

Linda Reynolds Gibson

*The
Kerr County Historical Commission
Presents*

An ORAL HISTORY

OF

LINDA REYNOLDS GIBSON

*Kerrville, Texas
2022*

Kerr County Historical Commission

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interviewee: Linda Reynolds Gibson
Interviewer: Mary Elaine Jones
Date: March 30, 2022
Place: Tech Center
Tivy High School
Kerrville, Texas

Linda Reynolds Gibson's family moved to Kerrville after her father retired from military and civil service where her parents then owned a popular barbecue restaurant. A graduate of Tivy High School, Linda received a Bachelor of Science degree in home economics from Southwest Texas State Teachers College in San Marcos, TX., and a master's degree in education from Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX. Her first teaching position was in the Brownsville ISD followed by John Jay High School in San Antonio. She then moved to the Kerrville ISD to teach in what is now called Family and Consumer Science in Career Technology, where she taught for 47 years. In this segment, Linda describes the challenges of teaching in junior and high school and focuses on the development of a model project, the KISD Child Development Center, serving pregnant and parenting high school students. The project roots were in her Child Development class and her early efforts to enhance student learning by providing a hands-on practicum with infants and young children. These efforts culminated into a multidisciplinary development center which later received federal and state funds to provide for the comprehensive needs of young parents and their children, enabling adolescent mothers to complete high school. Linda describes the challenges and rewards inherent in this endeavor, providing a glimpse into the complexities of providing education to this student population.

*The Oral History Project is a part of the
Kerr County Historical Commission, a
volunteer organization.*

Kerr County Historical Commission

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Name: Linda Reynolds Gibson

Date of Birth: June 27, 1948

Place of Birth: Pittsburg, CA

Education: Tivy High School, Kerrville, TX
B.S., Southwest Texas State College
San Marcos, TX
M.Educ., Texas Tech University
Lubbock, TX

Father: Charles Luther Reynolds

Mother: May Bell Harris Reynolds

Siblings: Charles Michael Reynolds

Spouse: Milton Arnold Gibson, Jr.

Children: Milton Arnold Gibson, III
Sarah Hitzfeld Gibson (spouse)

Grandchildren: Jace Harrison Gibson
Weston Wayne Gibson

An Oral History of Linda Reynolds Gibson

My name is Mary Elaine Jones, and I am with the Kerr County Historical Commission's Oral History Project. Today we have the privilege of visiting with Linda Gibson in the studios of Tivy High School in the Kerrville Independent School District. Linda has agreed orally and in writing to share her personal history and her perspective of Kerrville and Kerr County and she is granting the audio and videotaped interview to the Oral History Project, where hard copies of it will be housed in the Butt- Holdsworth Memorial Library and the Logan Library of Schreiner University. She is also granting permission for the interview to be uploaded to the Portal to Texas History, which is housed at the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas. And it is there that the version of the videotape and the audiotape will be digitized and will be preserved and available online for the public, educators, and researchers. So, thank you very much, Linda, for this gift. We really appreciate it.

Mary Elaine: The best place to begin is for you to give us a little bit of background. For example, what is your full name including your married name and then maybe where you were born and when?

Linda: I am Linda Reynolds Gibson, and I was born in Pittsburgh, California, at an Army base. I was an Army brat, and my parents were stationed there. And then after I left there, we came back to Texas and then we had three tours in Europe. In Germany. I was in, Ulm, Heilbron, and Wurzburg.

Mary Elaine: And you were about what age range?

Linda: Beginning at one. And the last tour that we had, I was in the sixth grade.

Mary Elaine: For heaven's sakes. So, a lot of school.

Linda: Started out in German kindergarten and I was fluent in German and then after kindergarten, I went into a base school and then we were stationed in Killeen at one point, and I was in a public school in Killeen. And then my dad retired from the military, and we retired to Temple, Texas.

Mary Elaine: Now, did you tell us which branch of the service?

Linda: Army.

Mary Elaine: Army. Okay.

Linda: My Dad retired from the Army, and we landed in Temple, Texas. Because he was going to be a civil servant at U.S. Army McCloskey General Hospital there. Later, he had an

opportunity to come to Kerrville to work for the VA. And so, we moved from Temple to the Kerrville VA. And then he began working in food service there.

Mary Elaine: So, his whole background was in food service?

Linda: Yes. In the Army, he was a Mess Sergeant and actually ran the food service for many, many years. And then when he came out of the military, I started seventh grade at Peterson Middle School, and he started at the VA at that time.

Mary Elaine: So, give us his full name and then your Mom's name.

Linda: My dad's name was Charles Luther Reynolds, and he came from Springfield, Tennessee. And my mother was May Bell Harris Reynolds, and she came from the Holland, Rogers, Temple area.

Mary Elaine: Oh, so she was a Texan.

Linda: Yes. And what happened was that Dad had been wounded in service and had ended up at the VA in Temple. And my mother worked in food service at the hospital. And that is where they met.

Mary Elaine: For heaven's sake.

Linda: So, then they married, and she joined him in the military, and they ended up going to Stockton, Pittsburgh, California, and that is where I was born.

Mary Elaine: And what year was your birth?

Linda: June 27th. 1948. And then after we left there, when we were stationed in Wurzburg, Germany, my brother was born.

Mary Elaine: And his name?

Linda: His name is Charles Michael Reynolds, and he graduated from Tivy in 1973 and I graduated from Tivy in 1966. After my dad did 20 years in the Civil Service, he and my mother were able to buy the Groceateria, which was a real popular barbecue restaurant in Kerrville. It was across from where Foxworth-Galbraith is now on Junction Hwy; they were in that business for many years.

Mary Elaine: Do you know about what time frame they were in business because that is very interesting.

Linda: Yes, they started the business about the time I graduated from high school, which would be 1966. My brother took over when they retired in the eighties. He had gone to Texas Tech, and then he came back home and took over the restaurant.

Mary Elaine: So, you were a student at Hal Peterson and then graduated from Tivy High School. Do you have fond memories of those years?

Linda: Well, what is really interesting is we started out at Tivy High School on Tivy Street, and then the new high school was built on Sidney Baker Street near I10. So, we were there

and then back and forth between buildings. And I think I finally graduated from the location on Tivy Street. I was in Antlerettes, and there will be an article that will be in the background. I was in the first group of Golden Girls. They took the Antlerettes and made a group from there. I have real fond memories of high school. I had a lot of friends that had grown up in Kerrville. Of course, I was new, and everybody was very nice to me. I have real fond memories of the Latin class club and Ethel Baker was our teacher, and we had some really good times with that club. And we spent many weekends at her ranch home doing things for the club. And then we did things with the Antlerettes and the Golden Girls. After I graduated from high school, I went on to Southwest Texas State College in San Marcos —now Texas State University.

Mary Elaine: So, were you in any of the future organizations like future teachers, future nurses?

Linda: Future Homemakers of America and Future Teachers. I intended to major in elementary education, but I had always enjoyed home economics when I was in high school. I did very well in that, and I liked all the areas of that degree. And so, I started out in elementary education but decided to switch to what was then called home economics. The name changed and now the major is called Family and Consumer Science in Career Technology.

Mary Elaine: The new term is career technology. When did you graduate?

Linda: I finished in the fall of 1969 graduating in January of 1970. My first teaching position was in Brownwood, Texas, in a junior high school. I did not know a person in Brownwood and was given the job.

Mary Elaine: Your family was still here?

Linda: Family is in Kerrville, and I was given the opportunity to go to work there and I interviewed on a Saturday, and I started teaching on Monday.

Mary Elaine: You were moving fast!

Linda: Yes, I did. And I had two mentors. I have fond memories of the mentors I had. I had a teacher that I worked with, Barbara Tongate; she was from Brownwood, and she just helped me through the beginning and then there was Wynona Dickens who was the home economics lead teacher at the high school. So those were two of my mentors that really started me off in the right direction as far as discipline in the classroom and being organized and because you teach so many areas.

So, I had a really good, strong foundation with them.

Mary Elaine: Isn't it amazing about mentors because new teachers, new nurses or any of the professions need good ones?

Linda: Oh yes. And Principals, too.

I was really fortunate that the principal I had in Brownwood was just phenomenal. I had a really good start there. I stayed there for two and a half years. And learned that junior

high is not my forte, but what saved me were ninth graders. There were seventh, eighth, ninth graders in this facility. I found out that the junior high was not what I wanted to do. I wanted to do high school. There was an opportunity to interview, and I was hired at John Jay High School in San Antonio. I went from Brownwood to San Antonio where the population at that school was over three thousand.

Mary Elaine: Big difference.

Linda: John Jay High School had ten home economics teachers that worked together in the department, and we still remain friends to this day. We worked very well together. And I was there for two years.

Mary Elaine: Well, just as an aside, home economics sort of was transformed. Can you give an overview of what career technology looks like in terms of what it covers?

Linda: Yes. And we had full classes in this really. When I first started out in teaching, it was more of food nutrition and clothing apparel. So, when I went to San Antonio, we had, and I've taught all of these subjects, we had home and family living. We had interior design, apparel, finance, nutrition, early childhood education and child development-- had all of those areas. And over the years, I've taught all of those subjects and many times I'd have five different preps in a day. Home economics evolved into all those areas. It covers a lot.

Mary Elaine: Is Career Technology a required course typically or is it an elective?

Linda: It is an elective.

Mary Elaine: Students still elect?

Linda: To do that? Oh, yes, And I have a funny story. When I was at John Jay, I had a Bachelor's Living course, which is not politically correct now. It was all young men. It is basically teaching the life skills that are so important. It just covers all of the areas that you need for all of your life.

Mary Elaine: Balancing your checkbook, all the way to doing the wash.

Linda: Preparing meals, shopping.

Mary Elaine: And then what happened?

Linda: When I was at Jay, I met my current husband, who I had dated earlier when I was younger. And we met again and ended up getting married and I had the opportunity to have a position at Tivy High School.

Mary Elaine: Okay. So now tell us about your spouse--his name and who he is.

Linda: His name is Milton Arnold Gibson, Jr., and he was born and raised in Kerrville. His Dad, Milton Arnold Gibson, was from Harper and Medina, and his Mother had hailed from Tennessee, and they had ended up coming to Kerrville. My husband was born and raised in Kerrville, and he graduated from Tivy High School in 1959. And so, we ended up

getting married and I started teaching at Tivy and, of course, I had graduated from Tivy and then I was coming back.

Mary Elaine: And you are coming home, and you wonder if you can do that, right?

Linda: Right. And his parents had graduated from Tivy, and my husband had already graduated from Tivy. Everybody in the family pretty much is a Tivy graduate.

Mary Elaine: Tell us about what his parents did and who they were.

Linda: His mother was Willa Mae Gibson, Willa Mae Braden Gibson. She worked for the Kerrville Bus Company and was a secretary there for many, many years. And she worked with the Peterson Foundation also. My father-in-law, Milton Arnold Gibson, Sr., wore many hats. He worked in Houston during the war. Then he came back to Kerrville, and he was in real estate. His brother-in-law, Patrick Braden, was a builder here in Kerrville. And he actually worked with him and then they got into real estate together. Later, he ended up owning and running a dry cleaner, Model Cleaners. When he decided that he was going to retire, my husband was getting out of the Air Force, and he offered him the opportunity to take over the business. So, Milton Jr. took over the business at the cleaners.

Mary Elaine: Both of your families were small business owners. Roots in small business and entrepreneurs, which is very interesting. Small businesses are the heart of small communities and the heartbeat of the United States. Okay, so you set up housekeeping, and in Kerrville, and again, what year was this?

Linda: That was in 1974.

Mary Elaine: You started teaching at Tivy High School.

Linda: Yes. And then in 1976, we had our first and only child, Trey Gibson, who is Milton Arnold Gibson, III.

Mary Elaine: Oh my.

Linda: So, he was the only grandchild.

Mary Elaine: He was in a wonderful position.

Linda: And we just had the one and then he did soccer and football and did a lot of things and really enjoyed his high school career and then he graduated from Tivy High School in 1994.

Mary Elaine: Where does he live now?

Linda: When he graduated, he went ITT and got a bachelor's degree, and he works in technology. He has worked in Nashville, Chicago, Orlando, San Diego. He landed in Saint Louis, and that is where they are. He is married to a Fredericksburg girl, Sarah Hitzfeld. They have two children, so we have two grandchildren: two boys. Jace and Weston.

Mary Elaine: What a wonderful blessing.

Linda: Yes.

Mary Elaine: So now let's talk about your career at Tivy High School, because I know that you have been a very important part of the progress with a particular population of students. We really would like to get your perspective, learn about the program, and understand how you got there.

Linda: Certainly. One of the areas that I taught in home economics was child development, and we had wonderful numbers of students signing up for that class. I wanted them to have field experience in child development. We actually created an on-site in-class lab for my students that were enrolled in child development to actually run a childcare center in our classroom, set up by the students, taught by the students at the various developmental levels from zero to three years. We ran it four weeks at a time so they would have a practical application. So, during that time, some grants became available through the state, and one of the administrators contacted me and said, "KISD has applied for this grant, and we've gotten this grant to construct a childcare center on a high school campus for teen parents because we have a population."

Mary Elaine: You are talking about the late seventies, early eighties, right?

Linda: No, this was later. This was 1990.

Mary Elaine: You had already laid some groundwork?

Linda: We had done child development (with the four-week cycle) for years and that is why it was a just a natural process for the child development teacher to actually go into that area. And we got the grant initially. In this case, the state awarded a certain amount for the grant and then the school district matched the amount that you were given.

So, we got the grant and we actually ended up being able to build a facility and it was a portable building at the back of the Tivy High School parking lot. Now, that is the high school that was on Sidney Baker Street. It later became the Junior High School when the new high school was built on Loop 534.

It sat at the back—kind of where the tennis courts are. We started out and were one of the very few places in Kerrville that had infant care because the mothers had to have access to childcare so they could come back to school. They were able to come to the day care center the minute that they were released by the doctor. As a result, we had lots of newborns we cared for until they were three years old.

Mary Elaine: I am taking a breath because there is so much to learn about how in the world you were able, first of all, to get permission to bring children into a high school even before you had a separate building.

Linda: Well, that worked out okay. We had permission slips, and a lot of the children were staff children and siblings. We had plenty of children for that first phase. It was a wonderful

experience. So that we really didn't have any problem with that because we were just talking about maybe ten or 15 children.

Mary Elaine: Still, often it can be a major hurdle just to get permission to bring very young children into a public-school setting.

Linda: The school district was really open to it and when we did the daycare center, we had, I forget what the initial population was, but we probably had 15- 20 children and we had staff from newborn through three years. The facility has been available since 1990, so we served children that are grown now and have their own children.

It stayed there and I was actually in the classroom part of the day and directing it the other half of my time. I had two hats. I was the teacher and then directing the facility and then I retired in 2001 and at that point in time I had an opportunity to come to the new high school on Loop 534 and I retired from KISD and came over to this school.

Someone else took the directorship of the Child Development Center and I moved over here, and I was rehired. I was retired and then rehired in 2001 because I wanted to continue to teach in the home economics career and technology area in the high school.

Mary Elaine: Oh, I see. If you would not mind going back and just describing the challenges of managing zero to three with newborns and then the teen mothers and give us a flavor of what that must have been like or was like.

Linda: The teen parents were required to take a parenting class, which I felt was just imperative. You had to have the parenting class. And with that component, they actually did in-kind in the daycare center. They had a practicum with their babies. That in itself was pretty innovative-- an issue that killed two birds with one stone. And it was wonderful because you had hands on and then the people that we hired to be staff were just incredible individuals with wonderful backgrounds in childcare were there to help them.

We even had degreed teachers. We had people that already had years and years of experience with that age group. We pulled an incredible staff in and there were a lot of perks for working with the school district because of the amount of time that you worked, the in-service that was available to them. They were teaching so many levels because they were actually teaching the parents as well as the children that they had in the classroom.

Mary Elaine: And it was really the most ideal that you could have in that kind of situation--from an educational perspective.

Linda: Yes. And I think it might be of interest to know how it was funded. The CCS (Child Care Services)-- a childcare service where you apply, and the government does a sliding scale with childcare. And that is how the district was getting money for the children, which you had to have because it is so expensive.

Mary Elaine: For childcare. And of course, our concern was, first of all, to keep the mothers in school, right? And then secondly, we are concerned for the development of the children.

Linda: Exactly. And then later on, we opened it up to KISD staff and not only did we have the teen parents' children, but we also had staff, because there was a real lack of spots for childcare in Kerrville. And that really helped a lot of teachers and staff who were having problems, especially with the newborns, because there are very few slots in Kerrville for newborns.

Mary Elaine: Really newborns.

Linda: They were really newborns because teachers have to be back in the classroom. Then what was so interesting is that we had access to all the health care for the children and we had an on- site nurse, physical therapy, occupational therapy. We had people that were in early childhood coming in to be a resource for us and...

Mary Elaine: How to stimulate, how to stimulate talking, how to stimulate everything. To assess development and identify children who were having any sort of development issues.

Linda: Exactly. Yes. And we had some success stories with children that we had in our facility because we caught things.

Mary Elaine: Oh, give an example.

Linda: We had a staff member that had a ginger baby. And just as adorable toddler. And the staff noticed that she was only grabbing things with one hand. And we got an assessment and found out that she had cerebral palsy.

Mary Elaine: Early intervention.

Linda: Early intervention kicked into gear and provided all the physical therapy through our staff and outside facilities. And this young lady was a cheerleader, and you could not even tell that she had the situation. But because of all the early intervention, she was actually strides ahead of where she would have been if we hadn't gotten in there.

Her mother was a teacher at Head Start. It was just very interesting that we would use strategies so she would use the other side of her body.

Mary Elaine: She received physical therapy and occupational therapy?

Linda: Right there on staff. And we had an early childhood intervention group that would come in and assess. That was one of the best stories. We also had students that were teen parents that eventually became staff members and worked for KISD.

Mary Elaine: What else can you say except that it is terrific. That is the way it should be in so many ways.

Linda: We had in-service because they were required to have so many hours of training. And then, of course, they had the mentors within the facility and they actually started out working with someone and then they ended up having their own classroom. We were

also fortunate to have several elementary teachers who came in and taught the three-year olds.

Mary Elaine: Is the program still going?

Linda: Yes.

Mary Elaine: That is the best part, isn't it? Because it is tough sometimes.

Linda: Yes, it is. And what they have done, which is phenomenal, is that we have an early childhood area in Kerrville. It's intact--they have moved Head Start, Pre-K, and the Tivy Child Development Center onto one campus.

Mary Elaine: And where is that?

Linda: That's located on Tivy Street, behind what used to be the Tivy Elementary School.

Mary Elaine: Right next door to the old high school. Right?

Linda: The old high school: Tivy and Third Street.

It is all there. Parents and children have access to nurses, physical therapy, and it is all right there and it's concentrated on birth through 3 years because they've got a program in Kerrville now that you can do pre-K at 3. They have case managers who can help with any need that a parent would have.

Mary Elaine: Adolescent pregnancy was a severe problem, particularly starting in the seventies. Do you think that it has decreased or is it pretty much the same as it was?

Linda: I think you are seeing a decrease in it. We actually saw a decrease as we went along. Now, you do not get everyone that is a teen parent. You do not get all of the children because some of the grandparents want to watch the children. But I think there has been a decrease.

Mary Elaine: But there is still a terrific need, no matter what, for this. The issues of parenting and the early intervention remain.

Linda: Exactly.

Mary Elaine: Could you just speak about the inter-agency collaboration that got started with you in that first center. You obviously were collaborating across all sorts of community lines.

Linda: WIC is the Women, Infant, Children nutrition program under the Department of Agriculture. They promote breastfeeding and nutritious food for children. We worked with CCS (Child Care Services), which is the program that provides government assistance for childcare. We also worked with Child Protective Services. At some point we actually had children that had been removed from teen parents' homes and placed in our center. And part of their judgment included that they had to come into the center, and we modeled proper parenting for them.

Mary Elaine: Which is always a terrific problem. Where do you find that?

Linda: Right in the backyard and the judge court ordered that to happen. Of course, we had a large collaboration with Head Start and they also worked with them with affordable housing, food stamps, anything that they would need help with such as utilities, filling out paperwork. And we had a case manager that would actually meet monthly with each student and go through everything that they would need.

Mary Elaine: And check how they were doing, and monitoring?

Linda: Exactly.

Mary Elaine: Of course, you had faculty monitoring, but then you had this other layer.

Linda: And they were a part of the center. The teen parents had to be interactive with the center. You didn't just drop your child off and that was that. It was an interaction. And what was so great is that if a child was ill, we had a nurse that was on-site and if needed, the mother could come right down from class and get their child.

We helped with transportation also because we had a bus with car seats that would pick up the children. We did programs like the availability of car seats for the children, formula for the children. So, there were a lot of components to the teaching and programming.

Mary Elaine: Well, when you stand back and think about those years and you think about the students who came through, what do you think about in terms of success with them and how have you measured that?

Linda: Well, I have had an opportunity because I have taught at Tivy. I have been through three generations. And so I get to see these children in the community and you see their successes and some of the teen parents are grandparents now and they actually come up to you and they've made progress with their goals and they really attribute a lot to that foundation, to actually having that help at the very beginning, and knowing that there wasn't a problem we couldn't attack or address and give them tools to meet their goals. So, we have seen a lot of success in the community.

Mary Elaine: You know that it works.

Linda: Yes. That approach works. They have come up to some of us and said, "We've got a degree in such and such." And, you know, a lot of them are degreed. One of our teen parents became a nurse and one of her friends approached and she said, "Let's do real estate together." And so, she has left nursing which she has in her tool chest and is with an aggressive up and coming real estate office here in Kerrville. And they are helping people with first time houses. Grassroots-- they understand what the struggle is.

And so, we have been able to see, and the caregivers have stayed in touch with so many of the children and go to their graduations and college graduations and we have been able to see that family.

Mary Elaine: Sometimes I think it is so trite to say a village.

Linda: But it takes a village.

Mary Elaine: And this is a beautiful example of how a village can work. It really is our school and school setting in action, helping and teaching.

Linda: Exactly.

Mary Elaine: Watching out for the next generation in a very concrete way. So how much contact do you have today with all of that? Do you stay in contact?

Linda: Oh, I did retire. I would still be teaching but I became ill in 2016 and I had to retire but I would still be in the classroom. I ended up with 47 years of experience.

Mary Elaine: I think that is amazing. Well, and a record.

Linda: Well, what I think, too, is every day you get up and you are just so happy to go and be at school. There was not a day that I dreaded it and, of course, there were a lot of problems and things that you addressed, but it, kept you on your toes. I retired in 2016 and I've been out in the community and I am having more time off to run into former students.

Of course, the pandemic has kind of done a little bit of a number on that, but a lot of them are back in Kerrville. A lot of them moved on but there are a lot of former students here in Kerrville.

Mary Elaine: Well, what a success story. Let me see now. You have been a mentor rather than being mentored. You were very clear about some of the mentors that you had as your career path progressed. But you also then took on that role of mentorship, which is a phenomenal gift to give to someone. And you also gave direct care to the students and their children. So, if I ask you, what are you the most proud of? What would you say?

Linda: I think impacting several generations of students positively and giving them the drive to want to go for their goals. I think just being able to impact as many people as I was able to and hopefully in a positive way. We go to estate sales every weekend and there is not an estate sale or sale that we do not go to that I do not meet someone I have known in either my adult life or teaching life or whatever. And that has given me a lot of pride in what I have contributed.

Mary Elaine: It is terrific. And did the school district get any recognition for this model? I would call it a model project in so many ways.

Linda: Well, when this started there were very few of these in the state and we would see programs and so because we were such an outstanding facility, we had many people who came to see our model. We modeled our facility after San Marcos and Seguin as they were up and running before we were. And so, we had a lot of people coming in and seeing what we were doing and modeling what we were doing.

Mary Elaine: Which is exactly the way innovation should occur and typically does-- from the grassroots.

Linda: Exactly.

And you know, when had problems, we had those schools that we could talk to and would go observe. And we did a lot of observing before we actually did our facility to kind of pull all these ideas together.

Mary Elaine: Was there anything else you wanted to add about that program?

Linda: It a great thing for the community to actually do this. I am very proud of the fact that KISD did it and that I was able to be involved with it.

Mary Elaine: I wanted to go back to Kerrville and Kerr County, and have you share anything that you would like about growing up here. And I guess one of the questions would be because of this role as being a teacher, what do you appreciate most about this community?

Linda: Well, I think because of the size of the community, there are so many resources. If you have a situation that needs to be resolved, there are resources that you can go to. There are people; there are area voluntary groups. There is not anything that is not covered if people have a problem. For example, we have food being distributed here in Kerrville at a church, the city is trying to do activities for children in the parks, and just the park itself and the river trail, and those sorts of things.

I think we have a good community of people that you can call to help with problems, to resolve problems.

Mary Elaine: Is there anything that you miss from "ancient times"-- from those early days?

Linda: The Grove. The bowling alley but life goes on. I enjoyed the teen tavern.

Mary Elaine: Can you describe that?

Linda: I know after football games; we would all go over there and listen to music and dance.

Mary Elaine: Was a pool table still there in your day.

Linda: Yes. And just have a great time. Those are some fond memories.

Mary Elaine: There was a driving force that made sure that the Teen Tavern happened.

If you had to say what a guiding principle or value of yours is, that infused all of this activity over time, could you describe it?

Linda: I guess because I think having life skills to address all areas of your life is so important and I know what I taught kind of hit on all of those areas. I am having a hard time now because I want to teach people. I want to have a teachable moment, you know, and still continue to do that.

That is it--I love to learn, and I love to teach.

Mary Elaine: It is in your DNA? And your mother: she was in food service?

Linda: She was a homemaker, sold Avon, and then ended up working with my dad. She also worked at a little grocery store on Memorial Boulevard that was near the VA hospital. And I am having trouble pulling the name of it, but it is by Alex's Tacos now.

And the first rent house that we lived in in Kerrville was straight across from the grocery store. And so, she worked in that grocery store. And then Dad actually worked at Bernhard's and did butchering during the winter.

Mary Elaine: No teachers though. You are the leader.

Is there anything else about living in Kerrville that you would like to share or any other thing you would like to talk about?

Linda: I think not really. I think we have covered everything.

Mary Elaine: I appreciate so much for your being willing to talk with us and to share because when I learned about what you had done, I thought you needed to be able to talk about your leadership in this area and what it has meant to the community and to individuals. And so, we thank you and we particularly thank you for being willing to share it with the Kerr County Historical Commission's Oral History Project.

Linda: Thank you for the opportunity.