

John Crane:

Fairly good. I can hang in there. I'm going to just see how this-

Edward Deano:

Are you still working in Baton Rouge?

John Crane:

I don't. I've never worked in Baton Rouge. We lived in Baton Rouge. My business was on the river. We owned a stevedoring company, and we were based in Convent. And it was called St. James Stevedoring because it was St. James Parish, but we lived in Baton Rouge because it was closer.

Edward Deano:

I got you. I got you.

John Crane:

That was it.

Edward Deano:

Yeah. I just came back from Manresa. I've been going to.

John Crane:

Oh, really?

Edward Deano:

Like 30 years.

John Crane:

So if you walked up on the levee and you saw big cranes, those were our cranes.

Edward Deano:

I got you.

John Crane:

That was one of our primary locations, so interesting. Okay, so today is September the 4th. It's a warm day with rain showers. Today, I'm interviewing Mr. Edward Deano, and I'm going to get him to say his full name if that wasn't his full name. This is being done for the Old Mandeville Historic Association. Do we have your permission to take your oral history?

Edward Deano:

Yeah.

John Crane:

And we don't have a plan for it at this point, but it may be used in the future, and we'll also ask your permission to use it in the future.

Edward Deano:

Of course.

John Crane:

Okay. So Edward, begin. What is your full name?

Edward Deano:

Edward Joseph Deano Jr.

John Crane:

Okay. Just to begin with, tell me a little bit about your family, your family history, and in particular, when and how they came to Mandeville.

Edward Deano:

Well, my mother's family, the Lanusses, were here very early on. I think I've seen them land transfers as far back as 1850, but they didn't stay here, even though a descendant ended up having a house on Lamarque Street as a summer home, who lived in Opelousas, Louisiana. And then the Deanos came over in the '30s, and they had a house on the corner of Monroe and Galvez Street. There's a tract of land of about 3 1/2 acres and with a big house comparable to what you'd see where the Maestri house is, but it burned down. And my grandfather was very active in business in New Orleans. He had oil distributorship, he had a brewery, he had real estate, a lot of real estate dealings. He was chairman of the Levee Board when during the '27 flood. So he was really active and remained active even after he moved over here in the '30s, and he would go back and forth to New Orleans often, even before the causeway. And then his children, I'm trying to think, he had three of his children pretty much remained in the Mandeville area. There were six children.

John Crane:

What was his name?

Edward Deano:

Guy L. Deano Sr.

John Crane:

Okay.

Edward Deano:

And he was active here too in Mandeville, particularly the Our Lady of the Lake Church, but he was also active civically in Mandeville. My father was, and he had his real estate office when I was a kid in the old St. Tammany Hotel, which was a great place to go and play and hang out and all that stuff. And then he built an office in the '50s, where the building is today on the corner of Park and 190. And that building is probably that and Frosch's Barbershop is probably one of the only two remaining commercial buildings

that the same families have operated in Mandeville. I can't really think of any other commercial buildings that are still being used for the same thing.

John Crane:

So did your grandfather... Did he come to Mandeville just in the summertime, and then he finally moved over here in the '30s permanently, or-

Edward Deano:

He might've come in the summertime. The property that he owned was basically the land between south of Monroe Street between Carondelet and Galvez to the highway. So it was a pretty large piece of ground, and there was a house. There was another house that was on the same tract, close to the house, and a lot of outbuildings. It was very, very Italian. I mean, very Italian. There was a little farm. I mean, I remember when I went to Italy, it was the same smells that I remember as-

John Crane:

Growing up?

Edward Deano:

Yeah, growing up over there.

John Crane:

Tell me, go back a little bit farther in terms of the Deano family. When did they come to the United States? When was their first ancestor? It sounds like you've got French ancestors that maybe go back before that.

Edward Deano:

Yeah, the Deanos came over, I'm going to say... I was just looking at that. I'm going to say the Deanos, my direct descendants, came probably between 1850 and 1870, something like that. But he had married into a family of Valentinos who lived in... They were all living in Holy Cross, actually in Arabi. Actually, the Victory Oil Company, which it was the biggest independent oil distributorship in the south. Their offices and everything were out of Arabi. So they had a little... They had an extended family from St. Bernard Parish in Arabi that all lived in that type of area. And-

John Crane:

Were they Spanish in descent or-

Edward Deano:

Italian.

John Crane:

Italian. What part of Italy did they Come?

Edward Deano:

My grandmother came from a town Rapallo, either Ravello or Rapallo. I get the two mixed up in Northern Italy. And my grandfather was Sicilian, came from Messina in Sicily.

John Crane:

I had the pleasure of going through the Straits of Messina one time. It was pretty amazing really to see that. Yeah, it's amazing how close you actually are with Mount Etna in the background.

Edward Deano:

Becky and Cathy, my sister's just left today for Sicily.

John Crane:

Oh, really?

Edward Deano:

Yeah.

John Crane:

Oh, fantastic. So your Deano ancestors came over in the 1850s.

Edward Deano:

1850s, I can't remember whether they came. Some of them came over before the Civil War and some came over after the Civil War.

John Crane:

Has your family preserved any stories from the early days? Are there stories that were handed down about your family, about things they were involved in or people they met just generally either before or after they came to the United States? I'm just curious.

Edward Deano:

I can't think of anything before. And afterwards. My grandfather was pretty active in New Orleans politics, and so he was familiar with Maestri, and Long, made them all sign undated resignations, which... Because he was on the other side, he wasn't on that side. I'm trying to think.

John Crane:

I'm just curious if there are just family stories that have come down that sort of tell a little bit about, sounds like-

Edward Deano:

There's a great photograph of him. He's a short guy, and there's a great photograph, which I want to get my hands on. He's standing on the levee, and this was unfortunate and gave the order to blow the levee up in '27.

John Crane:

Oh, he was the one that gave the order.

Edward Deano:

Yeah. But if you've read the book, Rising Tide, someone gave him the order too. He's mentioned in there not so much of a flattering way because they really didn't need to blow it up.

John Crane:

Yeah, but he didn't do it. He was ordered to do it.

Edward Deano:

Well, he was at the Levee Board, but there was a triumvirate of about 60 uptown people that kind of gave the orders to everybody what to do. And non-elected, I mean, just people who kind of seize the levers of power, and they told him to blow up the levee... They had the bankers. Have you read that book?

John Crane:

I have. Yeah. I have. It's a great book.

Edward Deano:

It is. It's a fabulous book. So there's a photograph of him in a silhouette on the levee, talking to engineers, giving the order to blow it up.

John Crane:

I mean, that's a fantastic piece of New Orleans history. And I guess that flood changed a whole lot of things about the Mississippi River and on and on and on.

Edward Deano:

New Orleans is not a good neighbor.

John Crane:

That was apparent from the book that they pretty well did to St. Bernard what they

Edward Deano:

And they'd done it to Jefferson before. I mean, and they haven't been that good neighbors to us either.

John Crane:

I mean, I worry today about the fact that they keep building levees on the south shore, and we don't have any protection on this side. So the water's got to come someday.

Edward Deano:

Did you know that barrier out by the Bayou?

John Crane:

Right.

Edward Deano:

You know what I'm talking about?

John Crane:

I know what you're talking about, but I don't know the story of it.

Edward Deano:

Well, it was the first segment of a hurricane protection barrier that was going to ring the lake.

John Crane:

Oh, really?

Edward Deano:

Yeah, and that was... God, I'm going to say the late '60s. And I remember I was working in... I mean, the outrage against it-

John Crane:

Really?

Edward Deano:

... was really strong. And I remember I was working in Bennett Johnston's office in Washington, and I said, "Senator, you're going to have to bring... You're going to have to hire someone just to handle the mail."

John Crane:

The firestone.

Edward Deano:

Yeah. And he said, "What are you talking about?" I said, "There's going to be a tremendous amount of opposition to this." There was. And the joke was that the only segment of the lake that was protected was right in front of the mayor's house.

John Crane:

That's interesting. I really didn't know the history of that piece of wall. I assumed it was there for a marina or something like that.

Edward Deano:

Yeah, no. It was part of a grand scheme. Yeah, yeah.

John Crane:

Interesting, interesting. And you say that was about in the early '60s sometime?

Edward Deano:

Well, it went on for a while. That was probably constructed, I guess, in the late '60s. I was in D.C. in '74, something like that. I was an intern, so it was going on for a while.

John Crane:

Interesting. Yeah, that's fascinating. Tell me a little bit about yourself. So were you born and raised in Mandeville?

Edward Deano:

I was lifelong resident. There wasn't a hospital here. I had to go get born at Hotel Dieu.

John Crane:

So you went across the lake to get born.

Edward Deano:

Then came right back, yeah.

John Crane:

But other than that, you were here. So basically, your parents lived here, but they were really still connected with New Orleans.

Edward Deano:

My mother was from Opelousas.

John Crane:

Oh, she was from Opelousas.

Edward Deano:

And her family was involved in politics in Opelousas, in St. Landry Parish. And they had a summer home here, which is still standing on Lamarque Street.

John Crane:

Which home is it?

Edward Deano:

It's right behind Chip Barnes house. It's been raised, but we used to hang there growing up all the time. They-

John Crane:

Which block is it in?

Edward Deano:

First block one house... Right behind Chip Barnes, right...

John Crane:

Okay.

Edward Deano:

On the west side of Lamarque, one house off the lakefront.

John Crane:

Okay. Okay. Yeah, yeah. So it's raised. Yeah, okay. It's regularly for lease, I think.

Edward Deano:

I don't know if I've ever noticed that but maybe so?

John Crane:

Yeah. I think it's being leased now. That's interesting. So that was your mother's family-

Edward Deano:

Home.

John Crane:

... summer home, basically, at that point.

Edward Deano:

Actually, that's how my parents met. He sold them that house and real estate. He was in real estate, appraiser. Insurance, the only insurance agency in the town, I think.

John Crane:

Interesting. So we have you born at Hotel Dieu and then coming over here immediately to be raised. What are your earliest recollections about Mandeville growing up here? And I'm assuming we were talking probably 1950s.

Edward Deano:

I was born in '52.

John Crane:

Okay.

Edward Deano:

My earliest memory was being dropped in an artesian swimming pool on Madison Street. It's still there, but it's empty. But it was so remote, it still had a lot of Latin and Black culture stuff going on. I mean, I remember my cousin. I had a lot of cousins that lived here, who was left with a babysitter. And when they went to pick him up, he had all kind of voodoo talismans put on because he got a cough or something while I was gone. And I mean, they would do on holidays. They would bring processions of the Blessed Virgin. When I was growing up, it was in the church, but earlier than that, they would bring her out on the streets and do the incense like I saw in Guatemala. I mean, it was that kind of stuff. When people got married, they would go through town honking the horns. It really had a lot of Latin influences to it growing up. And there's a lot of connection to the lake in the bayou that unfortunately you don't have that. You don't see anybody swimming in the lake anymore.

John Crane:

Hardly ever.

Edward Deano:

Yeah. I mean, we were in the lake every day. I remember many years I went out to that shack where everyone went out to and saw my name on March the 3rd. I mean, I was out there.

John Crane:

What was that shack? When was it built-

Edward Deano:

You know what I'm talking about?

John Crane:

Yeah, I know exactly what you mean. It's just a couple of poles now.

Edward Deano:

Yeah, I have a photograph of it that someone gave me, it was the outhouse to a weather station that was out there. It was a two-holer, by the way.

John Crane:

Somebody told me at one point that during the Second World War, they had an observation point there for... I guess they towed targets around for people to shoot at, for airplanes to shoot at. I guess the lake was closed, and they had an observation tower there to see if they hit the target.

Edward Deano:

Yeah, I can imagine that's true because it was a federal weather station.

John Crane:

Station.

Edward Deano:

And it wasn't... Well, of course, proportions when it was that old, but it was, I would guess, maybe 30 by 30, something like that. And then with the shack behind it, and there was a pier that ran all the way out there.

John Crane:

So you could walk out to it. I assume that probably was destroyed, and was it Camille that it was-

Edward Deano:

Over many.

John Crane:

Many years.

Edward Deano:

Many hurricanes.

John Crane:

Okay. So gradually, just taken apart. What were some of the events that you remember in Mandeville as a kid that you participated in? Were there-

Edward Deano:

Well, of course, I was one of the first little league, Dixie League Baseball teams and-

John Crane:

Was that at Harbor Field? Did they played it?

Edward Deano:

We played at Fr. John Field, and there were pirogue races out there in the bayou, which I participated in. There were turkey shoots, that type of thing. The civic organizations were a lot more involved in the-

John Crane:

So people-

Edward Deano:

... town than they are now.

John Crane:

So people like Lions Club or-

Edward Deano:

Yeah, they would have... The room in the JCs, they have a big thing out in Fontainebleau Park. Fontainebleau Park was more involved, kind of integrated into your life here than I suspect it is today for people growing up. There was a bridge. It was destroyed in '47 from here to Fontainebleau Park.

John Crane:

Go ahead Monroe Street, basically going across there.

Edward Deano:

I think it might have been at lake.

John Crane:

Oh, lake.

Edward Deano:

I'm not sure.

John Crane:

Okay.

Edward Deano:

What I understand in the photographs is it was really steep bridge.

John Crane:

So they could get boats underneath it, basically.

Edward Deano:

Yeah.

John Crane:

Okay.

Edward Deano:

Our Lady of the Lake had a lot of little festivals in that time of thing. I'm trying to think of... They still have, I think, the boating association, even that they don't do anything, but they used to have boat races out on the lakefront which would... Speed boat races, which were a hoot. And a lot of my parents' contemporaries owned speed boats. I think back about some of these things in Mandeville, which just seems so out there now, and it was really out there.

John Crane:

So these were guys that came back from the war probably.

Edward Deano:

Probably, yeah.

John Crane:

They built themselves a boat and they drank some beer, and they raced them.

Edward Deano:

They raced them, and they were speed boats. I'm trying to remember any other particularly distinctive events that we don't have anymore. I can't think of anything.

John Crane:

Did you grow up fishing and crabbing and that sort of thing?

Edward Deano:

Well, my problem is that I get motion sickness. So it was very frustrating to grow up here, even though I did have... My cousin and I had a little sailboat. We sailed a lot. We'd spearfish.

John Crane:

Okay, walking in the shallows, looking for-

Edward Deano:

We crab.

John Crane:

... crab.

Edward Deano:

Yeah. Scoop net. And more in those days, scoop.

John Crane:

Scoop net.

Edward Deano:

Yeah.

John Crane:

Did you do the lanterns at night looking for flounders and stuff? Did you all-

Edward Deano:

I didn't do too much of that.

John Crane:

Were there people that did that out here, or was that... Do they do it on the Gulf Coast?

Edward Deano:

Yeah. I think it has to be shallower than that. But after a storm, shrimp would come in and people would be out there with cast nets for a couple of days, catching a lot of shrimp off the seawall

John Crane:

Oh, wow. Interesting. So as far as school, were you in public school or Catholic school or-

Edward Deano:

I went to Our Lady of the Lake.

John Crane:

From?

Edward Deano:

From kindergarten to sixth grade, and I went to St. Paul's.

John Crane:

St. Paul after that. So what was Our Lady of the Lake like? And so you and I are the same age, so you probably went to school in 1958 or something like that. Is this-

Edward Deano:

Well, when I went to...

John Crane:

Or '57?

Edward Deano:

There was one building.

John Crane:

Is the building still there or-

Edward Deano:

No.

John Crane:

Okay.

Edward Deano:

And it had the convent. I think the convent was on top of it. I'm not sure.

John Crane:

So it was a two-story building. The convent was on top, and the school-

Edward Deano:

I'm not sure. But the kindergarten, as I recall, kindergarten I think was by itself. First and second grade, we were together. Third and fourth grade, we were together. Fifth and sixth grade in the same classroom being taught the same time. Seventh and eighth were being taught. When I was in fourth grade, there were only 10 students in the fourth grade. There were less than a hundred kids in the whole school. And it was in the sacristy of the church was the classroom. But I have to tell you, they were great teachers, really good teachers.

John Crane:

Did y'all use the public school books, or did they have their own curriculum?

Edward Deano:

Oh, no. The state's always been-

John Crane:

supportive

Edward Deano:

Yeah. The state's so Catholic. So yeah, we got state books.

John Crane:

So it was the same curriculum basically or the same books that all the kids had whether it was culture.

Edward Deano:

Except we had a religion class.

John Crane:

I presume you walked to school and no buses.

Edward Deano:

Yeah, I rode a bike just oftentimes in our neighborhood. My parents would bring us sometimes because Cathy and Becky were younger. They weren't... So they probably brought us-

John Crane:

Dropped you off.

Edward Deano:

Yeah.

John Crane:

So you were at Our Lady of the Lake through sixth grade, and then you went to St. Paul's. What was St. Paul's like in the '60s?

Edward Deano:

St. Paul's was... I mean, it was so different. Look, when I was growing up, I may go to Covington three times a year. Went for the fair, went to buy Boy Scout uniforms at Haik's. And other than that, until I started playing Dixie League Ball, then during the summer, we might go up there and play a game maybe half dozen times. But I was not familiar with Covington. I mean, it was another world in Covington. I don't know if you've ever seen that. They used to have maps in Baton Rouge and state office bills, particularly in the cultural ones that had the demarcation of the cultures between the British and the French culture. It would go right north of Lake Charles, then it would go up towards [inaudible 00:25:06], maybe to Avoyelles Parish. Anyway, the line ran right through Country Club Estates.

John Crane:

Oh, really?

Edward Deano:

And that's true. I mean, Covington was so British Anglo, and here was so Latin.

John Crane:

Interesting.

Edward Deano:

It was really a much different-

John Crane:

I mean, even today, I sense that the culture here is more New Orleans and Covington, I call it Mississippi, it starts somewhere and it goes all the way, but essentially the same people.

Edward Deano:

But there's some real New Orleans genteelness in Covington. We didn't get the genteelness too much every year. We're close to the lakefront, but our summer homes had a lot of blue column summer homes, which were wonderful. Actually, I'm turning one into a bed and breakfast down the street here. But it was a whole different development, and everything's kind of melding and becoming the onslaught of New Orleans.

John Crane:

It's changed. So one of the people that I did an oral history of talked about the conflict between Mandeville and Covington, that there was this tension. Did you experience that at St. Paul? I don't know that it was nasty, but there was this tension between the kids a little bit between the Covington kids and the Mandeville kids. Never experienced that?

Edward Deano:

And actually, I think one of the things I've thought about recently is how there wasn't any tension between the public school kids and the Catholic school kids now I went completely to-

John Crane:

Catholic school.

Edward Deano:

... Catholic school. Now during the summer, I'd go work out with the Mandeville football team and use the gym there and all that kind of stuff. And it's amazing that... And even there was some real tension in Covington between the public school, Covington High and St. Paul's were bitter rivals, and there'd be fights and all that kind of stuff. Mandeville and... My feeling was that Mandeville and St. Paul's kind of had a nice relationship, and Covington was kind of a little... The great redneck hordes were over-

John Crane:

Were in Covington High.

Edward Deano:

Yeah, even after getting to know a lot of people when I went to... When I went to St. Paul's, that wasn't the case at all, but that was the image.

John Crane:

That was the feeling. What did you do? So did y'all get together for were there dances and things like that?

Edward Deano:

Yeah.

John Crane:

So on the weekend thing?

Edward Deano:

Yeah, there would be pep rallies, football game, dance afterwards. That was the routine, and maybe another event at a different school at Mandeville High.

John Crane:

So at St. Paul's, you could end up at a dance at Mandeville High or something like that.

Edward Deano:

Oh, yeah.

John Crane:

So there wasn't...

Edward Deano:

No, I mean, I went to dances at Mandeville, Covington, St. Paul's

John Crane:

Was there a music scene on the North Shore at all, or-

Edward Deano:

Well, there was. There was a great music scene at Duvalle's, which burned, but they got, that was before my time. I was around when... I remember the day it burned down. But they got the shows coming off the Blue Room, which stopped at Duvalle's and played so they didn't-

John Crane:

So they were part of a circuit that included the Blue Room at the Roosevelt, I guess, and so they would come here as part of that.

Edward Deano:

And it was a much more of a tourist town. I mean, it was just now maybe becoming a little bit more that way, but Mandeville had lost a lot of its resort feel and has lost a lot of its resort feel.

John Crane:

So the ambiance was that there was a core of people here, but you might have three or four times as many people coming in and here for either the day or a week or something and leaving so much more of a transient-

Edward Deano:

During the summer.

John Crane:

During the summertime.

Edward Deano:

Yeah.

John Crane:

When did that end? When did that sort of come to?

Edward Deano:

I think that the Causeway had a lot... People started moving. I mean, all these houses had names, and it was... Summer houses do and all that. Well, that's all gone. I doubt if there's many summer homes within a half a mile here.

John Crane:

Right. People go to North Carolina or somewhere else farther away now.

Edward Deano:

Yeah. And they're primary residents. I mean, the white flight has really changed the resort feel of the town, and it's become more of a suburb than this.

John Crane:

So it transitioned from a weekend or summer type of a town to now permanent residents.

Edward Deano:

Yeah. I mean, I come across in my life many people who said, "Oh, we spent the summer in Mandeville. We used to come over there on the weekends all the time, and there'd be lines of people to fill up their bottles with the well water off the lake," and all that resort feel is gone.

John Crane:

Did your house have an artesian well? Did you have one or the house on Lamarque Street?

Edward Deano:

It did.

John Crane:

It did have one. Okay. But your house didn't have one that.. And you lived on Galvez up on the-

Edward Deano:

I think they had a well, but it wasn't used all the time. And I don't think it was an artesian well, but I'm not sure, but there were wells. Actually, this property has one. And I think another house I lived in, there'd be wells on the property line.

John Crane:

Right. That's what we have at our house. There was actually-

Edward Deano:

Now, where's your place?

John Crane:

We live 303 Lamarque Street.

Edward Deano:

303 Lamarque Street.

John Crane:

So the house... Well, we live at 311 right now, but our first house was 303, which is the corner of Jefferson and Lamarque away from the lake, sort of a white house along.

Edward Deano:

Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah. The Northeys used to live there.

John Crane:

Yeah. The Northeys lived there, exactly.

Edward Deano:

Yeah.

John Crane:

That was their house. And then-

Edward Deano:

That's a fine house, I think.

John Crane:

We loved it. We really did, and then we bought the little house that was next door and built a house on that property.

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Edward Deano:

Was that one of the Glockner houses?

John Crane:

No, it was ... Who were the people across the street? Well, my brain is falling apart. The little house that was there, what I was told was it was moved there in about 1973. It used to be on Madison. And it was actually owned, I think, by the policeman that was killed in the 1960, early 60s.

Edward Deano:

Yeah. Galloway or-

John Crane:

One of those. It was just a salt box. It was four rooms. But they moved it, I think in about 1974 to there, to that location. Before that, I'm trying to remember the name of the woman, Wiltshire? Witcher? They had a store there on Madison. Whitesure. Is that it? Something.

Edward Deano:

Wiesheit's

John Crane:

White. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Edward Deano:

They had it-

John Crane:

Because they had the house across the street, and then they had the house on 311 property. And then the 311 property burned, I think in the mid-50s. They were having a party and kids were smoking cigarettes. That's what she told me. I don't know.

Edward Deano:

When I was growing up, there were I think, four seafood markets on Marigny Avenue.

John Crane:

Four seafood markets?

Edward Deano:

Uh-huh.

John Crane:

Really?

Edward Deano:

And one of them, Fandal's, which was the big one, and it was on the corner of Madison, I think, and Marigny. And I don't know how they did it, but going up the neutral ground is a conduit for salt water off

the lake that comes up the neutral ground and went in there because they would shed crabs behind their building. And I think the tanks and all that are probably still there. But there was, I think then there was a-

John Crane:

I know the Frosch's had tanks because Bryan told me about his family having them, and they sold most of their soft shells to New Orleans, I think.

Edward Deano:

Yeah. My cousin and I had some traps up until, I don't know, maybe five years ago. And we'd catch crabs and sell them to friends. Everybody says, and I think it's true, it's the best crabs you get. Because they're shipping the best stuff out of here.

John Crane:

Right, right. They say that.

Edward Deano:

I mean, most of them were jumbo crabs. It was really.

John Crane:

I mean, you still see them. If you just look over the seawall, you'll see a huge crab. They're out there.

Edward Deano:

Yeah.

John Crane:

But it's interesting. So it sounds like high school was a fun time to do that.

Edward Deano:

Oh God, it was a great time. It was a great time. And St Pauls, I really enjoyed St Pauls. I was president of the student council at St Paul's. Never had trouble getting a vote out of someone from Covington.

John Crane:

Who were your friends who were still around? Are they-

Edward Deano:

Oh yeah.

John Crane:

People like Don Villere. Was he-

Edward Deano:

Oh yeah, Don was in my class. His brother Ronald was in my class. Jack Smith at Smith Hardware was in my class. I'm trying to think of the ones that I see around here.

John Crane:

Harvey Marsolan? No, he-

Edward Deano:

Harvey was at Covington.

John Crane:

He was at Covington High.

Edward Deano:

Yeah. But I mean, I hung out with ... I mean, I'd see socially Harvey. I'm trying to think who else I see from. I don't see Steve Howard, but he's around and he's active. Hank Miltenberger I don't see, he has Gilsbar

John Crane:

Right.

Edward Deano:

I don't see him a lot.

John Crane:

But he was in your class too?

Edward Deano:

He was in my class. And the Maestries with the floor store.

John Crane:

Tell me. So St Paul's, where did you go from there?

Edward Deano:

I went to USL.

John Crane:

USL? Okay. Well, what was that like? Was that-

Edward Deano:

That was a lot of fun. That was just, if they had printed law diplomas up there I'd have stayed there. It was great. And my family was from that area, was from Opelousas. My uncle taught, well, he taught Black history, but he ended up being the dean of the graduate school. My aunt taught mathematics there. And I had other relatives that lived in the area, and I had a good group from St. Paul's went-

John Crane:

To USL.

Edward Deano:

... to USL. Just had, it was just a lot of fun. It just getting really immersed in that culture at that age was just ...

John Crane:

Did you appreciate the difference between Cajun culture?

Edward Deano:

Oh, yeah.

John Crane:

I mean, what were the things that struck you as different from what? Or what were the things that surprised you? Because Louisiana is so unique. You described the line between the English and the Latin. But there's another line, and then there's the river parishes, which are completely different too.

Edward Deano:

One of the things that struck me the most was in the 60s, as I'm sure you remember, there was a real divisiveness between the generations.

John Crane:

Yep.

Edward Deano:

There wasn't any of that over there in Acadiana. I mean, they were all having a great time together. They'd all hunt together. They'd all do the barbecue and everything together. And I used to go there, even in high school. A good friend of mine was Alex Patout, still is. And I'd just stay over to Alex's house, and man, we'd go over there with a half dozen guys from over here and stay at his house and do things with his parents. And it was just, there wasn't that kind of ... Let me take this (phone ringing).

John Crane:

What do you attribute that to? Oh, go ahead and catch that.

Edward Deano:

I don't think they ... I mean, this won't take long

I attribute it to, I don't think the politics was as-

John Crane:

As divisive.

Edward Deano:

... divisive. And my family over there were very involved in the Civil Rights movement.

John Crane:

Really? From the point of view of supporting civil rights?

Edward Deano:

Yeah.

John Crane:

Or fighting? What-

Edward Deano:

And there was never any. They socialized with everybody. There just wasn't the same thing over there. The family I think was so much more intact over there and not as influenced by the cultural events that were going on other places.

John Crane:

Do you think the values, the religious values, were they stronger in those areas too, do you think? Or was it kind of the whole gamut of things?

Edward Deano:

Well, the religious values were pretty strong over here too.

My picture on here is me and my cousin with our crabs.

John Crane:

So this was your mother's family over in Opelousas, basically?

Edward Deano:

Yeah.

John Crane:

In that area?

Edward Deano:

Yeah. And then there were a lot of people from ... I'm just have to leave this lying. There were a lot of people from here that went over there. I got involved in a fraternity, which I loved. And I was involved in the student union. It was a great. I had a great-

John Crane:

So student government, you were involved in?

Edward Deano:

Yeah.

John Crane:

Did your Opelousas family, I mean, do they go all the way back to Nova Scotia and that sort of thing? Was that the group you're part of?

Edward Deano:

My mother's mother can trace back to there. And they were very active in politics. Her uncle was Sheriff of St. Landry Parish. And another was president of the Opelousas.

John Crane:

What was her maiden name? Your mother?

Edward Deano:

Lanusse.

John Crane:

Lenu. Okay. So there-

Edward Deano:

Lanusse. But the Lanusse was from New Orleans. And he married my grandmother Stelly, who was from Opelousas.

John Crane:

Okay. So the Opelousas family was Stelly.

Edward Deano:

Yeah. Which there's a lot of Stelly's over there.

John Crane:

Huh. Interesting. So when you were in college, did you imagine that you would be an attorney, or what were you?

Edward Deano:

Yeah.

John Crane:

So you knew at that point that you were working towards going into a legal career. Where did you get your JD?

Edward Deano:

LSU

John Crane:

LSU. Okay. And that was a two-year program, or-

Edward Deano:

Three and a half years?

John Crane:

Three and a half.

Edward Deano:

LSU had a longer program than any university, any law school in the country at that time.

John Crane:

Okay.

Edward Deano:

It was three and a half years. And when I was there, someone that really had an influence, who I made friends with there, had an influence on my life for a long time was Dean Blanco.

John Crane:

Okay.

Edward Deano:

He was Dean of Men. Do you know who I'm talking about?

John Crane:

Catherine's-

Edward Deano:

Husband.

John Crane:

... husband. Yeah.

Edward Deano:

I mean, just a fabulous guy. Also very active in civil rights stuff, as was Kathleen.

John Crane:

So I'm interested in the civil rights angle, because that's almost counterintuitive in the South. There were people who were interested obviously.

Edward Deano:

My mother and her sister were so involved in it, coming out of Opelousas with nothing in that background at all. My mother was a charter member of CORE in the 40s in Louisiana.

John Crane:

Do you think it's because the races were closer?

Edward Deano:

I have no-

John Crane:

They went to church together. They did-

Edward Deano:

I have no idea. When they were integrating Our Lady of the Lake, oh, everybody was all in it. Think about that. So they had a meeting. They were going to shut Our Lady of the Lake down.

John Crane:

Really?

Edward Deano:

And my mother said, "Well, I have three kids. They're going to be at school Monday." This is Sunday they call the parish together. So then Adelaide Boettner do you know who I'm talking about?

John Crane:

I've heard the name. I don't know them personally.

Edward Deano:

But she has five kids. And Adelaide, who's good friends with my mother, said, "Well, look, our kids are going to be there too." And then Betty Cordes, whose husband became mayor later on, said, "We're going to be there too." Anyway, those three families really.

John Crane:

So it was really those three women standing up to kind of the hysteria of the moment. And then people said, "Well, if they're going, we're going too." Because the experience in New Orleans was quite different. I mean, there was some really ugly stuff that happened over there with the children having to be escorted and all that sort of thing. But that wasn't the case here. It flared up, but then it washed out. What year was that?

Edward Deano:

Gee whiz. I'm going to say maybe '62, '63? Something like that.

John Crane:

Okay. So before the Civil Rights legislation.

Edward Deano:

Yeah. The Archdiocese was ahead of the curve on that.

John Crane:

So civil rights was '64. I came back to this country in '69, and we went to Atlanta. And I didn't realize that that was the year that they were integrating the high schools. I had not a clue. It was a big deal for everybody else, but I was oblivious.

Edward Deano:

I can't vouch for the accuracy of this. This is just an experience that I had. A lot of my clientele are Creole families from Lacombe. So one day I was in my office and one came in, a guy I hadn't met. I knew his whole family, and they'd sent him over to me. And so we started talking. And it turned out we're the same age. So then we talked about school. And he said, "Oh, I went to school, to Catholic school in Mandeville." And I said, oh, no, you didn't go to Catholic school in Mandeville. He said, "Yeah, I went to Holy Ghost." I said, "Oh my God, Holy Ghost?" which was right across the street from Our Lady of the Lake. You know what I'm talking about?

John Crane:

It's a Holy Name Call now. Yeah.

Edward Deano:

I said, I didn't even realize there was a school there. I didn't realize there were kids there going to school. That's how just completely-

John Crane:

Separated.

Edward Deano:

And he said, "I was a boarder. I boarded."

John Crane:

One of the oral histories that I did was with Bill Simms, who has recently passed.

Edward Deano:

Oh, did he?

John Crane:

He went to school there.

Edward Deano:

He went to school at Holy Ghost?

John Crane:

Mm-hmm.

Edward Deano:

Well, and so Peanut, that's what his name is. I couldn't believe it. I was there every day, 100 feet away. Didn't know there were nuns living there, that there were boarders there. It was completely out of our ...

John Crane:

Awareness.

Edward Deano:

Yeah.

John Crane:

That's pretty amazing that your mom. It's interesting to me that individuals do matter, and people that have integrity and conscience when they stand up, a lot of the foolishness goes away.

Edward Deano:

My Aunt Patsy, they were one step ahead from the bombs in the churches. They had Reverend McKnight, who was a well-known black preacher, firebrand was a friend of theirs. And they were all through Southwest Louisiana. And Bob taught Black History for 30 years, wrote several books on it. But that's a good question. In fact, I was talking to my cousin, Tricia, she's a US attorney in Baton Rouge.

And I said, "Where do you think this came from?" I mean, there's nothing. There was a story of one of the Opelousas' family were married into a Jewish family. And the family that's going to heaven decided that they were going to ostracize and not go to the wedding or anything. And my grandmother said she was going, and they put a lot of pressure on her. She did. So apparently there was some of that, even though her racial stuff wasn't as evolved.

John Crane:

It sounds like they had a strong sense of right and wrong wherever it came from. You dig in and I'm sure that there's reasons for that. Relationships or people growing up together or whatever, something changed them.

How do you view Mandeville racially as you grew up? I mean, obviously you went to Lady of the Lake next door to Holy Ghost, and there wasn't any. Did you have any sense that there were black people here? Or did you all communicate?

Edward Deano:

Yeah. I mean, I remember when Cathy made her first communion. And all of a sudden these black kids would materialize to go get their first communion. In one, there wasn't someone to walk with him, it was in pairs. And my mother tells Cathy said, "Look, this is what you're going to do." So yeah, I remember who I'd see is Archie, the Carriere's, had the cleaners.

John Crane:

I did an oral history with him, and he said, "Basically I was-"

Edward Deano:

Which one?

John Crane:

Archie?

Edward Deano:

The older.

John Crane:

The one our age.

Edward Deano:

Yeah, I remember Archie. Yeah. He is our age.

I'm trying to think. And then I think his sister Corliss. And the more I think about it, the more I realize that there was ... Right now I'm doing a succession for a black family on Kleber who both the husband and wife passed away. And so I had the family here and the daughter, the oldest daughter is my age. Now, when we were growing up, there were 1,500 people in the town, you'd think I'd know her. I didn't. I didn't know her. But I would know the generation above her because they did work for my grandparents, or did work for my parents. So I would know them and know of them and know their-

John Crane:

But you didn't know their kids personally.

Edward Deano:

But I didn't socialize with their kids or know their kids.

John Crane:

Right. It was interesting. Archie was talking about how he-

Edward Deano:

Where is Archie?

John Crane:

He lives over on Jackson.

Edward Deano:

He does?

John Crane:

Yeah. The house next to ... The new house they built is on top of where the cleaners used to be. He still has the house next door. He's still living in it.

Edward Deano:

Oh. Oh, that's good. I'm glad to hear that.

John Crane:

Yeah, actually, your sister was the one that hooked me up with him. And we had a great interview. And one of the things he said was that when they integrated Mandeville High, he was the first black kid. It sounded like they put pressure on his dad because his dad was very much connected with the leadership, all the, everybody-

Edward Deano:

Everybody knew him.

John Crane:

Everybody did their cleaning there. They knew everybody. They knew Archie from being there because he worked there.

Edward Deano:

Well, sure.

John Crane:

And he said it was really personal. It was a big deal for him because he was having to leave his friends. But he said it worked out great. He said he never had any problems.

Edward Deano:

Good.

John Crane:

But it was interesting.

Edward Deano:

Well, I'm glad to know he's there. I thought he was living in Lacombe and then had moved away.

John Crane:

Yeah, no, he's still living there. Or I don't know. I mean, he's moved around a little bit he told me for sure. But he's there now. So nice guy. Run into him in the grocery store every now and then too. But it was great to do his interview because he's very articulate, very knowledgeable.

So you got your JD at LSU. And I heard you mentioned earlier that you were a clerk in Bennett Johnson's office? Was that-

Edward Deano:

Coach Blanco, who was tight with Bennett Johnson, got me involved, introduced me to Bennett Johnson. And so then I went and did an internship with him the summer of his first term, first year, which was fascinating.

John Crane:

That was 70?

Edward Deano:

'74 maybe.

John Crane:

'74. Okay.

Edward Deano:

Something like that.

John Crane:

That's probably right.

Edward Deano:

He was maybe elected in '72. I was in his first group.

John Crane:

So what did you do as an intern as a 22-year-old? I mean, I don't know.

Edward Deano:

Well, first I just kind of carried messages between different places. And he and I hit it off and I ended up running his signature machine. So there was this sign their names, and you had to peddle. I ran his signature machine in the daytime. And then at night, he'd asked me to go with him to functions and just be sure he always had a drink in his hand or keep track of names and that type of thing.

John Crane:

What were some of the people that you met at that time? You must've met a lot of interesting people.

Edward Deano:

Let's see. I met, well, he called in Bill Jefferson to come work for him, who was really highly regarded. He was from Harvard. And he was given a good standing in the office. It was a lot of staff members. You'd be standing next to Ted Kennedy. Ted Kennedy's office was right across the hall from Bennett Johnston. So I met a guy who I became friends with, became the editor of Current History Magazine, who's just retired. I'm trying to think of people from Louisiana that ...

John Crane:

Well, like Hale Boggs would've been dead by that point, or was he? No, he was still living then, probably.

Edward Deano:

No, I don't think so.

John Crane:

Oh, he had been killed already.

Edward Deano:

Yeah, I'd run into Russell Long. Or, I'm trying to think who was our congressman? It might've been that nut, Rarick, but I'm not sure.

John Crane:

So you were an intern. Were some of the other interns, have they moved on and are they involved? What were their careers like?

Edward Deano:

I don't know that as far as the Louisiana people, I don't-

John Crane:

None of them that you would-

Edward Deano:

Yeah. Now some of them, I remember there was a guy, and I don't know where he is. I ended up going to law school with him later on. And really nice guy out of Lake Charles. And he worked out of Russell Long's office.

One of the great jobs to get there was to run the private elevator for the senators. I mean, if you stuck around there, you would go up really fast. My first day there, I walked in and heard someone calling my name out in the hall. And I went in there and it was a fellow from USL, Lee Dugas was in my fraternity. He was running the senator from Montana's office. I mean, he'd just been in Washington for about six months. But there was this elevation that happened really quick.

John Crane:

Did you ever aspire to Washington or?

Edward Deano:

No, I always thought, "Do I want to stay here or do I want to come home?" And I've been really local oriented. The things I've wanted to do have been all really local stuff I wanted to do.

John Crane:

So other than the internship, were there any interesting things that you did either during college and did you travel overseas or?

Edward Deano:

I traveled, yeah, backpacked for a few months, three months after law school.

John Crane:

In Europe, or?

Edward Deano:

Yeah, in Europe. With a friend of mine who graduated a year before me and had also worked. He was in my fraternity, and he also worked up at Capitol Hill.

Let me see.

John Crane:

So you just took a summer off?

Edward Deano:

Yeah.

John Crane:

And which countries did you walk through?

Edward Deano:

England, France, Italy, Greece, Netherlands, Germany.

John Crane:

So you covered a bunch of territory in three months.

Edward Deano:

Yeah.

John Crane:

Wow. That's pretty amazing. Did-

Edward Deano:

So one night we were in Nice. Just arrived in Nice. And I didn't know where we were going to stay. You can't do that anymore. And we found a hotel, it's just a little nothing place. It was on the fourth floor. So we went up there. We checked in and da-da-da-da.

So oh, I guess about 11:00 PM at night or so, the innkeeper knocked on the door and said to my friend, Steve, "There's a phone call for you on the street." And he said, "Phone call for me?"

So he goes down to take the phone call

John Crane:

Just at a payphone?

Edward Deano:

Well, I think, yeah, kind of a payphone, something like that. I didn't go down with him, so I didn't see it. So he goes down and it's Pat Caffery, congressman from Louisiana. Now, how he knew where we were? This is in the 70s, and offered him a job to come work in D.C., which he took. But I mean, it makes you think. It's like when you have a conversation with somebody and then you pick up the phone and their phone number comes up or something like that.

John Crane:

But that wouldn't happen in the 70s.

Edward Deano:

No. But yeah, you're right. But anyway, but ...

John Crane:

Interesting.

Edward Deano:

Yeah, it really is.

John Crane:

So you came back from that. You had finished law school. How did you start your career? Were you married at that point?

Edward Deano:

No. I came back and I went into practice with my uncle, Guy, who grew up in Mandeville too. So we had a lot of clients that he knew. Dad and my uncle went to St. Paul's too. So they were familiar with Covington people. They were familiar with Mandeville people. He had run for political office, so he knew a lot of people out in the country. So it was a nice way, an introduction, and it was a lot of fun.

John Crane:

Was it a general law practice?

Edward Deano:

Yeah, it was a little small town, general law practice.

John Crane:

Anything that walked through the door?

Edward Deano:

Yeah, yeah. So yeah, I did that kind of stuff.

John Crane:

Okay. Okay. And then in terms of your family, so you were here, did you own your own house or at what point?

Edward Deano:

Yeah, I bought a house on Adair Street, probably in ... After a couple years out of law school. I rented a house on Claiborne Street with some friends, some guys, and then I bought a house on Adair Street.

John Crane:

What was Mandeville like in the 70s? Because I've heard different stories.

Edward Deano:

Yeah, I'm sure there's several different stories. This is a story that will tell you what it was like for me. I got into really enjoying going to Jamaica. So I'd go at least once a year. So one time I'm leaving for

Jamaica the next day, and it's like midnight. And I realized I hadn't gone to the bank and gotten any money. I don't have any cash, I don't have anything. So now, what am I going to do? So I go to the Cotton Club, which was on the corner of Gerrard and Highway, I think.

John Crane:
Cotton Club?

Edward Deano:
Cotton Club. It was Bossier's Restaurant, but it was the Cotton Club.
And there was a back room in the Cotton Club, and they-

John Crane:
Play cards?

Edward Deano:
Good old boys playing cards. So I walked back in the back room and there was like John Prieto, some plumber, maybe Phil Parks, there was about five or six of them. And they were holding their cards and just they looked like they were asleep. I mean, they just. I walk in there, there's a pile of cash on the table. No one looks up, no one says anything. I take a \$1,000 dollars out of the pot, write a check and leave the room and nobody ever opened their mouth or said anything. So that's one of the things Mandeville was like.

I remember one time, there's a guy who moved here who was the head of, gee whiz, I want to say Freeport McMoran. I don't remember what. It was a Fortune 500 company. And he moves to Mandeville. In those days before Mandeville was just really overrun, culturally.

John Crane:
Right.

Edward Deano:
When you could still assimilate into the culture. And you would see these people kind show up and they would be all spiffed up and kind of dressed in their polos and all that. And maybe six months later, they're kind of-

John Crane:
Relaxed.

Edward Deano:
... a little tattered know, maybe a little growth on the thing. There'd be shacks kind of everything. And before you know it, I mean they're out there crabbing and they've become completely assimilated. And he said his name was ... And I heard another guy said the same thing. He said, "You know Mandeville. Mandeville's wide open. It's just wide open." It's just-

John Crane:
So there were no sort of barriers to entry.

Edward Deano:

There were not a lot of inhibiting for a certain group of people. There was not a lot of inhibiting things. I mean, he ran his car off into the lake down Lafitte Street. No-

John Crane:

He ran right off the street

Edward Deano:

Yeah. I mean.. Gee whiz, I was just thinking it was a story which I lost that was of that kind. So there was a wild boar that lived in pre-stress property, and it would come over to our house and eat pecans out of the front yard. There was that little pecan orchard in the front yard.

PART 2 OF 5 ENDS [01:04:04]

John Crane:

On Galvez Street?

Edward Deano:

Out of Galvez and Monroe. And my parents, who everybody knew at least on weekends, drank a lot. So they called up the police and said, "Look, there's this boar that's coming and eating. We don't keep guns here. Could you get us a few rifles?" "Oh, no problem." So they're out, just bombed on that balcony, waiting for that boar with these police-issued rifles. People going back and forth had no idea how fortunate they were. But that was the atmosphere that there... it was very, very Latin, very Latin. I attribute it to Latin but it was-

John Crane:

Was the jail still active at that time, the little jail-

Edward Deano:

No.

John Crane:

... the Jefferson? So Jefferson, that was the city hall, I guess.

Edward Deano:

The city hall was on Jefferson.

John Crane:

Jefferson, right. And then of course the jail was behind that.

Edward Deano:

Yeah.

John Crane:

That little two-room thing.

Edward Deano:

Mm-hmm.

John Crane:

Interesting.

Edward Deano:

Yeah, and they still have that. I think they that we're going to replace it and get rid of it. They still have the chairs and tables from the old city hall in town Hall.

John Crane:

Oh really?

Edward Deano:

They were using them. I think that... I hope they still have them. They did five years ago.

John Crane:

Yeah, I know Bryan Frosch told me that he still has the key to the jail because his mom was the-

Edward Deano:

Yes, she was the clerk.

John Crane:

... clerk. And then they gave it to her because they figured, at least she'd remember where it was if they needed it.

Edward Deano:

The Deanos and the Smiths and the Glockners were on basically one side. And the Prietos and the Frosches and the Esquinances were kind of ..

John Crane:

So there was a political divide in the city?

Edward Deano:

Yeah and so. Lenny Frosch, which is what's his name's dad, Bryan's dad-

John Crane:

Right, right.

Edward Deano:

... found, oh god, I don't know where they are, but he found some political literature from the probably, oh no, it was probably from the 50s that was put out by our side and I don't know, they were really funny. It was really funny. And Lenny, who I always got along great with, it was really amazing to see that you could be bitter enemies for a month every four years, and then after-

John Crane:

Was it a long faction in a New Orleans faction? Was it that same split?

Edward Deano:

No, I don't know what power developed but there was always a group that did not like the incumbent. And a lot of those people moved across the highway in the 60s, early 70s.

John Crane:

Okay. So tell me a little bit about your involvement in Mandeville. So I mean, politically you were involved, but you were also the city attorney and-

Edward Deano:

I was the town attorney in the 80s when Ray Foil was mayor.

John Crane:

Okay. So you were appointed by him or hired by him-

Edward Deano:

Yeah.

John Crane:

I guess it was a hired position.

Edward Deano:

Yeah. And then I resigned to run for the legislature, and then I served in the legislature.

John Crane:

Of how many terms did you serve in that?

Edward Deano:

Three terms.

John Crane:

Three terms?

Edward Deano:

Mm-hmm.

John Crane:

In Baton Rouge?

Edward Deano:

Mm-hmm.

John Crane:

Okay. What was that like? Was that wild or-

Edward Deano:

Well, I worked there when I was in law school, I'd worked at the legislature and just, that was in the 70s, and it was really fun and it was wild and it was outrageous. So when I went back in the 80s, it wasn't as much fun, but just to see how that-

John Crane:

Sausage is made?

Edward Deano:

Yeah, just to see how it's done and being in the house, the house is like a glorified cock fight. I mean I heard some of the best oratory you'll ever hear in the legislature where people were actually convincing people through oratory and it wasn't all special interest and all that kind of stuff. And it was really, a lot of it was drudgery. I never was particularly good at raising money for some reason. I just didn't get into it until I found myself asking for votes and trying to raise money at the same time, which is never a good idea. You should have all the money stashed away before qualifying. But Baton Rouge is an interesting place too. I mean, I was always glad to leave when I left, whether it be law school or the legislature, but it's an interesting melding of the-

John Crane:

Of the State?

Edward Deano:

Yeah.

John Crane:

Did you have an apartment or where did you-

Edward Deano:

Yeah, I stayed... The senator and I had a place, and then after that I stayed with family and friends.

John Crane:

During the session?

Edward Deano:

Yeah, and then I got married. I met a gal up there and-

John Crane:

Was she from Baton Rouge?

Edward Deano:

She's from New Orleans.

John Crane:

From New Orleans.

Edward Deano:

And we were introduced by a good friend of mine. And then on-

John Crane:

What was her family? What was her background?

Edward Deano:

Her family, her father was from New Orleans, had lived in New Orleans for a long time and had... That side of his family. A lot of his family had Poydras plantation. When he died, I had to go look up the deed to their tomb. And this guy might've been that guy.

John Crane:

What was his last name?

Edward Deano:

Davidson.

John Crane:

Davidson was his last name?

Edward Deano:

Mm-hmm. He went and bought the tomb within a month of Louisiana seceding and took the family to Paris, bought the tomb and went to Paris and waited the war out in Paris.

John Crane:

Really?

Edward Deano:

So anyway, that's kind of where he was coming from. Even though he was not of that-

John Crane:

Was it-

Edward Deano:

... uptown ilk, he came from a... his family was working class and that type of thing.

John Crane:

So were they from Algiers you said, or?

Edward Deano:

No, they were from... His father-

John Crane:

[inaudible] was his grand?

Edward Deano:

His father. They were pretty set up. His father was a very successful rice broker and died when he was a year and a half. And it just brought the whole family-

John Crane:

Down?

Edward Deano:

Yeah.

John Crane:

What was your wife's name?

Edward Deano:

Susie.

John Crane:

Susie?

Edward Deano:

Susie Bailey.

John Crane:

Susie Bailey?

Edward Deano:

Bailey, yeah.

John Crane:

Okay. So you all met and married and moved to the house on Adair Street?

Edward Deano:

Mm-hmm.

John Crane:

Is that where you lived?

Edward Deano:

Mm-hmm.

John Crane:

So tell me about this house. This house was from-

Edward Deano:

So-

John Crane:

So how did you get-

Edward Deano:

Yeah, well Susie had a lot of stuff, a lot of this stuff in here is Susie's. So when we moved and combined houses and I was having to tear out a lot of stuff in the house to renovate it. And I mean, the house was heated by a wood-burning stove. I mean, it was really primitive. It was-

John Crane:

Is it still there? Is the house still there?

Edward Deano:

Yeah, yeah.

John Crane:

Which block of Adair is it?

Edward Deano:

It's a five-hundred block of Adair.

John Crane:

Okay. So on the other side of Monroe?

Edward Deano:

Yeah. And so we would bring her stuff over and it was really nice furniture and leave it in the front yard - out. It was during that time, in maybe September something where it didn't rain. And in the backyard, we'd have debris of things that we were getting rid of. Well, every night someone would go through the pile and pick up all the discarded stuff and no one ever touched-

John Crane:

The stuff you were keeping?

Edward Deano:

The good stuff, yeah. So that's how Mandeville was too.

John Crane:

So you made it known that anything in this area-

Edward Deano:

I didn't say a word.

John Crane:

Oh, you didn't say a word?

Edward Deano:

No.

John Crane:

So they just looked at it and they knew they good stuff-

Edward Deano:

... this is okay, and yeah.

John Crane:

Ain't that interesting.

Edward Deano:

Yeah.

John Crane:

So how did this house, how did you find this house and how did you do that, I guess? Was this a family home?

Edward Deano:

No.

John Crane:

Or no connection to you at all?

Edward Deano:

It's something we really wanted to do, and this lot came up for sale and neither one of us are really fast movers or anything. We think about it, drink a little coffee, sleep on it. Anyway, so lot came up for sale, we got it and we moved really fast.

John Crane:

And it was just an empty lot, it is a standard 660 x 100 or something?

Edward Deano:

88 feet x 120. It's not French-

John Crane:

It not a French lot.

Edward Deano:

No. So then we thought, and it was more me than Susie, wanted to move a house, find a house and move it. So I was still in the legislature and I went over to talk to Patty Gay, who was head of Preservation Resource Center. And I said, "Patty, do you know a house that..." Because they get a little touchy about moving something out of its environment, which I understand.

John Crane:

Right, right.

Edward Deano:

So I said, "Do you know a place that maybe we could find an old house?" And she said, "We've got one that's advertised in the paper." They had a nice little paper. So I looked at it and then I got distracted and years passed by, so then I got refocused again on it. And so I called up, I don't know, somebody put me in touch with this guy, Norman Marmillion. Did you know Norman?

John Crane:

I don't know him.

Edward Deano:

Norman had Laura Plantation and he was just-

John Crane:

Oh, I do know those people, yeah.

Edward Deano:

He was just putting Laura together. And so-

John Crane:

I met his wife.

Edward Deano:

Sand?

John Crane:

Yeah.

Edward Deano:

So Norman and I spent three days going up and he was active. He's from River Road. He passed away. Active in the River Road Historic Association. So we drove up and down River Road for three days. We had dogs chase us, we got in briar patches. Anyway, so we found this house, which was... I mean, all these floors were rotted out. They had that maple two-inch thing from the 30s. All the plaster, 80 percent of the plaster was off the walls. There were people living there, Susie was impressed with there were bibles and syringes and all over the place, and the front porch had fallen off and there was boxwood around it that had grown over the house.

John Crane:

It was so big?

Edward Deano:

Boxwood - can you imagine? So I had a friend of mine, a good friend of mine who had been traveling around. We'd looked at a bunch of houses and I said, "Henry, how about coming down and taking a look at this house? Tell me what you think." So Henry came in and he looked at it. He said, "If you don't buy this house, don't ever ask me to come look at another house again." And the more I looked at it, I realized it was really-

John Crane:

So have you been able to determine the age of it?

Edward Deano:

It looks like these two rooms here, this was two rooms.

John Crane:

This was the original house? These two rooms?

Edward Deano:

Yeah. What I was told, the house was added onto four times before 1809. When I met Sally-

John Crane:

Reeves?

Edward Deano:

Reeves.

John Crane:

Reeves, yeah.

Edward Deano:

... came in and she came in and I really liked her a lot. So she came in and she looked at the mantle and she jumped back and gasped because of a... well, I don't know what it was, but this diamond thing is indicative of 18th-century stuff. And I don't think that's the original mantle to the house. I think that that was-

John Crane:

Found somewhere else?

Edward Deano:

Well, I think probably...

John Crane:

Oh, it was with the house?

Edward Deano:

It was with the house, but I think it became more ornate. I think this part of the house is probably 1760 to 1780. I mean, when they were doing it, they said these windows were not designed for glass in the windows. They probably had oil cloth in them. And there's some remnants. I have some architectural nails that there are-

John Crane:

Square nails?

Edward Deano:

Beyond-

John Crane:

Handcut?

Edward Deano:

Yeah. I mean some that are obviously-

John Crane:

Not regular?

Edward Deano:

... 18, I mean 1700s. So these two rooms were there. Then they added on the room next door, the next room with a cabinet on it. But it's not the same proportionate as this little cabinet, so it's kind of odd.

John Crane:

So clearly a different time, a different-

Edward Deano:

Yeah. And you can see the timbers are different. This older part has the bigger timbers in it and the bigger planks.

John Crane:

Those are beautiful. Those have to be, what, 14 inches, some of them?

Edward Deano:

The difference, yeah, some of them are. So anyway, yeah we-

John Crane:

Did you barge it over or how did you get it?

Edward Deano:

They cut it in half and took it over in trucks.

John Crane:

On a truck?

Edward Deano:

Mm-hmm.

John Crane:

Okay.

Edward Deano:

It took the roof off and it rained on the walls. The walls sprouted twice, the walls sprouted, and I freaked out so much. I came in with bleach. I should have saved it and sent it to LSU.

John Crane:

So these might be 18th century seeds.

Edward Deano:

Yeah. Well, they definitely were 18th century seeds.

John Crane:

Wow. So what year did you purchase the house and what year did you move into it?

Edward Deano:

We purchased it... well, it sat here for a while. I mean, you couldn't do that today. You couldn't have a house that's half of it... basically a work site for two years.

John Crane:

Yeah, somebody would be unhappy with that.

Edward Deano:

Yeah.

John Crane:

So was it this height in Edgard or was it-

Edward Deano:

No, what it was, it was only about three feet off the ground. But when we lifted it, we could see that at the bottom of it was whitewashed and we could see where it had been raised before, where it had been higher.

John Crane:

And then they brought it down?

Edward Deano:

And what I was told is that it was on the other side of River Road. It was before the levee.

John Crane:

And they moved it?

Edward Deano:

And then they moved it. When the levee came over, and it didn't have to be so high because it was protected by the levee.

John Crane:

Yeah, when they were on the batture, they had to be higher, and so they just lowered it?

Edward Deano:

Mm-hmm.

John Crane:

Interesting. Do you know the family that owned the house or?

Edward Deano:

Well, I know the family that we bought it from, the Dutrieux and Miss Dutrieux was just a delight to work with. And every now... There's a family of them, descendants that are in Mandeville. Every now and then, they come by

John Crane:

The children?

Edward Deano:

Yeah.

John Crane:

It was actually in the town of Edgard, or was it-

Edward Deano:

Yeah, it was in the town of Edgard. It was right on River Road, not far from, there's a big-

John Crane:

There's a church there.

Edward Deano:

Yeah, but this is a big dry goods, brick dry goods store.

John Crane:

Let me see. I should know. I should know that.

Edward Deano:

And I can't remember the name of it. It's like a big orange brick.

John Crane:

Yep, yep. I know where you're talking about.

Edward Deano:

And then a little further down is where the ferry landing.

John Crane:

Right.

Edward Deano:

And then just a little further down is where this house.

John Crane:

Okay, so it was upriver from the ferry landing a little bit?

Edward Deano:

Yeah.

John Crane:

Okay. Interesting.

Edward Deano:

Yeah. One of the wonderful things about representing this area, and I represented Mandeville and Covington and Madisonville and Lacombe in my first term, and even to Bayou Liberty and Goodbee. And one of the just wonderful things about it is that there wasn't any real animosity. I'm a Democrat. I

address the Republican Party Parish conference, keynote address to them. I got along great with Republicans. I did. And you had Republican chairman of committees and it just wasn't the partisan stuff. And I was able to sponsor some really good legislation, which primarily came from people in the district.

John Crane:

What were some of the legislative initiatives that you sponsored?

Edward Deano:

I created the first venture capital fund in Louisiana with contributions of 1% of the investment of insurance companies to contribute to it, introduce tax incremental financing to Louisiana, you know what I'm talking about? Rails to Trails locally, Rails to Trails, Sunset Point, the Fourth Ward recreation stuff. I'm trying to think some of the... I'm amazed when I go back and see some of the stuff.

John Crane:

Well, you were there at a particular moment when certain things happened. Different things happen now, different things happen before but-

Edward Deano:

Yeah, it was-

John Crane:

Who were your allies? Who were the people that you knew you could count on to get legislation? Were there a group of you all that-

Edward Deano:

Yeah, there really was. There was a-

John Crane:

Who was-

Edward Deano:

Well, Kathleen Blanco. She and I were freshmen together. Mitch Landrieu came in four years later with Sean Riley and Charlie Riddle from up in Avoyelles Parish. He's the DA up there now. There was about 10 of us.

John Crane:

Were you all in your 40s at that time, about the same?

Edward Deano:

Yeah, well, I'm going to say late 30s. Mitch was probably late 20s.

John Crane:

He was the youngest?

Edward Deano:

Yeah. I'm trying to think who else was in that group. It was a really good, dedicated... Oh, Randy Roach, who was mayor of Lake Charles. He sat right behind me.

John Crane:

So would you all get together and just talk about things, ideas that came up from your district and sort of flush them out and turn them into legislation or how does that work?

Edward Deano:

Yeah, we were more into the financial parts of the State, running the State and reforms to try to get into the budget without really hurting the services and see where we could do that. We were also into governmental reforms that we thought needed to be done. And it was a really nice group of guys, except for Kathleen, I don't think... And Kathleen really wasn't a member. I mentioned Kathleen when you said, "Was there anybody you could count on?" She wasn't part of the-

John Crane:

The group, but she-

Edward Deano:

... but if you went to her, she'd sign on to the bill, she'd speak for it. She was somebody that-

John Crane:

What do you attribute the change to a more... because everybody, I'm assuming I'm not from Louisiana, but I'm assuming everybody was a Democrat up until-

Edward Deano:

Well, I mean this district was the most Republican district in the State. Well, when I was elected to it.

John Crane:

Okay, okay.

Edward Deano:

It was a new district. It had been created... I was first legislator from this district and it was created to be a very Republican district because Dave Treen lived here. So I mean, I represented Dave Treen. What was your question?

John Crane:

About sort of the change, because my family's more from Georgia and Mississippi and over that way and Alabama. Everybody was a Democrat up until Reagan, basically '84 or something like that, I don't know.

Edward Deano:

That's about... I think Reagan had a lot to do with it.

John Crane:

Yeah, but I was just curious. I understand why the change occurred, but I'm not sure I understand why the animosity, polarization has happened because essentially the people were the same people.

Edward Deano:

Well, that happened when politics became nationalized and you had people like Rush Limbaugh on and Newt Gingrich that they demonized. And then you had people, well, you had people on the other side that tended to be the more radical Democrats demonized the-

John Crane:

The other side?

Edward Deano:

... few people, I don't know. I can't think of anyone from that period, but someone like AOC, those kinds of people-

John Crane:

Were doing it on the other side?

Edward Deano:

Yeah. And I remember, what's his name, Garrison Keillor saying, "What happened to the Republicans that were the hardware store owners and the people that owned bakeries, and they kept us in line? What happened to those people?" And now-

John Crane:

It's turned into a different bunch.

Edward Deano:

Yeah, it turned, yeah. And-

John Crane:

So did you find it hard to be elected in a Republican district or?

Edward Deano:

My biggest honor, when I got elected, I only won by 28 votes the first time. And it was... All the top... I ran seven, there was seven candidates. I think that-

John Crane:

And what year-

Edward Deano:

... the top four-

John Crane:

What year was this?

Edward Deano:

This was in '83 when I was first elected. The top three were Democrats and then the next four were Republicans. So it hadn't become... So people still were Democrats, but it was changing. And I remember I had yard signs and bumper stickers, Republicans for Deano. I mean that was-

John Crane:

That was nothing, no big deal.

Edward Deano:

Yeah.

John Crane:

They cared more about who you were as a person than they cared about what your label was.

Edward Deano:

Yeah, I remember I voted, I was shocked so many times by... I remember one of my first times up there. I looked around, there was this guy, Duncan Buell, I don't know if you remember, his brother was Tom Buell, was the chief, police chief. But Duncan went to high school here as did Tom, and I knew Duncan - he went to Mandeville High. And I walked back and I said, "Duncan, what are you doing here? Aren't you teaching in Arizona or something?" And he said, "I'm here because I'm trying to lobby the legislature against voting for creationism to be taught in schools." I said, "Oh, Duncan, there's no way anything like that's ever going to ever pass." Bam, open the machines, it's 20 to 80 for teaching creationism in schools. I'm like, "What's that -

John Crane:

It is interesting how there were hot button issues that just pop up that people jump on board and you think, "How did you do that?"

Edward Deano:

There was a bill to ... I think it was to .. this was dealing with abortion to 10-year jail sentence to doctors and women that got an abortion. And it was like, "I can't vote for that." So I didn't vote for it. But man-

John Crane:

You took some flack for that?

Edward Deano:

There was Father Joe, who was... Father Joe was the-

John Crane:

The pastor.

Edward Deano:

...and he left, he wasn't in town after the vote. So some young person stood up, went to church, and every mass, passed out cards against me to address them to me and for them to sign that I was... they'd

never vote for me again, da da da da. Every mass. And I got something like, I don't know, 6, 800 cards all from my church, my people.

John Crane:

From your parish?

Edward Deano:

Yeah. People, I'd get 80% of the vote in the precinct, and it all came out of my church. So I talked to Father Joe and he said, "Look, I didn't even think, I was out of town. I'm really sorry about this." So I said, "This is my church. I want to come and have a meeting and explain why I voted against this thing." And he said, "Okay, that's fine." So I showed up and they were like 3, 400 people there and I could promise you, and of course all the old friends of my family, all of the altar society, they were sitting in the front row, crowd control in case things got out of control. And I don't think I'd changed a mind. I probably changed the mind about antipathy towards me, but I didn't change-

John Crane:

Your personal antipathy?

Edward Deano:

Yeah, because I mean, how many people show up to... And I would do that kind of stuff.

John Crane:

You go ahead-

Edward Deano:

And I found that... What I found in politics was that if this crowd that might disagree with you, if they were left feeling that you voted what you truly thought was the right thing to do-

John Crane:

They were fine?

Edward Deano:

They were fine.

John Crane:

Yeah.

Edward Deano:

That's something... So anyway, so after I leave the church, after the meeting's over, Father Joe comes up over to me and he sees the reporter from the newspaper and he said, "Come over, come over." He calls the reporter over and he put his arm around me. He said, "We are so lucky to have this guy representing us." That was the story, that was on the front page of the paper. So I was telling this story to a priest at Manresa just a few weeks ago, and I was telling him about the bill and he was saying, "God, there's no

way you could vote for a bill like that." This is a priest. "You can't vote to put a woman in jail for 10 years."

John Crane:

That's crazy, yeah.

Edward Deano:

So anyway, in the next election, they all voted for me in the next election.

John Crane:

Was that your first term?

Edward Deano:

This must have been in my second term. I don't know. It was in my first or second term.

John Crane:

So after you did your third term, did you run for a fourth term or were you-

Edward Deano:

No, I didn't.

John Crane:

You just said that.

Edward Deano:

My uncle was, he was in his 70s and he was carrying the load for the law office and it wasn't fair.

John Crane:

So this was about 1990, roughly?

Edward Deano:

This was '96.

John Crane:

Okay. So you left politics at that point?

Edward Deano:

Well, I made a run for Judge in '97 and lost by - as a Democrat about, I don't know, 2 or 300 votes. And I feel like I dodged a bullet with that.

John Crane:

You were glad you didn't?

Edward Deano:

Oh god, yeah. Yeah, I would've had to decide who gets the kids and whether to revoke someone's probation. And I'm so glad.

John Crane:

Would've made you-

Edward Deano:

And I've enjoyed. I mean I've been attorneys for Mandeville and for Abita Springs, and I've really enjoyed that kind of thing.

John Crane:

Are you retired now or are you still active in terms of... you talked about doing probate, successions, and stuff like that.

PART 3 OF 5 ENDS [01:36:04]

Edward Deano:

I have a really good paralegal and if she can do it, I'll do it. I enjoy meeting with the clients, people I've known for years and years. They know my shortcomings. They know my good stuff. They appreciate it and they know the bad stuff. They've been pretty schooled. Can I get you anything else?

John Crane:

I'm good. I'm good. I don't want to wear you out, but this is really fascinating. I mean there's a lot of interesting things that are coming out. What is your thought? What are your thoughts about Mandeville? What are your kind of hopes and dreams for Mandeville going forward? You've seen it make a gigantic change in your lifetime and now you're at the age where you're looking and wondering where it's going to go from here. Where do you think? Where do you hope?

Edward Deano:

I think that Mandeville has made a kind of, and I can only speak for the old part of town. I don't particularly venture out and go places. I'm not into the other areas of town. I don't know a lot of people in other areas of town that I know of. I probably know a lot of them. Anyway, I see that the old part of town has kind of gotten a resurgence of the old Mandeville.

I'm seeing a lot more activity on the Lakefront that has to do with entertainment. I think the entertainment thing for Mandeville, which is what it was, that's what it was founded on in the 1840s. It creates a very nice mood of the town. If you go out, you've got just this unbelievable urban park and you've got people out there that are fishing, which I'm seeing a lot more people fishing on the Lakefront.

John Crane:

Particularly since they closed the.

Edward Deano:

Yeah, I'm seeing a lot more. I wish I saw more people in the lake, but I'm seeing a lot more people having a good time, a lot more people who aren't from here. All that adds to that whole positive vibration in the town and I'm seeing a resurgence of that. I'm seeing more entertainment venues. When I opened I bought Ruby's.

John Crane:

What year did you buy that?

Edward Deano:

About '81.

John Crane:

You've had it for a while?

Edward Deano:

Yeah, I still have it.

John Crane:

Still have it.

Edward Deano:

I ran it and there wasn't any other music venue in Mandeville. Now you've got several places that have music. It's not the same. I mean you don't have hotels, which is I think unfortunate. I think a nice old hotel here would be great like the old St. Tammany. I mean there were like two or three hotels when I was growing up. It attracted such, everybody was in a good mood and that makes a difference. That makes it.

John Crane:

One of the things I love about Mandeville is walking on the Lakefront. You're right. It is very diverse and I think a lot of the immigrants are much more accustomed to being out walking than some of the residents. You get a real sense that we're a multicultural community. I'm not sure we are as much as it looks like, but it's nice to see people, family groups doing things. We've got people from the Middle East. We've got, I don't know, Russians, Ukrainian. I mean I hear all kinds of languages.

Edward Deano:

It's all ages and you're seeing courtship. You're just seeing a lot of positive stuff going on and you didn't see that in the '80s. Mandeville was drying up. The downtown was blown away, all moving out to the shopping centers, and there are people that want to bring that back. They want it to just be residential and they don't want the vibrancy of places like Rest Awhile and Barley Oak, which I don't particularly frequent either one of them that much, but I do like the idea. When I was growing up - where the Oak Grove, which to me is the best part of the lake, that was for Blacks. They all barbecued there. They had the best spot on the Lakefront.

John Crane:

Interesting, and that's where they hung out?

Edward Deano:

That's where, yeah.

John Crane:

That's interesting. That's interesting. It's an interesting town. I think it is unique because it's the only place on the lake where land touches the water, where you have-

Edward Deano:

It's high. Its elevation, I heard it. It's the highest on Lake Pontchartrain.

John Crane:

Right, but you don't have a quarter of a mile of marsh to get to the water. I mean the fact that our founder designated that Lakefront in perpetuity, what an amazing gift he gave. It's not-

Edward Deano:

Up until recently, I just took it for granted and didn't realize the significance of that.

John Crane:

I think there's some historical roots for that in Europe. I think he was pulling from his European experience because in Europe they did some of that. I think it was probably the latest and the greatest and he said, "We need this here."

Edward Deano:

I'm a big fan of Louisiana civil law and there's remnants of that in Louisiana law that the public has a servitude to the seashore. Now it's cast under the context of fishing and drying nets and that type of thing, but there is a long history of the public having a public servitude on seashores.

John Crane:

Anywhere?

Edward Deano:

Yeah.

John Crane:

That would be a surprise to the people in Lewisburg.

Edward Deano:

Wouldn't that be a hoot? Wouldn't that be wonderful? You have a group of immigrants show up and start drying their nets out. That's one of the things that is unfortunate that I don't like. It's become so much more entitled, the population, and I thought that the migration here from people after Katrina of people from St. Bernard was such a positive thing for us.

It's unfortunate because their community took a big hit in St. Bernard, but what they added to us, it was really like an infusion of a local culture again. They're hardworking people and family oriented people and I thought they were treated so badly, not by the local people, but people that had-

John Crane:

The people who had come in later?

Edward Deano:

Yeah, the people that came over here and wanted to open a gated community.

John Crane:

Really.

Edward Deano:

That I think is a big threat to the ambiance of Mandeville, the entitled.

John Crane:

I think that we run into that. I'm amazed that people who come to buy a home here, and I always tell people it is what it is. You may have a neighbor that's a little crazy, but this is Mandeville. It's not a gated community where everybody has the same income and everybody goes and locks their doors. I mean they're out wandering around. You see them.

Edward Deano:

I know somebody told me. Somebody that's from here told me that Eddie Price went up to them and told them they couldn't keep their crab traps in front of their house anymore - that Mandeville wasn't the same as it used to be. You can't keep your crab traps in front, which of course made me put my crab traps-

John Crane:

Immediately, put them out.

Edward Deano:

I had 20 crab traps out in front. I'm hoping to get back at it.

John Crane:

I have a question for you on a different subject. I'm not on the board of the Old Mandeville Historic Association anymore, but I am putting on their quarterly programs. They have their annual meeting in October and they decided to have a focus on the Rosenwald School. We've got-

Edward Deano:

You've mentioned that to me.

John Crane:

We've got a person from Longue Vue. The director of Longue Vue is going to come over. Longue Vue Gardens in New Orleans was Edith Rosenwald Stern. She was the daughter of Julius Rosenwald. He was the president of Sears Roebuck, which is where his money came from that did this project. Anyway, we had one and it was over at Tyler Thomas Park. Then, I think in the mid '60s they swapped land and it was moved to Woodlake. Woodlake was actually the Rosenwald School up until the '70s.

Edward Deano:

I'd forgotten that.

John Crane:

Then, they did it. To make a long story short, I'm trying to find some. I've got a couple. I've got Simmie Fairley and I've got Beverly, used to be Sylve, now Myles. She just got married and I'm looking for one or two more.

Edward Deano:

Beverly Sylve, I know Beverly.

John Crane:

You know her. She's a personality for sure. She's a character. Anyway, I'm looking for at least one more person of that generation who would be comfortable talking about going to school at Rosenwald School and what that was like.

Edward Deano:

Do you know, and I haven't seen her in a few years. She lives on Lafayette Street. My god, I can't remember her name. She's a client of mine, but she's probably in her late 80s, articulate, well traveled.

John Crane:

I've been looking for somebody who would be comfortable talking.

Edward Deano:

I haven't seen her or heard from her.

John Crane:

Is her name Clarissa?

Edward Deano:

No, she was married to a guy that was older than her. I forgot. I think his name was Ted or something. I remember telling him, asking him. I said, "Can you tell me about some of the really great people that played at Ruby's?" He said, "Well, you're going to have to ask Regina Gordon about this." I can't believe I can't-

John Crane:

Did you know that Simmie played in a band?

Edward Deano:

Yeah, he played at Ruby's as with Bill Simms.

John Crane:

Bill Simms was one of them. Did you know that Bill was one of Flip Wilson's, the deacons?

Edward Deano:

No, wow, wow.

John Crane:

He was one of the four deacons.

Edward Deano:

Wow.

John Crane:

Anyway, that's the fun part of doing this. You hear these little stories.

Edward Deano:

What is her name? She would be good.

John Crane:

Anyway, if you think about it and come up with it, let me know. I'm happy to reach out to her. I'm just trying to get something. I think these people have wonderful stories to tell.

Edward Deano:

I don't know that she's from here, but she's lived here for a long time. I think her maiden name was Sheridan and I think the Sheridans were not from Mandeville. She has a sister. I cannot believe I can't call up her name.

John Crane:

Anyway, if you think about it, I'm digging around and I've got a few. I'm just putting feelers out just to see.

Edward Deano:

Her yard is still well tended. I just haven't heard from her or seen her.

John Crane:

I mean that generation is passing quickly. I mean our generation would've gone to Rosenwald School, but they're-

Edward Deano:

The first lady, the Black lady that kind of cared for us as kids, her name was Odile and she lived on Lamarque Street. She was born in the Indian Village.

John Crane:

In Lacombe?

Edward Deano:

No, right here.

John Crane:

The one on the bayou?

Edward Deano:

Yeah, she was born there I remember and she was born there in 1875. She told me stuff about-

John Crane:

Was it still Indian wickiups or whatever they call them?

Edward Deano:

When she lived there, yeah, I don't recall, but she told me this story and she worked for us for years. She told me this story about coming back. She worked also for the Prietos I think. Maybe not, but she came back from work and her house was on fire. By the time she got there, she got close enough to see and Clay Prieto and all the Prietos were hauling her furniture out of the house and saving everything they possibly could to save her stuff. That was kind of-

John Crane:

The way it was?

Edward Deano:

Yeah, I mean she told a story about that, about the 1915 hurricane. She said one guy drowned on the bayou, but further up. For some reason, I'm thinking this happened north of Monroe Street. The two houses were exchanged on lots. They were picked up and moved onto-

John Crane:

Really?

Edward Deano:

Yeah, on different lots.

John Crane:

One of them floated and they ended up on different lots?

Edward Deano:

Yeah, she said it was wind.

John Crane:

That the wind blew it?

Edward Deano:

Yeah, you can imagine what it was like here. My Uncle Willie, who lived on Marigny but he really was from New Orleans. They had a summer place here that they'd been coming over since whatever. He had

a lot of observations. One of them was that delivering the Picayune or whatever, the newspaper, is what kept the streets down. Just that traffic dealing with the newspapers over the years is what padded down the streets and they weren't paved or anything. He said, "The further you got away from the lake, the less literate the town was so the streets were not as wide."

John Crane:

They'd been overgrown and-

Edward Deano:

Yeah.

John Crane:

Interesting, there's an interesting story I'd love to find and I'm sure somebody in the Black community, I don't know this, but somebody knows this story. It's a Civil War story and I don't know. You may have heard this. If you have, just tell me to shut up, but the story is that in January of 1865 there was a Wisconsin unit. They got on a boat, a sloop, and they came across the lake and they came to Mandeville. They went down the lake and they stopped a couple of boats and talked to them and went down.

Right about then they turned around and came back and they were right in front of Mandeville at about 6:00 PM. They turned and they headed across the lake. About 1:00 in the morning, they turned around and they came back. They came to the pier in Mandeville and there was a Black man waiting for them. They were all from Wisconsin, but they were either two or three colored troops, Black troops on the boat. They went and they surrounded the house that had the commander of the Lake District.

There was a Judge Bethune from Georgia that was there and there were all the officers of the Lake District. They surrounded them and they captured them. They took them and they put them on the boat. They took the Black man with them, the one that met them, and then they went back to New Orleans. No shot was fired. Nobody knew the difference. I'd love to know if there were Black families who, what happened, wherever the Union Army went people flocked to them.

The Black people flocked to them. Then, a lot of the Black men were inducted into the military up to the point where I think about 20% of the Union Army was Black by the end of the war. There's some people that argue that one of the significant factors was this additional 20%. Correspondingly, the South lost the labor and either their land went foul or they had to leave the army.

Edward Deano:

The idea that they were going to win that war is just so delusional. You see that kind of delusion still going on.

John Crane:

Anyway, but-

Edward Deano:

You reminded me a story I heard by her, by Odile, who grew up in that village. She told me that, God, I hadn't thought about this in years. There was a house on the corner of Lamarque and Lake that burned down many years ago and it was really-

John Crane:

On the east corner?

Edward Deano:

Yeah, and it was really very Victorian. I mean it had a turret and it had spires and that kind of thing. Anyway, she told me that there were eight people in that house that were supposed to be looking out from that turret and they were playing cards and got drunk when the Yankees came in and-

John Crane:

When they were captured?

Edward Deano:

Captured.

John Crane:

Isn't that interesting? That may have been where the headquarters was.

Edward Deano:

Yeah, I mean that would make the natural, that would've been the natural lookout in that turret at that house.

John Crane:

I always thought it was the house on the corner of Marigny and Lake, I mean-

Edward Deano:

Yeah, that's it and that big tree is in front of it.

John Crane:

Right, but I mean that may make more sense if it was a house with a turret that they could have, but some-

Edward Deano:

That's what Odile told me, that story.

John Crane:

That's fascinating. That's wonderful.

Edward Deano:

Which I hadn't thought about, I hadn't thought about that.

John Crane:

I wonder if there are, and I need to do some research. I'm sure that if they were in the army, because the Blacks were given the pensions the same as the whites in the Union Army. I bet you there are families here who were getting a pension. It'd be interesting to find that out and find out who those

three guys were. I'm sure they were on that boat because they were from Mandeville and they met the guy on the dock. I'm sure there was-

Edward Deano:

Something going on.

John Crane:

Something going on, and I've heard the story that Fontainebleau, they had a boat that took bricks back and forth and it was crewed by slaves. They sailed the boat back and forth to take the bricks from here to New Orleans because Fontainebleau was a big brick factory I think.

Edward Deano:

Which I thought was interesting, I did a title on the house on the corner. It's catty corner from where my parents' house was.

John Crane:

On Galvez Street?

Edward Deano:

On Galvez Street, Mark Flynn lives there. Do you know Mark?

John Crane:

I don't.

Edward Deano:

Anyway, when Mark bought the house I did the title on it and the sale was passed in New Orleans in 1863. One of the change in title, the deed was passed in New Orleans in 1863.

John Crane:

It was under federal control?

Edward Deano:

Federal control and it was recorded maybe two months later in Covington. I mean there was stuff happening.

John Crane:

From what I understand, both the Union and the Confederacy banned communication and you were illegal either way. Both sides, you were violating both the North and the South.

Edward Deano:

Yeah, and what's his name? **Pere** Rouquette was very, crossed that lake a lot to help the Indians, but there was-

John Crane:

What was Odette's-

Edward Deano:

Odile.

John Crane:

Odile, what was her last name?

Edward Deano:

Gaines-

John Crane:

Gaines was her last name?

Edward Deano:

Was her husband's name.

John Crane:

Was she-

Edward Deano:

Her sister was, God, what was it? Lillian and Lillian was married to Buddy Manaday, the jazz guy.

John Crane:

Were they Indian ethnicity? I mean did they-

Edward Deano:

She was 25% Indian.

John Crane:

25%, I mean obviously when you were growing up that community was still there or was it going?

Edward Deano:

No, I don't remember.

John Crane:

It was gone way before that time?

Edward Deano:

Yeah, I would love to have known. I bet you a hurricane took it out or something.

John Crane:

Probably, maybe 1915 or one of those, anyway, if you run into anybody who remembers that their great great grandfather got a US military pension, that would be fascinating.

Edward Deano:

There's a book in the election of 1876 where there were three states that didn't report the election results. I'm scared we're headed in that direction again, but they came down and they cut a deal. You know the story I'm telling.

John Crane:

I'm not sure I do.

Edward Deano:

The Democrat, I think was named Tilden, had the most electoral votes except I think South Carolina, Florida, and Louisiana didn't report theirs. They came down and they made a deal that they'd end Reconstruction if they gave the Republicans the vote. Now of course this is all-

John Crane:

Hearsay.

Edward Deano:

No, it's beyond hearsay. It's what was taught in schools. Who knows? Who knows what really happened? There was a book. The US Senate did send a commission down to study the election in Louisiana.

John Crane:

This was 18?

Edward Deano:

1876.

John Crane:

That would've been after Grant. That would've been-

Edward Deano:

Yeah, it was what's his name?

John Crane:

Taft maybe?

Edward Deano:

No, no, no, it was Rutherford B. Hayes.

John Crane:

Rutherford B. Hayes.

Edward Deano:

The Democrat was sent-

John Crane:

Tilden.

Edward Deano:

The book does a parish by parish report of the election in each parish. oh, St Tammany. I mean only one precinct reported out of the whole parish and it was tied, but it gives you the names of the-

John Crane:

The voters?

Edward Deano:

Not the voters, I don't remember whether it was the electors in that parish or the heads of the parties in that parish and they're common names today. The names for the Union Republican Party were like the Cousins, the Ducres. They were all like Creole Black families. You know what? I'm dealing with a lot. I'm going to ask around. I deal with a lot of the Ordonez and the Ducres and all of them.

John Crane:

If you're looking for support for it, there's an interesting archive. In 1986, the US Congress, you may have known this, decided to save written documents from the Civil War. They call it the Record of the War of Rebellion and it's just conglomeration, but it's searchable. The way I get on it is by going to Ohio State University and just putting in the search Record of the War of Rebellion and you can put in Mandeville. When you put in Mandeville this story will pop up.

Edward Deano:

Really?

John Crane:

Yeah, and if you want to see it, I think the thing that's sad to me about our country that I think is going to be fixed because I traveled overseas a lot and I see other places where it works, but we've got to have a shared history. Ultimately, we've got to be able to share our history. To me, it's stories like that that begin to bring, you're all part of the story now. It would be just wonderful to find that out. I don't know if you know, but my wife and I just bought the Newell Church over on-

Edward Deano:

Thank God.

John Crane:

We bought it.

Edward Deano:

God, what are you all going to do with it?

John Crane:

First of all-

Edward Deano:

Thank God.

John Crane:

First of all, keep it from getting torn down, which is what everybody was-

Edward Deano:

Where are the archives? Can you get your hands on it?

John Crane:

Yeah, they're in Centenary College up in Shreveport.

Edward Deano:

Just the idea of, what, six weeks after the Civil War former slaves get together and-

John Crane:

I don't know if you've been in there, but they've got the original 1886 cornerstone that they put inside. The first guy I don't know, but the guy on the bottom is E. Williams and they say PE, which means presiding elder. His full name was Emperor Williams. My wife for my birthday, she gave me lithograph from Harper's Magazine from 1865, which showed this. I think it was Methodist Episcopal Church. There's like 12 Black guys standing and there's, I don't know, eight white guys sitting, but they're all named and there was Emperor Williams. He was born in Nashville, Tennessee in 1844.

Edward Deano:

This church was in the Harper's?

John Crane:

No, no, no, no, this guy, Emperor Williams, he was a big deal. He was part of Dillard getting founded because that was a Methodist mission. Newell was founded in 1865 for the purpose of training Black and white Christian workers and by 1868 it had become an, from the best I can tell, African American church purely. I think what happened was the whites after the Civil War, they were kind of mixed up during the Civil War.

Then, as soon as the Civil War was over, people came back from the war and the whites went back to their pastors who'd been in the army and stuff and they separated. The best I can tell is that property where Newell is was bought from the Andersons in 1870, but I don't know. They may have been meeting there before that. I don't know. I'm not sure. The Andersons are a Black family, but I don't know if it was a Black, because that part of Lamarque from what I hear was mostly white. The 300 block was kind of the dividing line. The 400 block was-

Edward Deano:

That's right.

John Crane:

On the back side of the 200 block, there was a Black bar. I think they called it The Hole. I think Simmie or Bill told me about it. Apparently, it was just a shack, but you could go get drunk back there. They're still, up until recently, there may still be a Black family back there. Anyway, they bought it in 1870 from John Anderson, but I don't know if John Anderson was an African American because there were free Blacks that had a lot of property.

Essentially, it was half of the 200 block of Lamarque except the house on the corner at 245 was apparently out of that property. All the other property to half of that island or isle was all part of that church property. Anyway, we're trying to dig into it and find it. We're trying to keep it as a church if we can. I've done mostly just repairs right now. The air conditioner was broken. The plumbing was broken.

Edward Deano:

This is when I lived on Adair Street. I got a chamber stove. I had a little old nothing stove, but I said, "Oh, let me call." I called up Alberta who also took care of us as kids who was a member of that church. I said, "Alberta, I've got a stove you think."

John Crane:

She lived on the corner of Carroll?

Edward Deano:

Alberta lived on Coffee Street.

John Crane:

Coffee Street.

Edward Deano:

Her maiden name was Staten, but she was married to Arthur Laurant. Actually, I have their wedding picture behind you.

John Crane:

This one right here?

Edward Deano:

You see it? Can you see it?

John Crane:

Yeah, yeah.

Edward Deano:

I said, "Alberta, do you need a stove at the parsonage?" She said, "Oh, yeah, I think we really could use one." I said, "Okay." I put my stove up on a truck and brought it over to the parsonage. When I got there they had a chamber stove they had out on the street. They were getting rid of that old stove.

John Crane:

They-

Edward Deano:

... street that was there, getting rid of that old stove.

John Crane:

They were ready for yours.

PART 4 OF 5 ENDS [02:08:04]

Edward Deano:

They've got mine, which I of course got rid of mine to get a chamber stove in there.

John Crane:

Man, I wish that was still there. The parsonage is in really bad shape, but my wife loves that building, so that's probably the one we're going to renovate first.

Edward Deano:

Oh, that is such good news. I had a few members of the Black community call me up and they didn't trust the Methodist Church.

John Crane:

Yeah, the Methodist actually, I researched it a little bit and I think they actually did good. We bought it for 340,000, and the reason I came up, they were asking 380 or something, and I said, "Hey, we're buying lots in this area for 170." So I said, "I think that's fair." And they accepted my offer.

Edward Deano:

God, we're lucky. We're so lucky to have-

John Crane:

But they gave 310,000 to Dillard because they said the original charter of this church was to educate children. And so they felt like that... I've met with only two people. I've had a hard time finding the original people. Maybe you can help me. I've only found two, Gaynell Andrews who was an Anderson, and her son. They're the only ones I've been able to-

Edward Deano:

Gaynell. God, I haven't seen or heard from her.

John Crane:

She's a real fine person.

Edward Deano:

Yeah.

John Crane:

But anyway.

Edward Deano:

Well see, Alberta and she had a nephew.

John Crane:

Is Alberta still living? No, she's died.

Edward Deano:

No, she died. She had a nephew. A lot of those Laurants back, Jimmy Laurant.

John Crane:

And the Laurant name is still on the plaque from 1971.

Edward Deano:

Yeah, I'm sure her name's on it. And Arthur probably.

John Crane:

I think it's Arthur Laurant's name.

Edward Deano:

Yeah, that's Arthur and Alberta. That's their wedding picture. I was doing Alberta's succession and I'm finding this a lot, and you touched on it, Alberta, I'm having to decide in doing those things. I did Arthur's and now I did Alberta's, but they had property and I had to determine whether it was community property or not. And Alberta bought property, single woman in her 20s, which means she had to have a man sign for you in Louisiana. A woman couldn't go buy a piece of property.

John Crane:

Black or white?

Edward Deano:

Yeah.

John Crane:

Oh, really?

Edward Deano:

Uh-huh.

John Crane:

So this was into the 1920s and '30s even?

Edward Deano:

She bought it in the '40s.

John Crane:

'40s. But that was still the case that a woman had to have-

Edward Deano:

Oh, yeah. Up until not that long ago. Maybe the '50s or '60s. I don't know. A husband could sign away community property without the wife's consent.

John Crane:

Even if it came from her side?

Edward Deano:

Well, no. Well, it wouldn't be community.

John Crane:

Oh, that's true. Yeah, yeah. I see.

Edward Deano:

But have you seen, there's a letter in the LSU rare books room, and it's a letter from somebody in Mandeville describing what Mandeville's like in the Civil War.

John Crane:

I have not seen that.

Edward Deano:

And it's rough. And there's a photograph of Mandeville from some sort of tower on the corner, I want to say, of Marigny and Jefferson. And it's amazing how the buildings, the outbuild, that they're still there. How many of them, how familiar the...

John Crane:

The photograph looks?

Edward Deano:

Yeah.

John Crane:

And it's from the period of the Civil War?

Edward Deano:

It's taken during the Civil War.

John Crane:

Oh, wow. Interesting. To me, there's so much, and I'm the opposite of you. I'm a new arrival, but I just find this town fascinating, and I think it's a real jewel.

Edward Deano:

It is. And I'm becoming more and more appreciative of it at this stage of my life than I was.

John Crane:

But these stories are being lost. I think if we can capture them, I think there are people that will appreciate, but I think you got to tell them.

Edward Deano:

Well, just this story about the capture of Mandeville.

John Crane:

Well, it wasn't the capture of Mandeville. It was just the capture of that one group.

Edward Deano:

Yeah, but it was the only part of the parish occupied.

John Crane:

Oh, really?

Edward Deano:

Yeah.

John Crane:

Well, at least from that January thing, they all left. They just took everybody.

Edward Deano:

But The Wave was printed at Don's. The carpetbagger newspaper.

John Crane:

Oh, really? It was called The Wave?

Edward Deano:

The Wave. And there's still some editions around it you can find. And the Wave was operated by the Rosenthal's. You know that name?

John Crane:

Uh-huh.

Edward Deano:

Well, that's an old Mandeville name. And there's Rosenthal's still here. Billy Rosenthal ran for mayor.

John Crane:

Okay, okay. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Edward Deano:

And he was the editor of The Wave, and then The Wave Press disappeared one night.

John Crane:

I heard about that. They threw it in the bayou.

Edward Deano:

They found it in the bayou many, many years later.

John Crane:

But that was before the Civil War, or?

Edward Deano:

No, I think it was during the Civil War. It was definitely during-

John Crane:

Or just after.

Edward Deano:

During reconstruction.

John Crane:

Reconstruction. Yeah.

Edward Deano:

But I think Mandeville is considered the only part of the parish that was occupied, I think. I'm not sure.

John Crane:

Well, those are fascinating.

Edward Deano:

But I think the stories dovetailing.

John Crane:

Yeah. The interesting thing to me, and again, I just have this one, it's literally January 15th, 1865 is when it happened. But there had to be communication and people talking. And I think we had a program. I don't know, do you know who Gaines Foster is? He's a professor, head of the history department. He's retired now at LSU?

Edward Deano:

Mm-hmm.

John Crane:

But he does did a program for us a year or two ago on the memories of the Civil War. And he says there are three memories. There's a white Southern memory, there's a white Northern memory, and there's a Black memory. And each one think different things happened. And it was just fascinating. And then he basically talked about how there was an agreement between the white idea and the white Northern idea. And what the whites wanted was respect and what the North wanted was loyalty. So you go in the North, you'll find Dixie Highway and Robert E. Lee way. And so the North gave the South respect, and the South gave the North loyalty.

Edward Deano:

That's put so well.

John Crane:

But the Blacks were-

Edward Deano:

Not thought of.

John Crane:

And their memories about it, and I think the thing that people forget about the Blacks is that they largely liberated themselves. Up where I live, I have a farm in Mississippi, and the Union Army, Grant came across the Mississippi at Port Gibson, and then he went up and came around and attacked Vicksburg from the rear is how he went in. But he had an army of 30,000 soldiers. He had 30,000 slaves following him. He didn't know what to do because at that point, they were still sending them back. And he decided, "No, we're not sending them back. We're keeping them." And so he put a Presbyterian minister in charge of organizing, but they didn't know what they were doing because anywhere they went, everybody self-liberated. In 1863, the North, they didn't have a clue of what they were doing.

There was another story that I read because I was researching up there, and a of white Northern soldier had written it to his father, and his father was from Illinois, and he was really upset that they were freeing the slaves. And he told his son, "You need to come home. I don't want my son killed for Black people." Something to that. And his son wrote him back and he said, "Dad, you don't understand how these people are being treated." He said, "This is why we're fighting." And just tore your heart out. Here's a 20-year-old kid writing his dad saying, dad, you don't understand. You haven't seen this.

Edward Deano:

Those kind of letters. And Susie's family. I have a book of correspondence between, there were three girls in the family that went with him to Paris, and there's correspondence between one of the girls and a Union soldier in Pennsylvania where they're exchanging their viewpoints on...

John Crane:

On slavery.

Edward Deano:

Yeah. But what you just said about respect and loyalty, and that's-

John Crane:

I think he hit it on the head.

Edward Deano:

I think he hit it right on the head.

John Crane:

General Wheeler, who was a Southern general was head of the U.S. Army that went to Cuba. He was a Southern general, but they gave him the command of the U.S. Army for the Spanish-American war. And that was where it all came together.

Edward Deano:

But I think, and my view is evolving on the monuments. I think that's really why you ended up having monuments.

John Crane:

Oh, absolutely.

Edward Deano:

It wasn't this...

John Crane:

No, Robert E. Lee, he was rolling in his grave when they put him on top of that monument. He'd been dead probably 20 years.

Edward Deano:

Yeah. I don't think it was this Jim Crow thing. I think it's the deal that you and I had another friend that said the same thing, but didn't have the authoritative. That was her.

John Crane:

Well, it's not me. It's Gaines Foster.

Edward Deano:

Yeah. I don't think Jackie, she said that. I think she thought of it herself. But I remember as a kid, we'd all go hike the battlefields in Vicksburg and Shiloh and there were big statues to both sides. Every state had a big monument, but I hadn't heard it put that way before.

John Crane:

But he talks about it being an exchange. And the reality is when the South lost, it was really beat down. And it took a while to figure out how to... It's interesting. I was researching the Rest Awhile, and I was going through the scrapbook that the Sons and the Daughters of the King had. And one of the founding

when they founded Rest Awhile, or when they founded the Sons and Daughters of the King, which I think was in the 1884 maybe or something.

Edward Deano:

Yeah, yeah.

John Crane:

Jefferson Davis was still alive. They went over and got him to be one of the signatures or something. It was a women's organization. They were all women that were running it. But it was important for them to go over to Gulfport to get him to bless it. So they had a letter. You just think it was just a whole different world.

Edward Deano:

Oh, man. Yeah.

John Crane:

Anyway, I'm going to leave you at 6:00.

Edward Deano:

Oh my God.

John Crane:

So we've been here for two and a half hours.

Edward Deano:

Yeah. It doesn't seem that long.

John Crane:

Do you have any final thoughts or now maybe your mind is going to be stirred up and you'll call me up and say, "John, come back. We need to do another hour. I got some more stories."

Edward Deano:

No, I'm so glad you're doing what you're doing. I think that there is an undercurrent of the conglomeration of all these cultural influences in town that is not being recognized. So glad you bought that property. God, I'm so glad you bought that property.

John Crane:

Well, you ought to see, we took a picture of ourselves after. Both of our eyes are-

Edward Deano:

We did what?

John Crane:

We're not doing it for money. We're doing it to preserve it and to figure out how to... You got 158 year legacy. You can't just walk around, knock that down, and put up a 6,000 foot abortion. I shouldn't use that language but...

Edward Deano:

No, you're right. Anyway, I think Mandeville is finding its way on how to deal with this. I'm talking about its preservation. I remember in the late '70s, and he'd be a good guy for you to talk to is Bernard Smith. He was mayor and...

John Crane:

Bernard Smith?

Edward Deano:

Uh-huh. He lives on the lakefront.

John Crane:

Okay.

Edward Deano:

And Bernard got elected mayor as a reform candidate, beat all the old time guys. Native Mandevillian.

John Crane:

Where does he live on the lakefront?

Edward Deano:

He lives I'm going to say between Coffee and Adair maybe.

John Crane:

Okay. So down this way? Okay.

Edward Deano:

So Bernard tried to...

John Crane:

Anyways, yeah.

Edward Deano:

Just Bernard wanted to have a historic commission. It was the pitchfork thing. It was like the last scene out of Frankenstein. It really, really made an impression on people not to do that again. And one person that really made an impression on who had just moved here. And my uncle was the town attorney then, but I would fill in for him a lot. And I'd just gotten out of law school. But one of the people that had just moved here, who this really made an impression on it was Lynn Mitchell. So Lynn, when we ventured back into doing a historic commission 10 years ago, was very...

John Crane:

He didn't want to go there.

Edward Deano:

Well, he wanted it to be very weak. He did not want it to be a powerful local commission. And I wrote it.

John Crane:

The ordinance.

Edward Deano:

I wrote the ordinance, but Lynn was on my shoulder constantly. And it was not a strong story. It's not like Abita Springs. And we adopted it. It wasn't very controversial getting it adopted. And I'm watching it up until very recently, people put more confidence in it, doing amendments to make it stronger and that type of thing. Now I'm beginning to see a little-

John Crane:

Pushback.

Edward Deano:

Blowback from people that aren't as connected to the history of the town and believe in property rights, Trump everything, and all that stuff. So it's going to be interesting to see whether what happens with historic...

John Crane:

I mean, there's a lot of data that says if you're in a historic district-

Edward Deano:

Oh, your values?

John Crane:

Your values go up. And what I see is that the people that are hardest to deal with are people who really don't have any context, but they're also being pushed by developers who are trying to make a... They're in and out. They just want to cut every tree down and get rid of that old house and we'll get out of here. And these people don't understand and stand up to them and just say, no, we don't need to cut that tree down.

Edward Deano:

A lot of people have no context too.

John Crane:

I agree. Yeah.

Edward Deano:

They don't have the understanding.

John Crane:

Just to appreciate why we have that thing, that lakefront. Can you imagine what it would be like if we didn't have it? We'd look like Lewisburg or something.

Edward Deano:

Did you ever hear the Mardi Gras massacre? Well, and this is it.

John Crane:

Okay. I do have one more question for you.

Edward Deano:

Oh, okay. Go ahead.

John Crane:

But go ahead.

Edward Deano:

Well, the Mardi Gras massacre was, there was an Oak Grove.

John Crane:

Oh, I do know about it. But go ahead and tell the story. We need to record that.

Edward Deano:

There was an Oak Grove about where the post office is.

John Crane:

Oh, I thought it was where the Whitney bank was.

Edward Deano:

No.

John Crane:

Okay. Post office. Okay.

Edward Deano:

It's about right in there a little. It was on that property, I'm pretty sure. And it's where Father Roquette preached to the Indians - gorgeous Oak Grove. And the Highway Department said they had to widen that street and they had to cut all the oak trees down. So we organized. I was one of the leaders that organized the efforts to save the Oak Grove. And we got all the municipalities to pass ordinances about it. We had all kind of rallies about it. The state said they weren't going to cut it down. Sixty Rayburn wrote us, and they weren't going to cut it. Mardi Gras day, they come and cut them all down. And if you know where the trees were, you didn't need to.

John Crane:

Yeah.

Edward Deano:

They didn't have to go.

John Crane:

If it was where this post office is, it didn't affect it.

Edward Deano:

It was also a landmark where people would sell soft-shell crabs there, they'd sell vegetables underneath the trees and all kind of stuff. Well, that marked the beginning of, there were no tree ordinances in St. Tammany Parish. And that marked the beginning of the adoption of tree ordinances. I think Slidell was the first one to do it. But the mobilization for the protection of trees, that was the first time that ever occurred. And it happened, let's see, it happened almost 50 years ago. You don't have that because people moving over here from Kenner and Metairie don't have that connection with trees. They don't.

John Crane:

Right. They built in a swamp.

Edward Deano:

Yeah. So that's the kind of stuff that needs to be nurtured. Mandeville is not going to lose its identity from someone putting a big box on Carroll Street. It's going to be cutting trees down, putting culverts in the ditches, doing things that just suburbanize stuff.

John Crane:

I don't think our neighbors like us, but we opened the ditch back up.

Edward Deano:

Well, you got to. It's great for the environment. It's for flood protection. It can handle-

John Crane:

You got a pipe this big, and when you open the ditch up, you get three times that much collection.

Edward Deano:

Yeah. I remember when what's his name came here, Duany, and he said, "Y'all are ahead of the curve. We're dealing with people getting grants stuff to take culverts up."

John Crane:

At least you've got got the ditches or a few of them.

Edward Deano:

We've got the ditches already. Course the city administration doesn't understand.

John Crane:

No, they don't. They don't understand at all.

Edward Deano:

No.

John Crane:

So my last question, the Dew Drop, did you have any involvement with that?

Edward Deano:

Yeah, I was on the... Well, I represented Jinx, and Jinx deserves, in my opinion, some... Jinx had the opportunity to sell that building and have it moved out of Mandeville and refused to do it, but would threaten she was going to do it. And so I represented her and I think she was a good business woman. She was a good citizen. So we drew up some restrictions that are still on the property, but she worked hard. We couldn't get the city to move on it. Jinx worked on that for years. So we ended up getting that done. She did real well using preservation type incentives, which is great. That's what they're there for. We need examples of people-

John Crane:

Who do the right thing.

Edward Deano:

Who do the right thing and can show that it's good business to do. So they sold it. Lynn was the chairman, I was the Vice-chairman for years.

John Crane:

So beginning what year? Do you remember?

Edward Deano:

Let's see. I'm going to say... I could find it, actually, I've got to turn over. I have a lot of their old records. I'm going to have to turn over to the board right now. I'm going to say, oh God. 2006.

John Crane:

So right after Katrina, that timeframe?

Edward Deano:

Yeah, I think so.

John Crane:

Okay.

Edward Deano:

Maybe earlier than that. Maybe earlier than that.

John Crane:

So on the original board, Lynn was the president and you were the vice president?

Edward Deano:

Yeah. Mark remembers it. I think that's the way it goes. And I get it a little confused with the Trailhead because I was the-

John Crane:

Yeah, Lynn was involved in that too.

Edward Deano:

Yeah. Lynn was involved in getting it. Lynn came up to Baton Rouge. That wasn't an easy thing to get done.

John Crane:

Somebody had to give you 30 miles worth of land.

Edward Deano:

Well, we had that.

John Crane:

Oh, okay.

Edward Deano:

They had abandoned the railroad.

John Crane:

So you just were able to take the?

Edward Deano:

Oh God, that was such a fight.. Dick Blossman. You know who I'm talking about?

John Crane:

Yep.

Edward Deano:

He bought it. He owned it.

John Crane:

He owned the rail bed?

Edward Deano:

Uh-huh.

John Crane:

So he bought it from the railroad when they had to default?

Edward Deano:

And so I was in the legislature at the time, and he had plans. I saw the plans to develop it, particularly through Fontainebleau Park and had a 200 foot right of away. They owned it, and he was putting a subdivision.

John Crane:

Really?

Edward Deano:

Uh-huh. And all you had to do was sell one foot of it and it was worthless.

John Crane:

Yeah. As soon as you cut it, it's...

Edward Deano:

So I put a bill up to say that any railroad right-of-way needed a phase two environmental study on the whole thing. The political problem was he had run against me. Edwin had put him up against me because Edwin I thought I should be more democratic than I was. And here comes my opponent and I'm putting this thing out. So I got it through the House, my bill for the phase two environmental. So he goes up to the Senate and I don't know if you remember, he was a great senator. Randy Ewing was chairman of the Senate from Ruston or somewhere. And so Dick goes up there and talks about politics and his opponent's doing this to him and da, da, da, da. Randy - he said, "God," he said, "This is a good legislator with a bad bill. There's something we're not getting on this." So he adjourned the committee. And he called me and said, "What's the story?" And I told him.

Well, we got it out, and Dick decided to sell it at that point. And Becky did the appraisal on it. And we got some money out of capital. I can't remember what it used to be. I used to be on the committee, but anyway, we got some money from the state to put it together to go.

John Crane:

To me, that's one of the jewels of St. Tammany Parish is that trace.

Edward Deano:

Oh yeah. And just like what you said about historic district, all the studies show that if you're on it, crime goes down, property values go up.

John Crane:

Absolutely.

Edward Deano:

So yeah, I would say that's-

John Crane:

But it is an educational... I was on the district for four years and it was interesting because I had very much the sense that we were treading on unknown territory.

Edward Deano:

Which district?

John Crane:

The Historic District Commission.

Edward Deano:

Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

John Crane:

So we weren't trying.

Edward Deano:

Yeah, because you're right. Because you really-

John Crane:

We would have to say, "This is what..." We didn't really-

Edward Deano:

There were gaps in it. So you had to interpret, you had to fill in the blanks as you went along. Because Lynn, he didn't want the regulatory language in there that would've made everything clear. And to his credit, I think what he felt like it would evolve as the town was ready for it to evolve. It would evolve and people might get out in front of it and would cause precedent. And it wouldn't be this big thing that happened to all of them.

John Crane:

And it might've had a reaction, whereas maybe the way-

Edward Deano:

But to try to interpret the ordinance.

John Crane:

Anyway, I need to let you go so you can have your-

Edward Deano:

All right, yeah. Actually, I think I'm going to have some people.

John Crane:

Thank you so much for doing this.

Edward Deano:

Yeah.

John Crane:

We really appreciate it. The one thing I will do is I will put this on a flash drive and give you a flash drive.

Edward Deano:

Oh, good.

John Crane:

So you'll have that for your family or whatever.

Edward Deano:

Well look, thank you for everything you're doing.

John Crane:

It's a pleasure.

Edward Deano:

For the community.

PART 5 OF 5 ENDS [02:35:11]