president. Sandra O'Connor was also on the board and president. Ed went to Stanford law school with John and Sandra O'Connor. When I got married, I met John and Sandra. I was 21 and I was going around with Mr. and Mrs. O'Connor – more my parents age but anyway, I met John and Sandra right away. The Heard Museum was a really nice old Spanish house. There were 5 acres to the north. The Kauffman's, the people who introduced us to each other, had owned the 5 acres. They sold it, but Ed thought this would be a wonderful thing for the Heard to have this acreage and room to grow. Ed called Don Kauffman - they have a daughter named Patsy - and asked if Don would get him in touch with the new owners of the 5 acres on Central. The Phoenix Towers was just built right next to these 5 acres. Don said yes and now Ed had an introduction to the new owner who said, "You know we are really not that interested in selling but if we did sell, I wouldn't sell unless I could go to lunch with Barry Goldwater." Well this was perfect because as I said, we had all of these connections wrapped around each other. Barry said of course and Ed set up a luncheon. Ed negotiated the sale and the Heard Museum purchased the land. I think it sold for \$750,000 but you have to check with Ed.

It is my feeling, that when Ed became mayor, one of the first things he did was have the Town purchase the lot on the northeast corner of Lincoln and Tatum that was for sale. In today's world it was quite inexpensive – I think it was \$100 or \$200 thousand though you'll have to ask Ed.

Patsy: For 2 years, Ed had no idea what he was going to do with the lot. In 2000, we went to a party and Mike Goldwater was there. When Ed went to Stanford, he had a summer job at the Orme School – Orme Ranch – up in Mayer – as head of Boys Camp. This was in the early 50s. He had all of these campers and Mike Goldwater was one of his campers. Of course, we've known the Goldwater's. They are like family. Ed asked Mike if there was a bronze statue of his father in the state. Mike said no. Ed then asked, "How would you like to have a statue of your father?"

(Ed Lowry joined our interview and told his story about the Goldwater Memorial)

Ed Lowry: When I was the mayor, one of the things we had to try to figure out was what to do about the corner of Lincoln and Tatum. Then it was zoned for a single-family residence.

Because that corner has a huge amount of traffic, we didn't think it would be a good idea to have a bank, a drive through Wendy's or anything there because it would be a traffic hazard. We were puzzling about what to do with that property. Thanks to Andrew Miller, the Town Attorney, he got to know the people who owned that lot. We started talking to them about maybe having the Town buy it. It was one of those things that was a fabulous viewpoint but not very good for traffic. It had certain dollar disadvantages. The result was the Town ended up buying it though we didn't have a serious plan about what to do with it. I can't remember how much the Town paid for it. It was like a hundred thousand or something. It's a little over an acre - 1.3 or something. Now we owned it, but the question was now what do we do with it?

Ed: We had several great acquisitions that we engineered while I was around and one of them was to buy that property from Rural Metro on Tatum. We could then have a Mutual Agreement with the City of Phoenix and we could present them with a beautiful new fire station in an area they were covering because west of there is Phoenix. It was a win win.

Ed: I'm on the State's Uniform Laws Commission and we had a meeting of the commissioners at the State Capital about that time and I parked by the plaza. I thought this was great. I wanted to see the statue of Barry which I knew had been placed at the park out in front of the capital. So, I'm wondering around and no Barry. I looked and looked and looked. Within a week, we were at some function and my friend Michael Goldwater, Barry's youngest son, was there. I said to Michael, "What's the story? I thought they had a statue of your dad out there at the capital". He said, "Oh, it's a terrible story. I don't want to talk about it." I said, "You've got to tell me. I've got to know what's happened there." It turns out the state, after Barry passed away, decided that they should have a statue of Barry at that memorial – Wesley Bolin Plaza. Whoever was in charge of that program went out and signed a contract with a guy named Dave McGary who did beautiful bronzes, but they had colors mixed into the bronze and the family didn't want anything like that. They thought for a major political figure you don't do Disneyland colors. It wasn't fair to say it was "Disneyland" colors, but it was not appropriate for the subject matter. Anyway, I said, "Mike, the Town just bought this corner lot on Tatum and Lincoln and it faces right there where your parents used to live." Barry Sr had lived up on Hogahn and the statue would face Barry's house which is now the Hobbs house. "Would the family mind if we looked at putting a statue of your dad there?" Mike said he had to check with his brothers and sisters. He would get to me in about a week or two. About 3 days later, he called back to say "YES." The family immediately jumped on board. We had their blessing, which we had to have. And they were thrilled there wasn't going to be color bronze. I said to Mike, "We are going to have to have a sculptor for the statue, right? Who did your dad like, western artist?" Mike said, "Oh Joe Beeler was a big buddy and a friend." He had met Joe at some cowboy art shows

over the years. I called him up and explained what we were doing and if he would like us to consider him doing this. He said, "Well I want to see where the site is first." I got most of the Council to come down to this corner lot, which was just barren sunbaked real estate, on a Wednesday afternoon in July. It was 109 degrees. He took one look and said, "this will be perfect." I got Andrew to write up a contract. He said, "I don't want any kind of contract." I said that we had to have that because it's government procurement. He said, "well I don't like that." I said, "What happened?" He didn't tell me then, but I found out later that he was asked by the city of Sedona to do a statue for them in downtown Sedona. There is one traffic light in beautiful downtown Sedona and there is a major crosswalk. He went to work with 3 or 4 other people on the Council that had asked him to work up a design for a statue. He was well into it and then some other people on the Council said wait a minute. We haven't had a procurement procedure – state procurement code – there is some kind of stuff that you have to do and blah blah blah. It got to be a huge controversy and Joe finally said, "well thanks. I appreciate the honor, but I don't think I want to do that." Then it was well known – so they had a contest and there were 3 finalists for the statue in the middle of beautiful downtown Sedona – there was this one fellow that was ultra-modern and it was just a big block of granite with a big block of bronze – "Men to match my mountains". That was okay. The second finalist was a great big swirly blob of bronze that went off to infinity in the sky, it was a vortex. The third finalist was just an old cowboy. It was a perfect fit. It was the cowboys that settled the Verde Valley. The sculptor went to work on the statue for the city. Whatever the legal hurdles were, they were successfully accomplished. One thing they wondered about was whether Joe would feel badly about not doing the statue for Sedona and he said, "Oh no, that's not a problem." Nobody knew until it was done that, he used a model for the cowboy and guess who the model was - Joe Beeler. Next time you go to Sedona, go to the center of town and there is this beautiful bronze statue – 89A and 179. The council members who blew the job that would have been done by Joe got Joe Beeler!

Ed: The next challenge was now we had this great world-famous sculpture, got this killer location, how are we going to dedicate this thing. I called Sandra O'Connor, who lives in the Town, and told her what we were doing and that we would really love to have her be the speaker and do the dedication. She was delighted to do it and was very much on board. Now we had to have the secret service involved in order to protect her.

Catherine: Ron Clarke in his interview talked about getting the fly over.

Ed: Ron Clarke was on the Council at the time. The tradition was Luke Airforce Base had an advisory group for the air force squadron – 57th Fighter Interceptor Squadron. Ron knew the people out there, so I asked him to look into a plane to fly by. Well you can't do that so easily –

you have to go through the Pentagon and everything else. But we thought it would be neat if we could do it. Ron, me, and some other friend of ours contacted Luke. They said, "That's fine we can do it, but we have to get permission from Washington." So, we got Senator Kyl and Senator McCain who called their friends at the Pentagon. And lo and behold, we got the fly by. I started talking to the guys with the signs and the pilots that do the fly by. They sent one of their pilots out – we were just going to get one plane – and he said, "oh no, we'll get four planes for a fly over - Missing Man Formation". How do we do the timing? How long would it take because they have to orbit until they got the go ahead? We thought it would be nice for the four planes to come right down Lincoln Drive. We timed how long it would take an F16 to get from the Superstition Mountains to Lincoln and Tatum. It was like 2 minutes 30 seconds or something.

Ed: Then we said we had to have a flag raising. I got a hold of the local Paradise Valley Boy Scout Troop. Then one of our committee members, a Town Resident, Jane Jozoff, had a lot of friends at ASU and the next thing we knew, she got the ASU marching band. Then we did all of the traffic studies things to see about closing Lincoln Drive

Ed to John Wintersteen: You still have a few scars, I think!

John: I do. I didn't have gray hair until then.

Ed: We closed off Lincoln Drive and had the ASU marching band sitting in the middle of the intersection playing patriotic music. We had Sandra O'Connor as the speaker. Then we had Jon Kyl, Janet Napolitano, John Shadegg, John McCain and Bob Goldwater. We sent invitations to all of political people. Our good friends, Ginny Simpson and Jane Jozoff were very involved in getting this together. Kathryn Gasser did all of the photography. We had all of the justices on the state Supreme Court. The best part, not something that everyone would have noticed, was that we scheduled it for February 14 which is Statehood Day. Everything was falling into place. The Boy Scouts were all set to raise the flag. The ASU band poised. We got to the count down. The first thing they did was radio the pilots out at the Superstition Mountains "Come on in." The planes came right down Lincoln Drive. They went over the Memorial while the flag was being raised and the band was playing "and the rocket red glare and the bombs bursting in air" and then VROOOM from the planes. (It was videotaped – I've got it around here some place)

Catherine: Ed and Patsy thank you for sharing all of your stories and memories with us. This was a wonderful interview.