

**Tempe Historical Museum
Oral History Program**

Narrator: Richard Neuheisel

Interviewer: Aaron Monson

Date:

OH: 271

Location:

Tape 1, Side A

001-563

AM: Where are you originally from and how long have you lived there?

RN: Well I was born in Wisconsin on the Mississippi River in the town called Lacrosse and I was fortunate I believe looking back to have the pleasure of living in several small towns and enjoying small town life growing up. I went to the University of Wisconsin undergraduate school and wound up getting accepted to a couple different law schools outside of Wisconsin, but my wife and I decided to get married and stay at Wisconsin. I spent seven years at Madison, Wisconsin getting an undergraduate degree in Business and a Law Degree. I graduated in 1961. I went through the ROTC Program at Wisconsin. Then out of law I had a two-year obligation, mainly in California at a place called Fort Ord in the Monterrey Peninsula. Going to California to Virginia where I went through training for the Judge Advocate General Branch of the Army. It's the legal branch. I came through Arizona, and stopped to see man by the name of Dick Merkel who was a classmate of mine in Law School. He said, "You ought to move to Arizona." So for the next three years that I was in California, he would call me or write me and say, "Boy, this is where you need to come Dick, because there are lots of opportunities here." So I came back through here when I had my two and a half year commitment to the Army completed. I was heading to Milwaukee to join a law firm. I think the law firm was about sixty in number. And I was offered a position at Arizona State University where I taught business law then for the next fourteen years. That's how I wound up in Arizona. I got here in 1963 and first lived in Mesa for half a year and then we bought a home in Tempe. So I've been in Tempe since the summer of 1964.

AM: What are some of things you've seen in Tempe since you've got here?

RN: Well, it was really a small town when I arrived here. When you called me I reflected back and made a couple of notes for this interview. It was fun to do so. One of things I did was to try and remember the fourth candidates that ran when I ran for City Council and I couldn't come up with all fourteen. I'm just lost which surprised how I would forget them, the names of people I was running against. I could only come up with nine. But the changes are pretty staggering. The university for example, was about 13,000 when I arrived. But as I recall in 1963 when I first arrived in Tempe, the population was 23,000. By 1980, it was about 85,000. One of my campaign givings when I ran for the City Council in 1968, was I would remark to a copy and say that the biggest problem Tempe faced is to provide for orderly growth. We know growth is coming but it needs to be orderly. It's a little foreign to me because where I grew up in this small town in Wisconsin where I went to high school for four years; Cashton, Wisconsin, the population was constant. There was always 707 people. Someone would say, "How could that be?" I said, "The reason for that is, every time some girl gets pregnant, some guy leaves town. That's small town America." They got a lot of laughs and inevitably someone would say, "Is that why you left town?" I first denied that but it was a fun time for Tempe to watch that growth. When I look back at the university there was a riding of side by side growth. The university had about 13,000 students when I arrived on the campus. Today, it's I believe the second largest university population in the country. It's got over 53,000 students. The side by side statement about the university and the town; the town and gown relationship I think has been fantastic.

You read about many cities that have the good fortune to have the university in its midst you see a lot of infighting between town and gown. In my experience that has never been present here in Tempe. The relationship between the two institutions have really been quite wonderful. One of the things that happened just about the time I got into the City Council was the architectural school coming up with a plan to do something about the Salt River that sometimes flowed through Tempe. That was a product of ASU, what we see today when we look at the Tempe Town Lake. The idea germinated with the university. We've had other successes like that too. I think we've been blessed in this community to have a good relationship between the two great institutions. There are other changes as well.

The downtown; I was pretty young when I got elected to the City Council. I was like 32 years old, which was kind of unique. If you look at the eastern part of this country, that doesn't happen very often, because new people are suspect. You have to be around for a long time before people trust you. That's a general statement, but it's true in the political arena too. I think I lived in Tempe only three years and I was elected to the City Council. I was probably more progressive as a young guy serving on the City Council, the youngest in 1968, than my colleagues. But in looking back I probably tried to bring about too much change in fighting some people. A lot of people can't accept change.

And a lot of people have difficulty going too fast. My son is a football coach. He's a coach at UCLA. When he took the head coaching job up in Colorado, a comparison is in order. He was my age when got that job. He went too fast. He admits that today. Today he is a coach at UCLA. He hit some hurdles along the way. One of the things when you have youth is probably a little more energy and you want to do more things. That was true with him at Colorado when took his players rafting, he took them on songfests, he took them skiing, and you know football has the image of toughness and not fun. He made it fun. We'll I'm not saying I made it fun at City Hall, but I made it interesting.

One of the big development issues was the development of downtown Tempe. It was a biker's bar haven. It wasn't a place anyone really wanted to go in the late 60s and the mid-60s for that matter as well. My analysis was that to get a renewal in operation in downtown Tempe, it was necessary to get some federal assistance. To get federal assistance was to have a housing code in place; otherwise the federal government wouldn't talk to you. So to get a housing code in place was a real obstacle that Tempe faced. For whatever reason, no one wanted to really do that, because the housing code had certain federal provisions like there was a housing code inspection and this meant that someone other than the homeowner would have the right to come in and inspect the home; which makes sense. The conservative element in the community said, "Well, I don't want anybody in my home telling me that we need to fix the plumbing or something. That's a denial of my constitutional rights." Other council members fought this idea of getting a housing code. Well, after a lot of debate and public hearings, we finally prevailed. But it was always close. It marked the start of today what was today the downtown redevelopment, getting that housing code in place so we can get some federal assistance. It was similar to something we've passed around that same time period was the design review ordinance. I remember getting a lot of criticism making it possible for City Board, called the Design Review Board, to tell you what your commercial development had to look like. That too was a long battle, but we prevailed and Tempe was the first city to have a Design Review Ordinance in Arizona.

I remember campaigning for the City Council and suggesting we go out to copy what some of the areas across the county were just starting. It was an emergency call number, 911. And "Oh no. Why would we want such a thing. We don't need that." The obstacles were again played in front of us and we then succeeded at the time but eventually it came to pass. I believe we had vision in those days. When I joined in the council in the summer of 1968, we were meeting in Denal Plaza which is down on the southwest corner of Southern and Mill. You probably don't even know where it's at. But that where it was, the Denal Plaza Shopping Center. We had a City Hall operation out of there, makeshift, like sitting in a storefront. There were big windows looking in and there's the City Council at work. And it was absolutely imperative that this city was gonna become vibrant, and successful, and progressive. It had to have a decent looking City Hall. The first issue was, "Where was it going to be built?" The Mayor at that time who

was elected at the same time I was in '68 was Elmer Bradley. He and I were the only two that wanted the City Hall down on Southern. Frank Connelly was the publisher and editor of the city newspaper. He had his offices downtown. I don't know if it was visionary on his part or because it was better businesswise, economic wise, but he was fighting hard to have the City Hall at the old site where it is today.

When I was at the City Council there was an old building called City Hall down there the present City Hall is. The Council had majority that apparently it should stay there. And we felt that the downtown, before we had the housing code in place, before we had the development of the downtown. We thought, "Gee, that's not a very inviting place." But as it turns out I was wrong on that issue and so was Elmer Bradley. But the next battle, so we decided to have a downtown by a 5-2 vote. I think it was 5-2. It may have been 4-2 Bill LoPiano who was on the council who would abstain because he had some property across from City Hall and he claimed a conflict of interest. At any rate, so we decided to have the City Hall where it was presently located. So who was going to be the architect? Well, the oldest in longevity and prominence was Kipper Goodwin and his son Michael. They had been doing all of the elementary and high school buildings in our community and had a good reputation. After some discussion, "What kind of a design?" Michael claims he went to the mountain and got out of either bathtub or shower and had this vision of an inverted pyramid, and style and design for City Hall. Subsequently, maybe fifteen years later, I went down to St. Petersburg, to Florida to look at Spring Training sites. And we looked at the ones in St. Petersburg. And low and behold, next to the Pier was an inverted pyramid similar to the one we have in City Hall. I looked at the dedication date and it was older in time than our City Hall. So we didn't have the original inverted pyramid in Tempe as I was led to believe for fifteen years. At any rate we did have a lot of fighting about that design.

One of my great memories was that because Bill LoPiano proclaimed a conflict of interest, there were six votes. What we needed to do was get four votes to get the inverted pyramid approved. Elmer Bradley was opposed to it. He was the mayor. He said if the cost of the structure was going to be one penny over two million dollars, which is peanuts today of course, he'd vote against it. Elmer Bradley and I went to meet with Michael Goodwin one night after a council meeting and we tried to figure out the cost would be with Michael. Michael said, "It's going to be over two million. It may be closer to \$2.2 million." And I said, "So what? If we start over, we've got the issue of where it's going to be located? Who's gonna be the architect and what's going to be the design? So by the time we got those three answers, just inflationary processes would make it harder. So let's move forward and Do it for the \$2.2 million." But Elmer wouldn't budge. He said, "No, no, no." So it comes the night for the vote. We're in Denal Plaza. We're in a pre-session before the meeting. The City Hall isn't a go. I've been talking to Joe Dwight all afternoon and he's gonna vote against it. So Neuheisel, you don't have your three votes." I said, "Well it was a good battle. All is fair in love and

politics I guess, so I'll have to live with that and figure out another plan." Then I excused myself because fortunately Joe had not arrived yet and you could look out the window and see the arrival. So I went outside and got into a position where Elmer and anyone else inside didn't know where I was. So I waited for Joe and when he arrived, I button-holed him, to use that expression, and I was able to convince him that we needed to go forward and he needed to do the right thing. We could now no longer be a first class community meeting in this Denal Plaza storefront. It took some convincing, but Joe changed did change his mind. Then we waited until the meeting started. We could see the Council members coming in from the back room to the Council area through obviously the big picture window. And when they came walking in, I brought Joe in because now it would be too late for Elmer to have the last word with him. So, the discussion was minimal and when the vote came (because we've been talking about this for a long time) Joe kept his word to me and voted in favor of the city hall complex (the inverted pyramid) and it was successful by a 4-2 vote.

A lot of fun stories about Joe Dwight. Joe Dwight had been a baker in this community and was beloved by all. A likeable guy who had a twinkle in his eye and had a friendliness that was unique. Everyone always like being with Joe. He was set in his ways and lived up in North Tempe. As a result, he always felt that he needed to protected the people in North Tempe. He would do so and one way was by always opposing...what would you say?...there was a place up there called Big Surf and they used to have like rock concerts and musical events that would attract young people. So Joe would never allow that to happen because the neighbors complained about the noise. But on this one occasion a promoter comes to the City Council and is asking for permission to put on this big concert at Big Surf. He brought some plaquers, little posters that he put on, remember now that we're meeting out of Denal Plaza, and we had blackboards all over the place and on the chalk tray he was able to place these posters and plaquers that was promoting these events. One of these posters was on behalf of the Rotary Connection that was a musical that I wasn't familiar with at the time, still not. The Rotary Connection was a musical groups that was going to be performing at this facility called big surf out of north Tempe on Hayden Road and McClintock, which ever one you want to call it. Well Joe's attitude changed immediately. Joe had recently become a member of Rotary, a service organization. And Joe was head over heels involved with the Rotary organization. He later became President. I think he was the regional governor for Rotary in this area. When he reads at this meeting that the Rotary Connection is involved with this concert, he says, "I know that if the Rotary's involved, it'll be okay." So he voted in favor of the concert and we all joined in and the Rotary Connection performed in a wonderful manner in Big Surf. That's one Joe Dwight story. I like to tell these stories because it's really symbolic of how councils and legislative bodies operate, not always in the most sophisticated manner, but in a fun manner.

The other thing that I've often told about Joe Dwight was that when Elmer was Mayor, I told you how he was real conservative. He never wanted to spend any

money. He was notorious for that. He was a family friend and I know his wife. Poor Elmer is gone now. I miss Elmer. He was a good friend for many years. But he had his own style. He wanted to hang on to the last nickel. For that reason he was probably a good balance on that council. When it came time to giving the city employees a cost of living increase; this is about 1968 or 69, Elmer didn't want to give them any cost of living increase. He said, "Times are tight. At most you'd give them only a one percent or two percent increase." And we were told that by the City Manager Ken McDonald and I'd like to speak about him later. Ken McDonald's research indicated that if we wanted to continue in the mainstream city employment opportunities, we needed to be in the area of three to four percent. So as a lawyer, you don't start out asking what you're willing to settle for. The art of negotiation would suggest you to ask for a little more. So I suggested to the other council members, "Why don't we raise the salary of city employees to a six percent increase. And then we'll be the most enticing city in the Valley. People will prefer working in Tempe than in Scottsdale, Mesa, or Phoenix. And why don't we try to take that approach rather than lowballing it. We'll get better performance." That was my argument. Well we debated that for over an hour, put it on the table, seven council members, everyone wanted something to say. So in those days the policy was, "Let's figure out what the consensus is so when you went out in the front of public, you had some feeling for what was happening rather than just having a general debate without making your positions pretty well known. So we went around the table. Elmer wanted 1 ½ or 2 percent, and when they got to me, I said six percent. When they go to Joe Dwight, he said, "Well Dick, six percent of what?" Joe missed it you see. Joe didn't figure out that it wasn't six percent of any figure, it was six percent across the board. All the salaries would be increased six percent. So when Joe said, "Six percent of what?" You know that He was thinking about something else during that hour discussion. So I tipped my hat to Joe Dwight and thought fondly of him....the only thing I don't like to remember about Joe Dwight, he was the guy that went down in one of my major disappointments. He went down to Chandler and unknown to all of us he was dealing with the Chandler municipality and was trying to figure out where to draw the line; the border. I believe to this day that Tempe could have and should have and gone down to what we called in those days Williamsfield Road. Now they call it Chandler Boulevard. We should have both sides of that boulevard. Joe thought it would be better relations with Chandler if he negotiated something different. So now the border is a mile north of that. And that I think was a mistake for Tempe. We lost out on some valuable property and some valuable intel that is down there for example. Some valuable industry. So those are some of my memories and what other things changed. We had a chance of annexing Ahwatukee during my term of office. In my desperanda from the city political days was Harry Mitchell. Harry is a member of Congress now. And one of my heroes, I really like Harry Mitchell. We get together often and drink good bourbon. In fact he was supposed to be over last night, but I guess he had a conflict. But I still chide him a bit because during the four years we were on the City Council, we could have annexed Ahwatukee. We could have had the Point Resort. I guess they changed the name now. We could have had

that golf course. We could have had Montview High School. All that and Ahwatukee Golf Course. All that would have been in Tempe. It should have been in Tempe. The people wanted Tempe to annex Ahwatukee who was preferred over Phoenix. When I recommended it I couldn't get any support including Harry. I couldn't get any support because Harry, brand new on the Council. He got elected to the City Council in 1970. He probably was so new to the governmental process that he relied heavily on the City Manager who is probably one of the greatest people I have known in life, Ken McDonald. Ken thought it was too big a risk. He did not want to annex Ahwatukee because of the water problems. Well, what are the water problems? Well if you ask anybody the Salt River Project, or any of the water experts. You find that the City of Tempe has the best water rights than any other city in the Valley, because we're mostly in the Salt River Project. Now, Ahwatukee wasn't in the Salt River Project but we could have gotten water for Ahwatukee. Phoenix, obviously did subsequently annex Ahwatukee and they provide to Ahwatukee. If we had better rights, water rights than Phoenix, better access to water, "Why couldn't we do the same?" Well we could have.

But its interesting commentary. I may be sorry I've told this story but Ken McDonald died in the early 80s. But before he died, the Municipal Golf Course was named after him. But before I tell this story, I'm going to say in my judgment he put together a truly outstanding staff of department heads and key city employees. He brought in a great finance director, Jim Alexander, who later became a City Manager. Jim was just truly, a great guy and a great talent. He brought in Grover Sirambits, who was the Public Works director. Again, great dedication. He brought in Don Hall, community development. In those days, we called them the City Planner, but later became Community Development Director. And he was a visionary. In fact, he told me once that when he came out here to interview, he was happy with his job back at Michigan. He said one of the reasons he did come was that he believed Tempe had a vision that would be exciting to work with. The realization came first when he saw our City Hall, because it is innovative. It is different. It gives you the impression the impression, "Now wait, this city is just not another humdrum place in the world. It's got some vibrancy and a different attitude that would be fun to deal with." So then he also had a great City Attorney, David Merkel. He had Jim Casey as an assistant. Jim was a fine young guy. He just was surrounded by talented people. David Scott was another. He was a building department director. As you go through you have Ron Pyes as a park director. All these people made valuable contributions to the city, including Ken McDonald. So now after giving you the good side, this story is probably true and much of the world.

Ken had some back luck. He had a family. I think he may have had five children. I know he had at least three boys, maybe more. Two of the boys had car accidents within a year or two apart. Both boys had brain damage. They suffered brain damage. So they needed hospitalization. They needed medical treatment and insurance needed to be in place for that coverage to be continued. Well what

happened is that Ken McDonald said to me before he died, "It was too big a risk to go ahead with any planned annex of Ahwatukee. Too big a risk for Tempe and for me." For him, because had it not worked, but happens to Chief Manager when things aren't going well. Well, he might lose his job. Well if you lose your job, you lose your insurance. You lose your insurance, who takes care of these two boys? How is that handled? So he had a unique pressure. I don't fault this, but I'm just saying that it is too often the case in government where the courage is missing because the risk too high. John Kennedy did a book before he became President. It was written before he even got to the Senate, "Profiles of Courage." That was the story of about six or eight Senators who in each case made political decisions that cost them dearly. That's one of the things you have to be watchful for. If you're in a position of political trust. Do you look at what's best for you? Or what's best for the political body for which you are serving? That's an example.

Tape 1, Side B

001-349

RN: Just to continue with this nostalgia, the four years that I served from 1968 to 1972 on the Tempe City Council were wonderful years; great memory that I have of those four years. Some disappointments that I've described the failure and the annex of Chandler Boulevard and the failure to annex Ahwatukee. But there were more good things that gave about. I mentioned the Housing Code, and Design Review Ordinance, also the Sign Ordinance was brought into existence where we could control signs. You don't see the golden arches in every corner in Tempe. We've got lower profile signs in Tempe. If you drive around Mesa and you drive around Tempe, you see the difference in signs. Not to knock Mesa, but they didn't have the same vision. In fact I introduced the housing code. I introduced the sign ordinance and the design review ordinance. It helped because I was young. Perhaps it helped because I am a lawyer and I am more aware probably of non lawyers of legislation in different parts of the country. I've always had the belief that you don't have to be original in life. All you have to do is be smart enough to figure out, what's working somewhere else and then bring it home the same idea. It's true of business too.

We have obviously one thing that is dear to me is the Creation of the Sister Cities Program. As luck would have it, I had the great support of Harry Mitchell, my fellow council member when we came up with this idea in 1970. I went to a national conference that I learned about through a League of Cities magazine or National League of Cities magazine and went over to San Diego. I met a lot of great people who were involved with international citizen diplomacy. I felt it would be a rare opportunity for the people of Tempe to participate in making people relationships around the world and helping the cause of world understanding and even peace. I think it has. So Tempe embarked upon on a great adventure. We started in 1970 by forming a non-profit 501, C3 organization

that could be in charge of the program. We had the idea that we should be the first to reach into Eastern Europe with this idea. State Department official John Richardson, an Assistant Secretary of State at the time, told me no one had the courage to do this before. I thought, "Wow, Tempe could be the first." So we were the first. We developed a relationship with Skopje, which has been extremely successful. The mayor of Skopje will be with us for the Oktoberfest in a couple of months. They've got a lot of students here. Since 1972, we've been exchanging students: over 200 on both sides. 200 from Skopje, 200 from here in Tempe. We've had President of the country spend three months here in 1989. So it's made a difference. That all happened during that four years between 1968 and 1972. And then I think as far as ASU is concerned. ASU has, as said in the beginning, increased dramatically in size of enrollment. But it's also increased dramatically in stature. If you look at the publication that ranks institutions, ASU ranks high in many of the areas, including law, including engineering, and business. And I think that we had the first bowl game, the first fiesta bowl game was held in 1971 when I was on the City Council. I believe ASU played Florida State and beat the Seminoles that year. I remember in 1970 when we were still working on the idea of having a bowl on campus at ASU, some of us went to the Peach Bowl in 1970 to see how it all worked. I remember Harry Mitchell went along. We both went. I'm sitting in the stands at the Peach Bowl and the snow was falling. It was the first time Harry Mitchell experienced falling snow. There was such condition after the game because of the heavy snowfall and the traffic conditions. We didn't know how to get back to the hotel. So Harry and I reminisce how we just jumped out in front of car and told them, "We need a ride back to the Marriot Hotel," and they gave us a ride. So anyways, there are some of the memories I have. It's interesting, the people who ran at the same time I did in 1968 include Art Livingston and Joe Dwight, both of whom were elected along with me. And Bob Svob was a candidate. He came in fourth. He was an incumbent. So it was a pretty exciting time for Tempe because you don't always get three brand new city councilman which happened in this occasion. Also interesting was the fact that Dale Shumway was a candidate for the City Council in 1968 and wasn't close. I don't think he was fourth. Bob Svob was fourth. Nevertheless, two years later in 1970, Elmer Bradley who I mentioned a couple of times here was not the most popular guy because of some of his idiosyncrasies. Dale ran against and beat Elmer. Dale lost the City Council position in '68, but won in both '70 and '72. In 1972, he beat me. I ran for the Mayorship at that time. (By twenty votes) It was twenty votes. Also interesting Hut Hutson was a candidate in 1968. And then thirty-six years later in 2004, he runs again and win. He won as an old guy when he couldn't do it as a young guy. And I support Hut this last time because of the long friendship I had with him. But I just was at a sister city event, a welcome home party for the twenty-eight delegates we sent to our sister cities, as well as a welcome to the Tempe to the twenty-eight brothers and sisters. So we had fifty-six people as delegates this summer. They were present this past week at a dinner. And also present were their parents and others. I sat a table with an impressive group. 3 City Councilmen: Mark Mitchell, Shanna Ellis, and the new one Joe Navarro. So anyways, at this dinner were these

three City Councilmen. They're all young, they're all in their thirties. They're all getting along well and getting friendly. So I challenged them. I said, "I hope that we do two things; support the Sister Cities program in Tempe and get along as well as you are tonight, four years from now." Because the council member or legislative body member needs to have a give or take attitude. There needs to be compromise. One of the sad commentaries in today's world is that there is too much partisanship through Washington. I sit and talked to Harry Mitchell, it's them against us. It's not like it used to be where you could have a friendly debate and democrats and republicans work out their differences. It doesn't happen that much. It's a mean spirited attitude. In fact, Scott McClellan who was the press secretary for President Bush, in his book he talks about, "What Happened?" I guess is the name of it. I read most of it now. It's a continuing political process. It's a permanent campaign he refers to it as. All the time you're not looking what's best for America, but what's best for winning. And that's a problem at all levels in government. When a Congress gets elected in November, the first thing is to figure out how he can start working to get a campaign chest so two years from now he can be elected again. It's a constant campaign process. And it's sad. I don't know how to fix it. The general public needs to be aware of it and it's too bad that Congressmen have to run every two years because they spend all their time campaigning and raising money. But the Senate has to support a change and why would the Senate want to support a change because that means the Congressman would have an open time period where he could be running for the Senate. If he's in there for four years the Senator at one point will be facing that Congressman. It's a fear. So that won't happen. Now that one thing that has to be interesting is that people like Elden Hastings who was a candidate in 1970 or 68, he later moved to Gilbert and served on the City Council in Gilbert. Then the only two other names I can think of from memory are Richard Prior who had a job at the university. I don't know what ever happened to Richard. And the other one was Joe Mahunsinger. Joe had some ups and downs as a developer. I see him from time to time. I know he's around. So those are the candidates. We've gone through some of the accomplishments and some of the disappointments and I think that I can say that the 1968 City Council did a great deal to move Tempe in the direction that it went. It did a lot for the downtown. It got the building started on Southern. We did the library building while I was in office. Now it's your building, the museum building. We worked well with the university. The university began to explore its reputation as well as its student body enrollment. So it was a good four years. Do you have any special questions?

AM: Well just a few. What would you say are some of the city's strengths today?

RN: Well the greatest strength of this city is the university. There's no question about that. Just recently Tempe Sister Cities was contacted about having a Sister City relationship in Sweden. So we're going to go there probably next month in September 2008. That's why see the two pics on Sweden there. They had a lot of questions about the university. The fellow that contacted me about this was a student of mine years ago. Tom Ladean is his name and he looks at the towns that

are interested in forming a relationship with Tempe. Of course, he's very proud. In fact, he's an alum of ASU. The university helps us a lot. I think our progressive attitude in developing the Town Lake. Sometimes it's luck. I look at a lot of things in life and I say, "Why did that happen in the way it did?" In my marriage I will soon be celebrating in a month and two days, I'll have been married to the same lady, we're the original Dick and Jane for fifty years. Now how does that happen? I have lots of friends that I thought were involved in good marriages and they're divorced or someone died. Luck has a lot to do with it. I think that Tempe is really lucky to have great people. I think they have a unique sort in Tempe that's helped in part by the university. I think it's helped in part because of its diversity. I think it's helped in part because of the strong education system we have and education leadership. I think we have good principles and superintendents. A lot of great teachers. My wife and I raised four kids and they all went to public schools in Tempe. They've all done well. They all have degrees. Three are lawyers. The other one is normal by the way. So it's an element of luck. When we have the Oktoberfest I think we have two thousand volunteer working. Where do you see that? Some volunteers have been doing this for years and years and years. They do it because it's fun like serving beer and brats and that kind of thing. And secondly, it's for a great cause. If you can help some young person to spend time in China and see the great wall it will affect all their lives. It will change their lives. The Sister Cities Program allows people to take the blinders off, to not just look at your own household, your own block or your own community. It takes the blinders off so you see the world. That makes you think differently. So what else? More questions?

AM: Yeah, two more. Conversely what do you see as some of the major challenges or weaknesses that face the city today?

RN: I don't know that Tempe has a weakness. I used to think that there wasn't any substantial individual wealth in Tempe. We don't have a Bill Gates. We don't have anyone that I can name that can write enormous checks in the time of an emergency or fiscal tragedy. But maybe that's better because maybe that means everyone else pulls together and there isn't a real distinctive class system. That's what made America great, the great middle class. Well in Tempe, I think everybody is middle class. I don't think there isn't a rich or a poor here. In much of the world you have extreme wealth and you have extreme poverty. I think you have some areas of poverty that could get more attention. We got community council. We've got some systems in place to take care of most of our problems. I don't see any weaknesses. You know people argue that sometimes you have to belong to certain organizations to get elected to office. I don't put much stock in that. I belong to a Kiwanis Club. As it turns out we had a history of a lot of political involvement. Joe Lopiano, a mayor for ten years was a Kiwanian. Mark Mitchell, Harry's son is a Kiwanian. And we have Corey Woods now is a Kiwanian and Shana Ellis is a Kiwanis. I guess we have three out of the seven. I think that's just because Kiwanis is fun. I mean of all the council members except of Joe Navarro. As a member of Sister Cities at the dinner the other night I made

him raise his hand and swear that he'd send his check as soon as he got home. But that's just having involvement with organizations that do good things. So I don't think that's a weakness. Anything else?

AM: Just to sum it all up, how do you see the City of Tempe developing in the future, ten, twenty, or even fifty-years out with the massive population growth in the valley, the university continuing to grow; how do you see that affecting Tempe specifically?

RN: I have trouble looking out and seeing what's happening tomorrow. Much less years and years from now. I think the evidence is pretty apparent that Tempe is not going to grow in an outward fashion because we're surrounded by other municipalities. So our growth is limited. We can fill in some areas, probably be a little more denser population. We can probably grow higher in the downtown area. That seems to be in vogue now. Those developments are slowing down I guess because of the economic crouch here in August 2008. These aren't the best of times. You just heard over the weekend if you want to fly US Air and you have a coat, you're going to have pay two dollars, which is kind of shocking. There was an article in today's USA today, not in the paper I am looking at here. If it continues to get this tight in the economy as it is, maybe the low income in our society won't be able to fly. I think one of the keys is to have a city that is friendly, open, and inviting allow young guys like Corey Woods and Joe Navarro to run for the City Council and have success and have old guys like me supporting them. It's an embracing type things. It's so such easier in life to get things accomplished by getting large groups working together and have a feeling of belonging to more people. So we've been lucky to that great volunteer spirit. Lucky to have the great municipal leadership. As an example, I would rank much higher the successes of the Tempe City Council during my four years in Tempe than I would the state legislature. I see that body as involved in more fighting and name calling and bitterness than is necessary. I don't know why that is exactly. It's a bigger body in the legislature than the City Council. I guess when its bigger it's harder to have a community interest. But I think Tempe has done a great job. Great people. And looking in the future I'll stay here as long as I can. Thank you.

AM: You're welcome. I want to thank you for your time for contributing.

RN: My pleasure. Thank you very much.