

- Born in 1933
- widow
- moved to Lakeview in December of 1950 when she was 17
- originally from Oklahoma
- husband was volunteer fireman and EMT; held city council position for 14 years; became Fire Chief

PL: What do you like about living in Lakeview?

R: I have really always lived here and I raised my four children here. I worked as a waitress when I first moved here. Then I work at First National Bank for about 40 years. I liked everyone I worked with and I volunteered a lot. It seems like I have been really involved in the community the whole time I have been here.

R: I sing with the Sagebrush Echos, a women's choral group, and we sing for weddings, funerals, meetings, and anything we are asked to sing for. We also have a community Christmas concert and we invite the men to sing with us. It is our gift back to the community.

R: I am also a member of the Soroptimists. I think we were developed in October 1942.

R: Both my husband and I were really involved in the community.

PL: What has your experience been being a widow in the community?

R: I have been a widow for 3 years this October. It is a small knit community. Not too long ago someone asked me "How are you doing?" and I said great. Then they said "no, in your single life." I said I am doing fine because everybody keeps inviting me. In some communities if you are widowed you don't get invited to things, but here I am invited to lots. Most of the widowed ladies here, and were starting to become a community of widows because we've got a lot of widowed women here, are still included in activities. We are invited to dinners, cocktails parties, and we are just still invited to things.

PL: What is your opinion on the local food system and the availability of foods that you like to eat?

R: I think the Safeway does a good job with what they have and we have the Lakeview Lockers to. I haven't shopped there, but I hear they have good quality food. I am not a picky eater. I like cold cereal. The stores have a good enough selection. I think we have a good supply over here. We have a good vendor that comes through with good frozen foods. I haven't had any problems with the food supply.

PL: What kinds of restaurants do you like to eat at and what types restaurants would you like to see more of?

R: I would like to see a really good coffee shop or a place like the Indian Village. It was a really good place. It had a bar, a souvenir shop, a lounge, and you could have large gathering in the back. It was a really good place. I would really like to see a place like that again.

R: We have several good delis. I am going to the Subway today for lunch. I like the Mexican and Chinese restaurants.

PL: What are your feelings on the availability of fresh produce in the grocery stores?

R: They are good when people grow them and when they can grow them, but I have not had a problem with it. I am also not a very big vegetable person. My husband loved fruits and vegetables. I grow only flowers in my garden.

PL: What are some things that you would like to see change and/or stay the same in the community?

R: Well this is a very caring community. Everybody is looking out for each other. It seems that like when a disaster hits we all gather around and help. If we need something in the community, we raise funds and take care of it. I don't know. I feel safe here. I am really comfortable in my home. I am in a really great neighborhood so I feel safe here. As a widow that is important.

R: Well, another thing about Lakeview is that we didn't used to lock our doors and cars. But I don't think that is unusual or only something that is happening in Lakeview. I think it is all over with the drug problems.

PL: What is your feeling on the prison in the community?

R: Well I was very supportive of that. I signed the papers. I was on the city council at the time and I signed those papers along with everybody else. I have been very supportive of it because I think that we need something for our economy and I think it has helped. They have a large payroll and they have provide a lot of community service that we couldn't afford to have other people do. That was the idea. The deal was that we would have them do things that we couldn't afford to have done. They are paid, but they are only paid so much for a 10 man crew, and that's ok.

R: There were people just up in arms when it came in and they said 'well, we will just move'. Well, they haven't moved.