

Walters Garry Index

Interviewed August 31, 2021



South Phoenix
Oral History Project

1. Family
 - a. "My parents are actually from.." (0:58)
 - b. His parents are from Louisiana..has a older brother and sister and younger brothers. His family moved here because of cotton.
 - c. Mom & Dad, oldest sister and brother, tin house, 11th and 15th ave, west
2. Born
 - a. "I was born right here.." (0:39)
 - b. Born in Phoenix on July 2 1951 at Memorial Hospital
 - c. Born, Phoenix
3. High School
 - a. "We had a big-time rivalry between..." (15:38)
 - b. They moved the game to 4:00 so that there wouldn't be a problem with people fighting. People wouldn't be able to come because they have work until 5. c. Prevent, fight, rivalry, Phoenix union, SMHS, captain, team
4. College
 - a. "After I graduated high school..." (32:25)
 - b. Starts talking about his experiences in athletics at the two colleges he went to
 - c. Graduated, freshman, football, basketball, NAU
5. Life Experiences
 - a. "So, Martin Luther King has been..." (11:53)
 - b. Martin and Malcom X were assassinated so there was a curfew across the whole untied states. Got pulled over during the curfew and had a rough encounter with the Phoenix PD.
 - c. Curfew, assassinated, shotgun, Police Department, sergeant, "profiled"
6. Chicago
 - a. "Left town and went to chicago.." (47:48)
 - b. He left to work in Chicago and sold cars there. But he didn't live there long because he doesn't like the cold.
 - c. Cold, windy city, sales, cars
7. Phoenix
 - a. "I've lived here in South Mountain..." (54:57)
 - b. He has lived in South Mountain and his current home for many years. He loves it in Phoenix.
 - c. Current home, wife, family
8. APS/SouthWest
 - a. "I did a total of..." (6:05)
 - b. Total of 38 years between both APS and Southwest gas.
 - c. Gas rights, arizona, 1984, employee
9. His Impact on South Mountain
 - a. "You need to go down and talk to.." (1:11)
 - b. He gets South West gas to work with Elliot homes to make more homes with dual energy homes so it is better for the air quality here in Phoenix.

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- c. Dual Energy, first home, ideas, SouthWest gas, homes
- 10. The best Zipcode
 - a. "This is the zipcode to have.." (1:13)
 - b. He thinks South Phoenix is the best because its close to everything. c. Moving in, freeway, close to everything, downtown airport.
- 11. Taking a stand
 - a. "We drive to south mountain high school..." (16:51)
 - b. They try to take a stand against their school switching the time of their rival basketball game by wearing black electric tape on their wrists like the olympics and it ends up getting him in trouble with the school.
- 12. Sports
 - a. "I wanna be a professional..." (6:29)
 - b. He grew up wanting to be a professional a professional basketball players. Also played football and those are what took him to college .
 - c. College, scholarship, wide receiver, professional, love
- 13. His family
 - a. "Needless to say, then I have a son.."
 - b. His son was a big factor of the next steps he took in his life and he mentions how he graduated from his rival high school
 - c. Son, graduates, importance, home, job.
- 14. South Mountain CC
 - a. "I know there was a lady.." (58:16)
 - b. Verna McClain was an instrumental piece of SMCC. She was a board member with Gary. He got South West gas to be a sponsor of the chamber.
 - c. Important, board member, different, respected
- 15. Early Phoenix
 - a. "When they put the freeway in..." (9:32)
 - b. He was there in PHX when they started adding in the freeways. It affected alot of his lifestyle. Trash Pick up, county, and school. He had to transfer schools.