

John Crane:

So good morning. Today is April 1st, 2024 (sic 2023). Beautiful spring day. We're here at 432 Jackson Avenue in Mandeville at the home of Archie Carriere and Mr. Carriere is going to be my interviewee for this morning's oral history. Mr. Carriere. Could you give me your full name and then we'll get started?

Archie Carriere:

Hi, my name is Archie Carriere Jr. I'm the son of Archie Carriere and Ella Cade, and I was born in 1952.

John Crane:

Okay. Archie, this oral history has been being done for the behalf of the Old Mandeville Historic Association. We're collecting a variety of oral histories for Mandeville and I just want to get your permission for us to record you and then also to use this recording at some future time. We don't have a particular goal in mind at this point, but hopefully these interviews will become part of what people know about Mandeville.

Archie Carriere:

I'm flattered and honored, and yes sir, you do.

John Crane:

Okay. Let me begin with a quick question. You were born in 1952. Have you lived your entire life in Mandeville or have you had experiences living in other places?

Archie Carriere:

I've had experiences living in other places, but I did not actually leave Mandeville until after high school going to college and beginning my life.

John Crane:

Okay. Where did you go to college? And what-

Archie Carriere:

I went to Southeastern.

John Crane:

Southeastern? And what was your area of study and how long did you go there? Did you get a degree? And what degree was that?

Archie Carriere:

I did not get a degree. I only went there for approximately a year.

John Crane:

Okay. Okay. And then tell me a little bit about your family. Were your parents from Mandeville? Were your grandparents? How far back do you go in Mandeville? What is the history of the Carriere family here?

Archie Carriere:

I would say that it's probably to the end of the 1800s. My family have been in this area and seen the city evolve. It has changed and so much that we were happy to be a part of that fabric in a good way and contribute to that change. To me, Mandeville is dear to my heart and I always regard it as a special place, a place where quality of life is superb.

John Crane:

Tell me a little bit about your parents. Were they born in Mandeville and what sort of work did they do? What were their involvements?

Archie Carriere:

Yes. My father, he was born here and so was my mother. This goes back into the, I'm a, I guess you might say trendy a boomer, but this goes back to the days of World War II where my father, he served as other family members did. My mom, she merely did jobs, typical support jobs, working in homes, et cetera. And then when they became married, they moved into a home on the other end of Mandeville, near Kleber Street and Pre-stress Concrete Plant. My dad owned the cleaners and one thing that I was so in awe of him is the scope of the business and the people that he knew in Mandeville. Now keep in mind that this is the circa fifties. I can remember when Jackson Avenue was a gravel road before it even got black topped, and the guy on the tractor saw me running down the street and said, "Come sit on my lap." So that's one of the cherished moments.

And to see the difference in how the people, for one thing, has changed with a lot of new people coming here, and as Mr. John was alluding to, the oral history to pass down. What my daddy's cleaners did, it provided services to people. You got to remember in this era of the fifties and sixties, style was totally different for what we consider style now. So everybody wanted to have their dress shirts ironed, et cetera, and he had developed relationships with so many, many other Mandevillians with businesses. If I had the opportunity, I'd like to see, and I can literally tell you this was Ms. Prieto's store. This was Ms. Weisheit's store. This was Mr. Levy's store. This was Ms. Band's. I remember the days of Mr. Chitter in his garage, he sold and had the Fords and he had a sign on his building that said C-sharp or B-flat. Our other automobile dealership was Mr. Dutz And he was right there on 190. So that was where the Chryslers and those particular Plymouth products were sold from him.

We had a lot of other restaurants, of course, the lakefront, et cetera. And I was telling somebody that I remember so vividly, the old lakefront theater that we had, which is now another building occupies it. And Mr. Williams Drug Store, which too is right there on the lakefront, which now I think is where Barley Oaks is. And then the condominiums that were across the street from that, that was actually a hotel. These are some of the fond memories I had. As my father's business, he literally was picking up and delivering clothes. He had a day to pick up and a day to deliver, and many of the area's leaders at that time, that's how he got to know them and he got to know him.

John Crane:

Where was his store located and how many employees did he have or did he do everything himself?

Archie Carriere:

He had a staff of approximately six employees. This is the scope of the business. And now the property is sold, which was heir property because it was tied to our family, but it was literally right next door here. This is where the cleaners in the old house was.

John Crane:

So is that 416-

Archie Carriere:

424.

John Crane:

424 Jackson was the location of the cleaning establishment?

Archie Carriere:

Yes, sir. And then the family home was next door to it. So we had what we call the pressing shop and people would come and bring clothes or pick them up, and like I said, daddy's staff, it was really remarkable what he did and to see his role in Mandeville, and it made me want to pick up that torch and do the same thing. He and my mother were both very, very active Our Lady of the Lake Church. My dad would be the usher. You could pretty much count on him every Sunday morning and every Friday it would be at the chapel with the novena. So these are the kind of things that I was brought up into a way of life.

John Crane:

So you were brought up in the Catholic Church?

Archie Carriere:

Yes, sir.

John Crane:

And do you still remain connected with Our Lady of the Lake?

Archie Carriere:

Yes sir, I do.

John Crane:

Okay. So that's still your church. This home here, was this a family home also, or when did your family, or did you get possession of 432 Jackson?

Archie Carriere:

When in the sixties, the cleaners, because it was a business, it has to do with zoning and whether you could have a commercial business or a residence in certain areas of town. The cleaners was, I guess you could say perhaps was grandfathered in, for lack of better words. Because he had actual architectural drawings of another huge building that he wanted to do, and he recognized that, he understood, okay, this is what the city wants. So there was no animosity or anything like that. It's totally understandable.

So therefore, due to his relationships, and particularly with the various, like I said, we served the professionals, the doctors, the law enforcement officers, all those people came through my dad to do their clothes. And he had where he actually had drivers would do the route, his scope of his business extended as far as Lacombe to Madisonville. This includes all the Golden Shores and this is how I think

we got to know, and I had the relationship with Ms Deano, Mr. Prieto and so forth. This is a lot of history. I loved it. I got to see the town change and just happy to be a part of it.

John Crane:

Yeah, I mean that's a fascinating story. One of the things we are trying to do is to identify the locations of businesses and different kinds of public facilities, commercial facilities around Mandeville because so many have changed. And I personally wasn't aware that there was a cleaners right here on Jackson Avenue. So that's really an interesting thing. I know the building next door, when they went before the Historic District Council, it was reported that there was an old well in the back that may have been an artesian well.

Archie Carriere:

Yes.

John Crane:

Was that functional when you remember?

Archie Carriere:

Yes, sir, the Well was there, but now it's all sealed up. The ingenuity of my father, et cetera, he had pumps where he could get the water to feed these giant boilers that generated the steam to operate the pressing machines.

John Crane:

So he was taking the water from the artesian well and putting it into his establishment to actually run his equipment?

Archie Carriere:

That and provide just water because there was no city water at this time. You're going way, way back. We didn't have a lot of the public services that we have now. I mean, I can remember when we had phones, there was what we call a party line. If you picked up the phone to somebody else, you couldn't make a call. You had to hang up and wait. "Hey, did you get off the phone?" It's kind of funny.

John Crane:

When do you remember the party line ending? Do you remember-

Archie Carriere:

I think this happened, because I remember with my dad's cleaners because he was wanting to have his number and getting to the yellow pages and all these cool things to put on his truck, I would say the party line probably ended in '58, maybe '60. Somewhere late fifties, early sixties I think it ended. I'm not sure now, I'm not sure.

John Crane:

Yep. Now, you had mentioned that your father had served in the military during the Second World War.

Archie Carriere:

Yes.

John Crane:

Tell me a little bit about that. Which service was he in? How long was he in? Was he primarily in the United States? Did he deploy overseas? What was his experience in World War II? Do you have any information on that?

Archie Carriere:

Yes. My dad volunteered to join the Navy, and this was right after Pearl Harbor. It was 1942. This is a history that has been shared with me. Not only did he join, but his brothers also. My father fought in the Pacific and he was an actual Seabee. So even in his later years, he loves John Wayne's, the Fighting Seabees because he did the island hopping and he saw the horrors that that war provided in the Pacific. One of his fondest memories is when I got to take him to the World War II Museum and see the expression on his face because he served in the Pacific and of course the World War II Museum has both theaters of war at that particular time. So he came back here and his brother came back first and started a cleaning business. So he said, "Well, let's do it together." Well, unbeknownst to my dad, in about 1957, his brother decided he was going to move. So dad had to choose, do I want to keep this cleaners going? So he decided to keep the cleaners going.

John Crane:

First of all, what was the name of the cleaners and when did it finally shut down? Or did it move to a different location and is it still going?

Archie Carriere:

The name of the cleaners was Carriere Cleaners, and he did close it. I think this happened in, because I graduated in '69, I think he closed in '70 because I remember my graduation and et cetera, the cleaners was still... it's either '70 or '71. He closed it because not only the age of the equipment, his age, the typical story that any business has to deal with, employees. The scope of the business was just too much and he didn't want me to follow in his footsteps. He wanted me to get an education.

John Crane:

Just sticking with your dad a little bit, you mentioned that he was born here in Mandeville. How about your grandparents? Were they from Mandeville or did they live somewhere else and come here, or what-

Archie Carriere:

The best of that I can recall, my grandparents were actually from here. Actually from here. My grandfather on my dad's side name was Grandpa Johnny. He was John Carriere who was married to Edna Carriere. Okay? On my mom's side, she was a Cade. Her mother married... And I got to think about these old last maiden names, but I think uncle... well grandpa, we call him Papi Neola Cade is the one that I think Mr. Fairley remembers as a child because he passed, I think before I was even born.

John Crane:

Mandeville was largely an English-speaking area, but there were French speakers here as well. Did your family in your lifetime, the older generation, did they speak French or was it all English or what-

Archie Carriere:

They didn't necessarily speak what we would commonly called Creole, but they were familiar with the dialect, for lack of a better words. But we were pretty much English-speaking.

John Crane:

Okay. So basically from this. Any connections to New Orleans that you know about at all with your family or as far as they were Northshore people as far back as anybody can remember?

Archie Carriere:

Extended family, like aunts and uncles, they lived in New Orleans, but the primary family, myself, my dad, most of them lived here.

John Crane:

Right, okay.

Archie Carriere:

But the aunts and uncles did not. And this is also on my mom's side.

John Crane:

Okay. So maybe another generation or two may have been New Orleans people, but they've been, at least for the past two generations before you, they were here?

Archie Carriere:

Yes, sir.

John Crane:

Okay, that's fine, sir. Tell me a little bit about your own personal history. You said that you graduated in 1969, you were born in 1952, which is the same year I was born. Tell me about what your life has been like, just the big points, graduating high school and so forth. And then I'd like to go back to your childhood a little bit and talk about some of the things you remembered. you mentioned, dirt roads and riding on the street grader, which by the way, several people have mentioned is a high point in their life. So I guess the guy that was driving-

Archie Carriere:

You're a little kid and you sitting on his lap and you got this massive powerful machine. That's quite a thrill.

John Crane:

So you graduated from Mandeville High?

Archie Carriere:

Yes, sir.

John Crane:

Where did you go to elementary school? Tell me from the beginning where you started, which schools you went to and that sort of thing.

Archie Carriere:

Okay. When I was approximately... My memory seems to be pretty good for long term. I'm wondering about short term here, but there was a place with a lot of young Catholic couples had an opportunity to send their children, and it was right there across the street from Our Lady of the Lake, which was the Sisters of the Holy Family. Okay? We were little children back then, four or five years old and working family. So I'm not going to say it was a daycare for us, but being Catholic, the emphasis on Catholicism. From there I went to what we referred to as Mandeville Rosenwald. So from Mandeville Rosenwald, this was grades, probably three, because the school was on Lamarque Street. It was literally one of those proverbial one-room school houses. Then the new school was built, which is back here, which was Woodlake Elementary. So that's where we went until we reached the age to go to high school.

At this time, because of segregation, the only high school the African-American kids had to go to was either school in Lacombe referred to as Chahta-Ima or they would have to try to get some kind of way to go to Covington, to go to Covington Rosenwald, which became Pine View High in the days before the fully integration of the school system. So at Chahta-Ima it's a very unique experience in the sense that you sensed that these were people who had enormous potential just given the chance. So when it became available for me to go to Mandeville High, I pondered it very, very carefully because that would mean I would literally be leaving a whole culture, a whole group of friends and taking the opportunity, and that's why I used the word opportunity, to go to Mandeville. It existed. Why not take advantage of it?

So you have to remember, this is the fall of 1968. At the same time, and to tell you some of Mandeville's old history. I used to bag groceries at Winn-Dixie. So I became friends and then with my dad having his cleaners. So I did have some friends at Mandeville High that I could at least relate and talk to, and I cherished it. One of the biggest things, and it kind of saddened me in a way, is to look at the discrepancy, to have books not written, pages all there. I guarded my books, these are my books.

John Crane:

So basically when you were-

Archie Carriere:

Desks were... you don't see... And this is not a put down, please don't take it that way. No, sir. It is what it was. Okay?

John Crane:

And to be honest with you, what I'm really interested is to capture some of these memories because I think they're very important for us to develop and to keep and to preserve in order to have a shared history. And we need to know the reality of that. And so to have individuals like yourself who actually can speak to experience, personal experience, I think is very important.

Tell me a little bit about the Rosenwald school. You said it was literally a one room schoolhouse. I think the history of the Rosenwald schools all over the south is fairly well known. I think it was a Jewish philanthropist who went and saw a need in the Black community because the children were not being educated. There were not facilities. The separate but equal was a fantasy. And so he came and put his money where his mouth was all over the South and built these schools. And as you said, both Covington

and Mandeville had these schools. What was that school like? This would've been your first, second, third grade years?

Archie Carriere:

Second and... because I already had gone, and to make you chuckle here, I showed the ability to be beyond the first grade, couldn't go to the third grade. So because of emotional kind of thing, kids. So I went straight to the second grade.

John Crane:

I was wondering how you graduated in 69 because you and I are the same grade. I mean the same age. I actually went the other way. They held me back a year, so I didn't graduate until 71. So there's a gap between, even though we're in the same age group-

Archie Carriere:

And I do credit that too, back in the experiences with the sisters, right there by Lady of the Lake, and my parents and my grandparents, they used to, "Say your timetables. Okay, say your timetables backwards." Okay, what is this a show? "Say your ABCs. Say them backwards." But this is the emphasis of learning and how they wanted you to grow. The Rosenwald school was, again, it was small because there wasn't that large of a Black population, so you keep that in mind too. And the school, there was actually a part that served as the cafeteria. You would see the cook, one of them happens to be a dear friend of Roses or the Fairleys, et cetera. And then you would have the various sections of the building where you would've this little class and that little class. So again, you're not talking about a large large quantity, I would say you're probably looking at maybe, I would say maybe 20, 25 kids and maybe breaking 30, it depends.

John Crane:

Right. When I was talking to Simmie Fairley, he told me that he also went to the Rosenwald school. He didn't have the holy name experience, I think, because he was Protestant as opposed to Catholic. But he told me that he had the opportunity or the choice, in particular, more his sister, his older sister, the choice of going to Covington or to Slidell, and that there was actually a bus that ran from here-

Archie Carriere:

That's right.

John Crane:

... Greyhound bus, it was parked over there by Kleber Street, people would get on it in the morning and go. Did you ever have that experience to go-

Archie Carriere:

Yes, I did have the busing experience. By that time when I entered school in the late sixties, et cetera, we had a public school bus system. So therefore for me to go to Lacombe to school, the bus would literally come out of Madisonville, Houltonville, which is on the other side of the river from Madisonville. And she had her bus route where she would come and pick all of us kids up and then take us to Lacombe. And in the evening again, we would get bused back. She had a little route that she would pick up and deliver.

John Crane:

So you were at an age that was after the Greyhound experience, but still the experience of riding a bus?

Archie Carriere:

Yes, sir.

John Crane:

Going back and forth? And you mentioned that in the segregated schools, because you had experience in both the white... well, I guess what was beginning to be the integrated schools and the segregated black schools, you saw a dramatic difference in the resources that were available in terms of age of books, quality books. Tell me a little bit about that. I mean, were you aware that there was a discrepancy or was that not really revealed until you went and saw what the other half had, what they were being blessed with?

Archie Carriere:

I was at first experienced of hearing it and then actually living it and seeing it. It's like the football equipment. I think about the football pads that we had, your sticky towels, this is a real football helmet. It's not something from Sears and Roebuck, you're fixing to run it to somebody with it. And these are the kind of things. But you have to recognize that we were evolving, in progress and we've come a long way. We have a long way yet still to go.

John Crane:

I agree.

Archie Carriere:

But the differences in my, I guess you might say high-energy guy, when I arrived at Mandeville High, I was received pretty well, I must say. I didn't have this overt racist treat, I guess, "Ain't you this, that." No, I didn't experience that. I think it's partly because of my father and the business and so many people knowing him. And then to be able to, as you say, you can't take this to be intellectually capable. I took courses like physics. Okay? I played in the band, played football. I was all over, into anything and everything I could get. I actually played piano for our plays and stuff. We'd had the big Christmas play. But I loved it. I can remember the faculty. Everybody remembers Coach Theriot, Mr. Fontenberry, Mr. Pierce. I could go on. Mr. Bergeron.

John Crane:

So you went to Mandeville High for your?

Archie Carriere:

Senior year.

John Crane:

Just senior year?

Archie Carriere:

Yes.

John Crane:

So you graduated with a degree from Mandeville High?

Archie Carriere:

Yes, sir.

John Crane:

Take me beyond Mandeville. So you made a decision to go to Southeastern?

Archie Carriere:

Yes.

John Crane:

And were you living on campus or were you traveling back and forth, or how did that work?

Archie Carriere:

I'm glad you asked that. Believe it or not, we actually had buses that would take us, bus routes, just like if there were segregation, they would pick up kids and bus them to Southeastern and bring the kids back. Yes, if you had a car, and yes, there was the option to live on campus.

John Crane:

But for yourself, you lived at home?

Archie Carriere:

Yes.

John Crane:

You mentioned working in the Winn-Dixie. Were you also working in your dad's business as well?

Archie Carriere:

No, pretty much not. And that's what I was saying, he really didn't want me to work in the business. And again, as the old days said, you remember Winn-Dixie had the little guys had the white shirt, the bow tie, the black pants, and put your groceries to your car and get 25 cent or 15 cent. And that's where I had the friends that made it easier for me to transition into Mandeville. I had it knowing them and then going to their house, delivering clothes. They knew who I was.

John Crane:

What did you think of Southeastern? What was that experience? So that would've been in the fall of '69 probably you went to there?

Archie Carriere:

Yes, '70, yeah, I think so. And then I got drafted.

John Crane:

Okay. So you got drafted into the military?

Archie Carriere:

Yes. Out of college.

John Crane:

So did you have a deferment or you didn't have a deferment, they just took you straight?

Archie Carriere:

Yes, sir. I had gotten drafted and I was to be reporting to Fort Polk Louisiana August of 16, 1971 or joined, something. So fortunately I was able, and at this time, the Air National Guard, not the Army National Guard, not the Air Force Reserve, the Air National Guard was very difficult to get into. And because of testing, which they do when you go into the military, et cetera, they were selected because a lot of people in my generation, the Vietnam War was not an attractive thing.

John Crane:

So tell me about, so you're a young man from Mandeville Louisiana, and you go into the Air National Guard. Tell me a little bit of what that experience was like.

Archie Carriere:

It was great, and sometimes I wish I would've went what we call regular because every young guy, I had a love and a life, et cetera, and not wanting to make a full military commitment, the National Guard, I was able to satisfy those needs and still go back to school at night.

John Crane:

So how long did you serve in the Air National Guard?

Archie Carriere:

You have a six-year commitment.

John Crane:

Six-year commitment? And you mentioned that you continued your education along with that. Was that through the University of Maryland? Or how did you do that? You were no longer at Southeastern, but you were continuing your education. What was the process?

Archie Carriere:

I was working at Southeast Hospital at night and then take advantage and go to school in the day. But I never graduated because I started pursuing other interests, et cetera.

John Crane:

So you were still going to Southeastern at that during the daytime as well?

Archie Carriere:

Yes sir.

John Crane:

Okay. So tell me about after the military after? Did you continue at Southeastern (sic) facility? Or what was your work history and your experience after that? You got married, children. Tell me a little bit about that.

Archie Carriere:

Okay. I got married and what I wanted to do, I just simply wasn't sure, like every young person. And I enjoyed that job working at Southeast Hospital. And then a friend of mine had told me about another opportunity to work at Charity Hospital, and the place I worked at was Orleans Parish Prison. Now here, this is not the Orleans Parish Prison. This is the original old Orleans Parish prison at Tulane providing medical services to the inmates that were housed there. So that's what I did for years, and then began playing music.

John Crane:

Tell me about your music interests, because one of the things that I heard early on was that there was a musical community here. I heard about a couple of families that were the center of it. I think they lived on Lamarque Street.

Archie Carriere:

Yes.

John Crane:

But tell me about your own experience with music. What did you play? What was your involvement? Were you involved in groups? That sort of thing.

Archie Carriere:

As part of my early childhood, and one of the reasons that I mentioned I played at Mandeville High for a lot of our events and in the band is I had that privilege of taking music lessons at a very early age. And I am so grateful for that opportunity. And I'll never forget, my mom says, "You wanted that piano. You're going to sit here and practice. And every day. You don't get a day off. Every day you have to sit and practice." Little did I know that discipline and the greatness of my music teacher, what doors it would allow to open for me in the future.

John Crane:

Who was your music teacher?

Archie Carriere:

My music teacher was a guy named Mr. Sanders. He was the African-American band director, believe it or not, Covington. But he knew my dad and he knew that he has this little kid, he wants this son to take piano lessons. So Mr. Sanders said, "I'll teach him." And he told him, "He's got a lot of potential."

John Crane:

So you talked about when you were a senior at Mandeville High that you played the piano for some of the theater productions that they had, I guess some of the musical productions that they put on?

Archie Carriere:

Yes.

John Crane:

What did you do with music later in your life? Did you ever do it professionally? Was it a hobby? What did music mean to you in your life?

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Archie Carriere:

It was a major part to see the... Because so many of my family members were musicians. That too was an added incentive. I have a cousin who's played for many years with some of the artists like Tom Jones, Lola Falana. I mean, these are the greats. So I had other relatives, just as we have the Dew Drop, who actually were musicians. So I was always around family members who were musicians, and that encouraged me to want to play.

My friend who got me started playing music was the same friend that talked me into coming and working for Charity Hospital, and I was saying is there an alternative motive here. And he knew that I played the piano, and he had some friends that wanted to put a band together. So we really were very, very prominent in the Black community as a band. This is the era of the '70s, where in New Orleans, you had people like Chocolate Milk. You would hear about The Meters, the Neville Brothers, the old true New Orleans bands. David Batiste and The Gladiators, these type of artists.

And actually, just the other day, I was talking to Ms. Neville, the mother of the Nevilles, and we were just going down memory lane. The band, we had an opportunity to play... I actually played before a homecoming at Mandeville High. So that was kind of cool to come back to my high school and play. But we played all over the Southeast.

John Crane:

Might have to move this a little closer to you.

Archie Carriere:

Yeah.

John Crane:

I'm just worried about this street noise.

Archie Carriere:

I'm sorry.

John Crane:

No, no, not at all.

Archie Carriere:

But we played all over, and at the same time, trying to have a family and playing music. And like I said, University of Southern Mississippi, UNO, LSU, we were real popular. We were on the radio and stuff, posters. And then I just realized that it was actually not healthy for me and a marriage.

John Crane:

What was the name of your group that you were in?

Archie Carriere:

It was called Stash.

John Crane:

Stash? Okay. And it sounds like you were pretty intimately connected with the New Orleans music scene-

Archie Carriere:

Yes.

John Crane:

... I presume. You mentioned The Meters, so you knew some of those people.

Archie Carriere:

Irma. Yeah.

John Crane:

Irma Thomas.

Archie Carriere:

Yes.

John Crane:

Tell me about what that scene was like in the early '70s. What was it like to be part of that as a young man? And they were young people too. Some of them were a little bit older, but not a whole lot, maybe 10 years or something. What were those people like? What was it like to be with that group?

Archie Carriere:

It was wonderful. Like any group, now, remember, individuals have personalities. But if you can get along and look and keep a unified goal and keep it together and keep personalities to a minimum, you could be successful. That's why I've actually played the Jazz Fest. I've been on TV and all this kind of jazz, but music is passion to me. It's something that I'll always have. But it's not my primary thing. It's just something like if you said, "Hey, Arch, come play some oldie but goodies," sure. But you go out and go back into the club scene and gigging with a group and stuff, no. I tell people I have a job. I'm retired and have a job.

John Crane:

Yeah, I understand. No, it's fascinating because Mandeville does have this legacy that I think is misunderstood in some ways with the Dew Drop and all that. Was the Dew Drop operating when you were a kid, or was that already shut down?

Archie Carriere:

It was pretty much shuttered. Actually, we played music there for a wedding reception once, but as far as a routine event, no, it wasn't. Now, what is called Ruby's, there's several places in Mandeville when the Mandeville Black population was much larger than it is, that we could go to. Nightclubs we could go to. One of them was Ruby's, and we used to call it Mable's.

John Crane:

Used to call it what?

Archie Carriere:

Mable's.

John Crane:

Mable?

Archie Carriere:

Mable's. Yeah, Mable's.

John Crane:

Mable.

Archie Carriere:

Mabel's. Yeah, Mable's.

John Crane:

Okay. Mable's.

Archie Carriere:

We got people at Mable's.

John Crane:

Okay.

Archie Carriere:

Yeah. That's actually bands play through there too, et cetera. And then I think ownership and change and et cetera, and then it became Ruby's

John Crane:

Ruby's, right. What were some of the other venues here, do you recall, that were available where music was played? I'm just curious.

Archie Carriere:

For Blacks?

John Crane:

Blacks or Whites. I guess the Whites were mostly the hotels, probably?

Archie Carriere:

Yes, sir.

John Crane:

How about the Blacks? Where-

Archie Carriere:

There were a couple of small clubs in Mandeville where they could go and we would play, but they were ironically on the other side of the highway. Not in here in old Mandeville, other than where Ruby's was.

John Crane:

Okay. So on the north side of Florida

Archie Carriere:

190. Yes, sir.

John Crane:

190.

Archie Carriere:

Yeah.

John Crane:

So you made a decision, it sounds, fairly early to not make music a career, but you never gave it up as a passion.

Archie Carriere:

Yes.

John Crane:

Tell me about the decision to move in a different area. What was your work like? What kinds of work were you involved in as a young man and then all the way up until retirement? What were some of the things you were involved in?

Archie Carriere:

Okay. I was married, as I mentioned, during the era that I was playing music and then had gotten a divorce. And I met another young lady while I was working at Orleans Parish Prison for Charity Hospital. I worked there for four years. And she had a friend who worked at Shell Chemical Corporation in Geismar, Louisiana, and they were taking applications, and the application for lab techs. So I applied for that. (phone ringing)

One moment.

John Crane:

You want me to shut this off for just a second?

Archie Carriere:

Okay, I'm good. I just didn't-

John Crane:

It's still going.

Archie Carriere:

Okay. I just didn't want to talk... Anyway. So I went to Shell and worked in the laboratory. What the plant manufactured was the raw chemicals and ingredients that went to a lot of products. We're talking about everything from particularly your household cleaning products, but to things such as jet fuel, de-icer, products that went to paint thinner, et cetera. So I worked there for 14 years, and that's really where I had a lot of exposure to technology, because again, I always had a thirst for it, seemed to have the aptitude to do it without... Some people just have that "it" factor, and that's where I really got exposed and learned a lot about computers, working there. This goes back to the old days of the key punch cards, et cetera. And I worked at Shell for about 14 years, and then I decided that I was going to probably look at other career interests, and I decided, "Well, no, this is not going to work out for me," because again, I went through a divorce.

John Crane:

So you were commuting from Mandeville to Geismar-

Archie Carriere:

Mm-hmm.

John Crane:

... to work in this lab at-

Archie Carriere:

Work at Shell. Mm-hmm.

John Crane:

Okay, good. Tell me, after Shell, what was the next step in your life?

Archie Carriere:

The next step in my life was probably to come on back and see what I can do at the hospital. And that's when I carried my IT career over into the hospital, working for the state, okay? Because at that particular time, computers were emerging as more and more prominent players everywhere. So again, there was still a large need for that skill set. And I started working for the state and the hospital, and I worked my way up to a programmer and analyst, and I stayed there.

John Crane:

Okay. So basically, the rest of your career was at the Southeastern (sic) Hospital here in-

Archie Carriere:

Yes.

John Crane:

... I guess it's actually Lacombe, isn't it? Or-

Archie Carriere:

No, sir. I think they just refer to it. It's not within the Mandeville true city limits, because you'll see the sign when you cross the little bridge-

John Crane:

Right.

Archie Carriere:

... and you'll find it. But it's also-

John Crane:

Not in Lacombe.

Archie Carriere:

It's just kind of like in that tweener spot. And again, the hospital played a prominent role, and it's important that people knew the hospital and Pre-Stress, they were the major two economic engines of this community for a long time. You have second and third generation people working out there.

One of the things that was kind of saddening was when the state chose to shutter it, because I was working there and see the negative impact it had on those services. And now there's another entity known as NAMI, which is the National Alliance on Mental Illness at St. Tammany. I'm involved with them because of the awareness of all the various epidemics and drug and substance abuse. They're definitely community-based, much like that, and they participate and provide a lot of services to the community.

John Crane:

Did you retire from Southeastern (sic), or was it shut down before you retired and you had to do something else, or-

Archie Carriere:

No, it was shut down, which means I had to sever my years of state service or go another location to work, which some of the hospital staff did because they were close to state retirement and drop and all these other financial bias. They don't want to forsake for 20 years. I was going to have to live up in Jackson, Louisiana, for six months until I reached retirement. I was one of the people that was kept in the carryover of the purchaser of the hospital because of my skill sets in working there. So I continued to work there.

This transfer occurred in 2013. In 2018 is when another company bought it, and I chose to, as time went on and I built relationships throughout the community with my IT expertise, and I decided, "Well, I think I'm going to go ahead on and just hang this up."

John Crane:

So really, your career developed into the IT area, and that was really what you did the majority of your working life was working in computers and in various IT applications?

Archie Carriere:

Yes.

John Crane:

That's fascinating as well. Tell me about when you retired. You said you're still working in retirement?

Archie Carriere:

Yeah.

John Crane:

So what does retirement look for you? You and I are the same age. That's been a struggle for me to figure out where I fit in. I'm curious to see how you solve that problem as someone who's almost exactly the same age, but you may have done a better job than I did.

Archie Carriere:

I don't know. I smoke cigarettes, so that's not good. But to me, I look at certain people with admiration and respect and say that, "If he could do that, why can't I?" And one of the things is we are a worker family. Work ethic is important to us. If we're building a bridge, we want it to be the best bridge you ever saw. But I can't see myself stop working for at least another two years.

But I'm kind of like a contractor. I work with a consulting firm and we provide managed services in this area to a lot of entities and businesses. So I work with them now. And it's pretty laid back as a consultant. We have businesses that want certain resources, and I go in, meet, and we set that up from a technological standpoint.

John Crane:

Okay. So, I mean, you actually have a job and getting paid and everything like that, so you're really working.

Archie Carriere:

But pretty much it's not like working at the hospital, where 8:00 to 5:00, where you have these huge responsibilities. It's a different pace. I think that's the best way to put it.

John Crane:

So tell me, let's go back to Mandeville a little bit. You've kind of given me an overview of your work history up until the present. Tell me a little bit about life in Mandeville. What was that like to be... Let's start with a young person. What did your life look like? What were the things that happened regularly that made up your life as a young person maybe in elementary school, that kind of period of time?

Archie Carriere:

Well, I guess I could look at it in several ways. From an intellectual perspective, a perspective where a thirst for knowledge, wanting to learn and to excel, that's what led me to my various job interests and stuff. Socially in Mandeville, it really wasn't too much socially from a sense like dancing and dating and all that kind of stuff. So it was pretty low-key from the social standpoint of it, until, like I said, as I got older, started playing music and all this kind of jazz.

In high school, it's pretty much the same way because it was a pretty small population. And yes, we had friends, et cetera. The thing that was unique for me, we're on this side of Mandeville, which is where my father's family is from. And on the other side, where Mr. Fairley's at, was where my mother's family was. So I was on one end to the other end. So I got to experience that type of a life. And it was wonderful because people were close-knit. I mean, even in the African American community, you didn't want somebody to tell your mother you did something wrong, okay? Please. I pick up the phone, you wouldn't stop. Oh boy, you're going to get it. And that's kind of like what we would say... I'm not going to say self-policing. It may be too strong of a term. But it was where people had the ability to let parents know and talk. Say, "Hey, this is a trouble. This is a possible issue."

John Crane:

So you spoke of kind of the Mandeville Black community being split between East, which I guess was centered maybe on Lamarque Street-

Archie Carriere:

Mm-hmm.

John Crane:

... perhaps to Jackson Avenue?

Archie Carriere:

This is geographically now, not-

John Crane:

No, no, yeah, I understand that. Not in conflict-

Archie Carriere:

Right.

John Crane:

... but divided physically. Was there a different sort of character of those two areas? Was one an older area, one a newer area? Or there wasn't really that sense-

Archie Carriere:

It wasn't that sense.

John Crane:

... that these people were the old-timers and these were the newcomers?

Archie Carriere:

No, sir. It wasn't that sense.

John Crane:

Okay. So everybody-

Archie Carriere:

Because most of-

John Crane:

... was united in that respect?

Archie Carriere:

Yes, sir. They're from Mandeville and they're proud of it. Like I said, many of them worked for the city and did other jobs.

At a particular time in the '50s and '60s for African Americans, there weren't many, many career choices. Education was always one that you could latch onto. So that's why at the time, if you went to college, and fortunate enough, most likely you may turn to education. Not to say you wouldn't have other career pursuits. Those that weren't that fortunate were, like I said, my father, your work ethic. Doesn't marginalize or minimize who you are. You don't have to have a bunch of alphabets behind your name. This is something that they instilled in us.

John Crane:

So Mandeville had a number... Well, let's go... So tell me a little bit more about growing up here in the '50s and '60s. Was it mostly playing, or did you swim, hunt, fish? What made up your sort of the-

Archie Carriere:

My childhood?

John Crane:

Yeah, the things that you remember that were enjoyable.

Archie Carriere:

Well, of course, working with my dad the few times he'd let me. I like to go on the route with him to go bring the clothes so I could ring the doorbell and say, "Carriere Cleaners," and I'm the little boy handing

them the package. Play with my friends and peers. We did what all kids did at that time. It was all about ball. If it was baseball season, we were wanting to play baseball. Basketball, we wanted to play basketball. And they have tremendously lost opportunities for people because they didn't have the opportunity because of segregation. I mean, talented people. And this is just what happened.

John Crane:

Let me ask you a little... So you came up in the '60s-

Archie Carriere:

Mm-hmm.

John Crane:

... and there was a tremendous... And obviously, I think really, it started really after World War I, but the civil rights movement was going strong and taking off. It had national prominence, it had media support, it had political support, and things were changing. What did that mean for Mandeville? What did the African American community hear about that? Was that something that was talked about? Was it something that was concerning? Was it something that was hopeful that things would change? And what did that future look like?

Archie Carriere:

It was concerning, but yet still it was hopeful. And this goes back to... And I was asking another person this. I said, "I cannot remember of ever seeing an overt racist hatred on anyone in Mandeville, where you..." And I'm not saying it didn't happen, I'm just saying that those I've talked to said it didn't happen.

John Crane:

Right. At least not from their overt experience.

Archie Carriere:

Yes. They were very aware and conscious because remember, in the times of segregation, perfect case, if we wanted to go in Mr Bossier's restaurant, we had to go to the back door to get a plate.

John Crane:

Right.

Archie Carriere:

Okay? We wanted to go to a Tastee Freez, well, we could go to Tastee Freez, but we couldn't go to Frost Town.

John Crane:

Right. I think that's true. I mean, I think you're exactly right, obviously, but there may not have been overt things, but there was certainly a system that was in place that people knew the rules, but it was different. I mean, I know it had a negative impact. And people who would have had different opportunities were prevented from that by the system. Hopefully, as you say, we're moving in the right direction. We're not there yet, but we're moving maybe better a little bit.

Archie Carriere:

Yes.

John Crane:

So tell me about high school.

Archie Carriere:

Okay.

John Crane:

What was that like? I guess it begins in Lacombe?

Archie Carriere:

Right.

John Crane:

And then-

Archie Carriere:

Coming to Mandeville High.

John Crane:

... coming to Mandeville? But what was Lacombe like first?

Archie Carriere:

That's what I was mentioning earlier, that the talent was there. They were just as intelligent, as athletic as anyone. It's just the opportunity and the resources. It was fun. They had a band. They had majorettes. We used to march in the parades and stuff. And you had a music teacher, albeit it wasn't at the level we wished it were, but at least it was there. And the last class, coincidentally, to graduate from there would have been the class had I stayed there. So then of course, when Mandeville High now became a part of the school, their system to absorb the African American kids, so that's where they actually full-fledged 1970.

John Crane:

Okay, interesting. And you described that as being a fairly smooth transition, or was there a lot of problems? Was there concern in the African American community that their school got shut down and this one got left, so we're going over there? I mean, were those kinds of-

Archie Carriere:

I don't think so. I think because of my experience and what I shared and what... They were rooting for me. That was another thing in which-

John Crane:

Who was rooting for you? The-

Archie Carriere:

The community-

John Crane:

The community.

Archie Carriere:

... was rooting for me to say, "You know what? If anybody can do it, he can do it."

John Crane:

So one of the things that I'm learning gradually as I get into these oral histories is that there were a number of pretty amazing African Americans that came from Mandeville. And I apologize, I can't remember the names, the gentleman's name now, but as I understand it, he was in NASA and was quite prominent. I think he was over quite a sizable thing. He ultimately died in Baton Rouge, but I think he's buried here in Mandeville.

Archie Carriere:

I can't remember who that might be.

John Crane:

And then there was John Moore, I think.

Archie Carriere:

Yeah, Mr. Moore. He was an educator.

John Crane:

And then there were several other prominent people. Who did you look to in the African American community? Obviously, your father is a successful businessman. Who were the other individuals that people looked up to or would be... I don't know if you would say spokesmen, but certainly person that people would go to or that sort of thing? Who were the key people, would you say?

Archie Carriere:

I would say that the community was pretty tight-knit. But if you would say people that were trying to be mentors or someone that you could just sit down and talk to or suggest a path, it would be those same people you aforementioned, because you've got to remember that there wasn't this... How could I put it? Conflicting strife, tension-filled atmosphere. It was... I don't know how to put it into words to explain that to you. People, I guess how you say, looked out for each other and cared more about each other. They weren't just so ambivalent or, "Well, that's not my problem."

John Crane:

Okay. So there was more of a sense of a community here?

Archie Carriere:

Yes. That's what I'm trying to say. It's just collectively with the same quality of life in mind. Wanting success, not wanting to see you fail.

John Crane:

All right. So there were people that were really rooting for you, I think was the word you used, or behind you.

Archie Carriere:

Yeah.

John Crane:

Interesting. So what are the fun things that you did as a high school kid? I mean, you mentioned riding on your dad's truck, and I'm sure that was fun, but I mean, what did y'all do? Talking to Mr. Fairley, he talked about there being a ball field that's kind of over there off of Carroll Street that he played, and that was where all the kids sort of came together-

Archie Carriere:

Right.

John Crane:

... and played. I mean, did you have that kind of experience? Were there-

Archie Carriere:

The playgrounds, et cetera, during my childhood were really people's yards, et cetera, unless you could go over to the school. So someone had the big yard and we put the goal up.

We actually did have baseball teams. There was a gentleman, Mr. Thomas. We had our little baseball team, and we would literally travel and play other teams. We'd go to Madisonville and play them, and Covington and Slidell. It's kind of like the old Negro League system where you have these teams and these communities, albeit it was segregation. And then even when integration first became more and more prominent, then you see the diversity of athletes going and playing with other kids on little league baseball teams, et cetera. We didn't have the leagues and emphasis on sports in my era that they have now. I mean, soccer, you look around, there's so many... Pelican Park, okay? It's all over the place. Those recreational resources weren't there, so we made do what we had.

John Crane:

Tell me about your experience with the Catholic Church. What was that like? You mentioned going to mass every Sunday, going to... I think you mentioned Friday.

Archie Carriere:

My mom and dad would sit with the Eucharist at the chapel. This is, I guess you might say, a part of Catholicism where the... Okay. This Eucharist has always got someone with it. That's the best way I could explain as best I could remember being a Catholic here.

John Crane:

Right.

Archie Carriere:

But it was the way we were raised. Dad was always active in the church. The people knew him. He was Knights of Columbus. My mom, she actually converted to Catholicism, and she really got really involved and she was a member of the Altar Society, and they would talk about their fun trips that the Altar Society would take and the cake sales and all this kind of stuff. But every Sunday, seven o'clock mass, get up, let's get ready.

I actually got to play the pipe organ one time in the church, and I was like, "There are so many keys. What are all these buttons for?"

I'll never forget Father John. There was two Father Johns. Well, my Father John, you have to go back into church archives to see who I'm talking about.

John Crane:

Right. That's one of the things that I hope we'll do. I think the church is a wonderful repository, and I think that the interesting thing to me about the Catholic Church, and again, I don't know that I'm speaking with real knowledge as much as impression, but it seemed to me they were much more open to the African American community than... So you had people worshiping together, Black and White worshiping together even in the time of segregation. Was that your experience?

Archie Carriere:

Yes. And to kind of not make you chuckle, but it goes back to the era of going to the back of the bus. We always sat at the back of the church, and we were comfortable with that. We were happy. And there was no animosity or anything like that. We always sat at the back of the church, and it was cool.

John Crane:

But as far as the mass and everything, everybody was together?

Archie Carriere:

Yes. Everybody-

John Crane:

So there was no... I think it was interesting because one of the contexts I heard of... My business was in St. James Parish, and so we got involved with the church over there, St. Michael's. And one of the things that the priest told me was that the unique thing about that area was that the church always required that the children be brought up in the church, and they were colorblind. They didn't care. If it was a child, it had to be brought up in the church. And that changed things. That humanized people. And I thought that was an interesting observation.

Archie Carriere:

But all of my dad's family were Catholic, and they were prominent. The ones that I mentioned that didn't live here, that lived in New Orleans, they were very heavily... My dad, when the Pope came, he couldn't miss it. He's got to go see. We're going to see... Well, you're going to see the Pope. Okay. But this is just different cultures, and everybody has their own beliefs in who they choose to worship. This was just my experience and what I was exposed to and how I try to live.

John Crane:

Yeah, no, I think it's very important. I think your relationship to God is one of the... You're with God a lot longer than you're on this earth. At least that's my experience.

Archie Carriere:

Yes, sir.

John Crane:

I think. Tell me about some of the individuals that you have known that had a particular impact on you and how they had that impact. You talked about the band leader who was also the music teacher.

Archie Carriere:

Yes.

John Crane:

Who were some of the other people that you would say had a significant impact on your life and caused it to go in the direction it went?

Archie Carriere:

I got encouragement, as I mentioned, from let's say, the local side to have good grades, et cetera. Sometimes yes, I did feel very awkward and frustrated, et cetera, but my teachers at Mandeville High were the ones that kind of said, "You can do something if you want." And they took the time. Like I said, Mr. Pierce was my physics teacher. You're looking at 69. And it's just funny. I'm kind of trying not to get too emotional here, but yeah, those teachers.

John Crane:

I think that's a wonderful legacy for those educators who I'm sure got into education not because they wanted to get rich, because they wanted to have an impact on young people. That they did. That they did.

Archie Carriere:

And the school wasn't the size that it is now. It was a much, much smaller high school. We were a Class B school back then. I don't know if you're familiar with the high school classifications, et cetera. So our competition, when we went, played people like Berwick, Buras, of course, St. Paul. We didn't play Covington, so...

John Crane:

So how many kids were there in Mandeville, would you say?

Archie Carriere:

Well, in my class, I think we had 72.

John Crane:

72.

Archie Carriere:

I'm not sure. I think. I'm not sure, but I think there were 72 of us.

John Crane:

Okay. So your graduating class was 72. So the total population of the school was probably under 300, maybe, or...

Archie Carriere:

I would say maybe... Because it was strictly high school. So I would say the three to 400 range, perhaps.

John Crane:

Okay. Okay. Yeah, interesting. Interesting. Tell me about some of the other individuals that had an impact on you. Obviously, your father and your mother with your work ethic, sounds like it's a key piece.

Archie Carriere:

Yes.

John Crane:

Did you have extended family-

Archie Carriere:

Yes.

John Crane:

... uncles, aunts?

Archie Carriere:

Yes.

John Crane:

Tell me about some of those people, what they did and how they fit into your life.

Archie Carriere:

They were motivators. They were people that I aspired to emulate some of what they did. This goes back to the music and et cetera. And because during the '50s, there was a mass... Not a mass. Poor choice. But a large exodus, for lack of better words, of African Americans leaving.

John Crane:

From Mandeville?

Archie Carriere:

From Mandeville to pursue other opportunities. This is where those who became teachers, some stayed, some moved up north. People who were perhaps skilled in certain skills, unique skills, machinists, et

cetera, they may have went out west. Well, my family chose north and west. My mother's side, they went north. And my dad's side, they went west to California.

John Crane:

So this is the '50s you're talking? The '60s-

Archie Carriere:

Yes.

John Crane:

... '70s?

Archie Carriere:

'50s. '50s.

John Crane:

'50s. So when you say your family went west, where did they go?

Archie Carriere:

Los Angeles.

John Crane:

Los Angeles?

Archie Carriere:

Mm-hmm.

John Crane:

So they went to Los Angeles.

Archie Carriere:

Mm-hmm.

John Crane:

Do you keep in communication with them?

Archie Carriere:

Absolutely. Because we're really not that large of a family. And Neil, I'm becoming one of the true elders. There's only about three or four of us left. That's from the so-called Boomer Generation.

PART 2 OF 4 ENDS [01:00:04]

John Crane:

Okay. So what involvement did the folks that went to California, what type of careers did they have? I guess a lot of these folks are your contemporaries. They're kids that you grew up with early on at least, and probably-

Archie Carriere:

Yeah. My cousins that went with my uncles and aunts, et cetera, they became, one of them is a pharmacist and he finally retired. One worked for the phone company doing all kinds of technical work, installing frames and all this kind stuff. And we kept in touch. And then there was the relatives who play music. As I was mentioning my cousin, who I keep in touch with all the time, he was one of the ones. And you mentioned about local Mandeville musicians. There was a gentleman in the Diaz family, then Mr. (inaudible) Diaz. He and his family were very involved in music and even one of his little, I guess she would be his niece, was quite prominent gospel singer.

John Crane:

The name the Diaz family has come up and also the Foster family has come up.

Archie Carriere:

Yes.

John Crane:

And there's one other family that-

Archie Carriere:

The Winstons, perhaps.

John Crane:

Winstons maybe. All of them were over on Lamarque Street.

Archie Carriere:

Yes, sir.

John Crane:

Interesting. Your cousin that was involved in the music scene in Los Angeles, is he rock and roll, blues? What type of music was he playing?

Archie Carriere:

Actually, believe it or not, he started off playing with Little Richard.

John Crane:

He was one of little Richard's-

Archie Carriere:

Original band members.

John Crane:

Really?

Archie Carriere:

Yeah. I have actually a magazine with all the history of him and stuff like that. In his music career he played with, like I said, the Vegas jobs playing for behind big entertainers like Tom Jones. He played with Tom Jones for many, many years in Vegas. Lola Falana and contemporary in the seventies. If you ever heard a couple of records like Going in Circles, which is called The Friends of Distinction, he played with them. He played with Marvin Gaye for a long time. Make you laugh, I was Ray Charles' gofer.

John Crane:

You were what?

Archie Carriere:

Ray Charles' gofer.

John Crane:

You were Ray Charles gofer?

Archie Carriere:

Yeah, he played with Ray Charles.

John Crane:

Okay.

Archie Carriere:

This is really funny. I got to share this with you.

John Crane:

Please.

Archie Carriere:

Okay, so we're in the studio because I was out there for summer vacation and Terry's playing, I'm tagging along, little cousin. We're going to the studio. We recording with Ray. And sometimes people who are visually impaired, they touch your face and your hair. I would say, I say, "Oh God, he's going to put his hands all over my face."

John Crane:

So Ray Charles actually touched your face?

Archie Carriere:

Yeah.

John Crane:

He was trying to get-

Archie Carriere:

He said, "That can't be your cousin." Because you got [inaudible 01:02:50]. He said, "And everybody else says that's your cousin." That's my cousin. So you get those little, I call them little quirks in life. But yeah, he was really cool. He was really funny, really cool guy. Funny, funny, funny.

John Crane:

Is he still living today?

Archie Carriere:

No, Ray's passed.

John Crane:

No, I know Ray has passed.

Archie Carriere:

Yeah, my cousin. Yeah.

John Crane:

Your cousin is still-

Archie Carriere:

Yeah, we still laugh about that. Say, "Send me go for this, go for that." That's what they call it gofer. Just don't open the door if the light's on, which I did. Then I got cussed out because they had to redo the track. "We told you don't open the door," but you sent me to go get something. "That ain't nothing, go sit down over there. You don't have to go get nothing else." Ray said, "Don't holler at him."

John Crane:

So Ray had your back.

Archie Carriere:

Yes, yes.

John Crane:

That's cool.

Archie Carriere:

That's one of our family things.

John Crane:

So even though the red light was on, the recording light was on, you opened the door. Oh my goodness.

Archie Carriere:

Especially at the end of the track, oh god.

John Crane:

Because then they would have to do the whole thing.

Archie Carriere:

But like I said, playing music, I really liked it. I think of some of it's a gift, if there's such a thing that there are people who are gifted who just seem to have abilities that just-

John Crane:

I have the ability to listen.

Archie Carriere:

Me too.

John Crane:

That's my involvement. So tell me, when you were in these sessions with Ray Charles and some of these other people, did you ever get on the piano?

Archie Carriere:

Oh sure.

John Crane:

And play along?

Archie Carriere:

Yeah.

John Crane:

So would that have been the normal thing to do if there was a keyboard, you could just go?

Archie Carriere:

Yes. Like I said, it got to be, during my era of playing music, we played and I got to meet a lot of artists. Like we played on a concert in New Orleans in 1974 where we opened up for the Commodores and Rufus and Chaka Khan. We were that prominent of a band. And this is like I said [inaudible 01:04:41].

John Crane:

And this was Stash you were talking about?

Archie Carriere:

Yeah.

John Crane:

Okay. So what was that like being on stage in New Orleans in front of-

Archie Carriere:

Oh, it was awesome.

John Crane:

What was awesome about it?

Archie Carriere:

I'm very comfortable speaking and I don't know if it's because of being so much in front of people, it's like just be yourself. But it's fun and I can see how people who are entertainers, when you look out in the audience and you see all this, you ought to get caught up in it, because you can get caught up in it.

John Crane:

So you're talking about energy coming back from the audience?

Archie Carriere:

Yeah. And you're playing and stuff, and you see 80,000 people out there.

John Crane:

Did you ever have an opportunity to record or be on an album or anything like that?

Archie Carriere:

No, not myself personally, but I have written some stuff when we talk, kick it around about possibly publishing it.

John Crane:

So tell me about the music that you're writing. Are you writing lyrics? Are you writing music or what exactly are you writing?

Archie Carriere:

Both.

John Crane:

So you're writing both in music and the lyrics. How would you describe your music? Would you describe it as R&B, blues, rock? How would you describe it?

Archie Carriere:

I'd say it would probably lean a little bit more to contemporary if that's such a thing. It's got some funk to it. I actually have it. I'm not well recording. I'll play it for you that you hear some of it. We have the sheet music and it's copyrighted and everything.

John Crane:

So you've got some copywrited music, but basically you were playing contemporary music. Was Stash a cover band or did they-

Archie Carriere:

Yes. I think that would be the best way to describe it. We were just a superb cover band.

John Crane:

So you were mostly playing other people's stuff as opposed to stuff that you actually wrote and produced yourself?

Archie Carriere:

Yes, sir.

John Crane:

Was there some of that that you wrote and did yourself though that you did play also, or basically not?

Archie Carriere:

No. We just basically stuck to the script.

John Crane:

What was your favorite music? What bands did you feel like you guys clicked the best with as far as-

Archie Carriere:

Oh gosh, of course this would be the era when we had people like I'd say Average White Band, Pick up the Pieces, Cut the Cake. People like even Billy Joel, hey, Wild Cherry - Play That Funky Music, right? Fame Makes a Man Think Over and see, this was I think what made our band so popular. We weren't just playing one set of music. We were playing what we felt was at the top of the time, it didn't matter who the artist was, and this would've helped our appeal.

John Crane:

So I presume you were doing this for fun, but you were doing it for money too.

Archie Carriere:

Oh yeah.

John Crane:

So what, back in the seventies, what was a evenings' take if you were doing a school band or a school or community? What would you guys walk out the door? What kind of a-

Archie Carriere:

Even back then, we were really paid well, I'd say for a typical four-hour gig we're looking at about \$2000.

John Crane:

\$2000. And then you would split it. Did you split it equally?

Archie Carriere:

Yeah.

John Crane:

Or did somebody get the most and somebody get the least?

Archie Carriere:

Because we split all the expenses, all the equipment, the van, all that kind of stuff. So of course there's the overhead. Everybody sees the books. Here's everybody's cut.

John Crane:

Okay, so you knew what had to go to keep the thing going, and then after that you just divided it equally?

Archie Carriere:

Yeah.

John Crane:

That's fascinating. Tell me about cars. I don't know if I'm picking a subject that's good or bad, but tell me about, I know being of that age, they were a big part of life.

Archie Carriere:

For sure.

John Crane:

Tell me about how that impacted you.

Archie Carriere:

Well, I have had many, many cars. As you see, I have a Mustang. I've had Corvettes, I've had Porsches. Nissan 300 ZX. I've had small SUVs. I had a Camaro once, that being a typical kid wanted to be a dragster. The 071 Camaro. Yep. Took the transmission out of a 66 GTO and the rear end and put it in there and my gosh, we were flat out under the thirteens.

John Crane:

What was your first car? What was the first car that you owned?

Archie Carriere:

1967 Plymouth Barracuda with a Slant-Six, with the big Slant-Six that was laying in that baby. It was silver black. I remember I was telling you about Mr. Dutz. That's where I bought it from.

John Crane:

Mr. Dutz?

Archie Carriere:

Yeah, Dutz Garage. It was right there, remember, between the two car dealerships. You had Mr. Dutz and you had Mr. Chitter. Mr. Chitter was across from where Mr. Jerry and the restaurant is right there by the pub. And then Mr. Dutz was up on the highway.

John Crane:

Okay, so you bought it from him as a used car?

Archie Carriere:

Yeah.

John Crane:

And then did you do the work? Did you put the engine in it yourself?

Archie Carriere:

Oh no. It was all running. No, when I got rid of that car, I bought the Camaro. But even that car, even being a Slant-Six, I had the big old 15-inch Crager SS mags on the back with the Mickey Thompson sitting up like this, like a little imitation drag, six cylinder engine with a three speed on the collar. Don't try to burn rubber because you're going to get wheel high.

John Crane:

What year was that? What year did you buy that car?

Archie Carriere:

I'd have to say '70. Yeah, I'd have to say '70.

John Crane:

1970?

Archie Carriere:

Yes sir.

John Crane:

So you were in college or just getting ready to go to college.

Archie Carriere:

And that was my little car.

John Crane:

That was your car. That's pretty cool. What was your favorite car? When you look back on the cars that you've owned, which one do you wish you still had?

Archie Carriere:

Actually, the Porsche was nice, but you got to understand these cars now have come drastically changed. You're talking about a '76 corvette is totally different from these works of art that you see out here now.

John Crane:

Right.

Archie Carriere:

But believe it or not, I really liked the Nissan 300. This was the Nissan 300 that was the wedge shape when you had the T-tops and stuff. And my Mustang.

John Crane:

Yeah.

Archie Carriere:

It's plenty enough. It's sporty enough. I always liked open air cars and stuff. My dad was fascinated with cars. I always try to go to Cruisin' the Coast to try to guess the exact age of what car it is. That's a fun thing for me, test my car knowledge.

John Crane:

What kind of cars did your dad have when you were growing up?

Archie Carriere:

Not many. Not many. We had the van, which was like the old-fashioned, how could have put it? It's like a little miniature station wagon. And then he had the big panel truck, which he hauled all the clothes because he had racks in it to put people's clothes in so they could hang up and he could open the door and reach in, and according to his route how he had it organized. Then when he would send out somebody on the route, they always knew to put the clothes in this way. You know where your route is so you could be efficient and get out and go get the customer's clothes and get on back. It's funny. He was very conservative. Very conservative.

John Crane:

Conservative. What do you mean by conservative?

Archie Carriere:

I guess conservative in the sense that he wasn't all about glitz and glory and fancy and all this kind of stuff. He was more of simple, regular down home kind of guy. He wasn't too much into the latest fads or anything. Now mom, typical lady, so it was I guess they had a great harmony there.

John Crane:

So he was not flash and she was more outgoing and-

Archie Carriere:

More of an extrovert.

John Crane:

Extrovert. And he was more of an introvert, quiet, hard worker.

Archie Carriere:

Yes sir. But whatever, he was very talkative. He was just the way he was.

John Crane:

Tell me the store, the way it worked, did people come and drop off there as well or was it strictly a pickup and delivery?

Archie Carriere:

Yeah, they come and drop off.

John Crane:

Okay.

Archie Carriere:

We had a little window and people could come and they'll start saying, "Hey, car's for you here." And somebody's always in the building. They'll come, "Yes ma'am," and they would come and hand in the clothes and write them a ticket.

John Crane:

Were the clothes packaged?

Archie Carriere:

Yes.

John Crane:

So brown paper package was string around them. Is that-

Archie Carriere:

No, dad was really pretty darn ingenious and he did tailor work. He had a wall with sewing machines where people who wanted suits tailored, they would come to him. So besides being the cleaners, he was also a tailor. So this added to the business's value. So he had all these different machines, sewing machines, and of course his mother, she would always chip in because she could sew. So yes, there was a machine where you had to hang the clothes and got the products from Rudolph Ramelli. Big Tulane times. That's why I remember the days of Tulane before it became the Green Wave. But yeah, we had to dress the clothes. Of course, he had one of those old-fashioned pull down cash registers and stuff. It wasn't the days of the [inaudible 01:13:39]. No, they weren't any calculators.

John Crane:

No electricity, no electrical.

Archie Carriere:

Yeah.

John Crane:

So they didn't actually package the clothes back up. So you said he was ingenious. He had ... Oh-

Archie Carriere:

Yeah, you'd have to put, like today's cleaners, your clothes in plastic cellophane bag.

John Crane:

Right.

Archie Carriere:

Well, the shirts, it depended if the customer wanted the shirts ironed. Did you want the shirts stored? Okay, how do you want your shirts? Do you want your shirts returned folded? Or do you want it returned hanging up? So these were the options the customer had. He would just do accordingly. He knew, let's say Mr. Band wants his shirts hanging up or Sheriff Broom, he wants his shirts on a hanger because he's a law enforcement officer. So this is the kind of thing he would do. Or somebody's got a big thing to go through, bring a suit to dad, he'd measure and say, "I want you to take this hem off for me."

John Crane:

Did your dad actually make clothing as well?

Archie Carriere:

Nope.

John Crane:

So he was mostly doing alterations and repairs and things like that. Interesting. Yeah, it's interesting to see what all was here in a different era in Mandeville. Tell me about the stores. Where did y'all get food? I know there weren't any big grocery stores. Well, Winn-Dixie, when you were a teenager, had moved in. When did Winn-Dixie come in?

Archie Carriere:

I think Winn-Dixie came in ... I'm not sure again, because we had Winn-Dixie and TG&Y over there. Right there by the causeway and my dad kept saying, "One day, you aren't going to believe what this is going to turn into," and he was right.

John Crane:

TG&Y, where was that at?

Archie Carriere:

It was adjacent to Winn-Dixie in the same structure. The strip there where you see now where the driver's license bureau is, but the building a little further. It's some kind of fitness place now.

John Crane:

Oh yeah, CrossFit. And then there's a West Marine.

Archie Carriere:

Yeah. That's where.

John Crane:

So that was TJ's?

Archie Carriere:

TG&Y.

John Crane:

TG&Y

Archie Carriere:

And Winn-Dixie.

John Crane:

They were both there together?

Archie Carriere:

Right. They were two stores side by side.

John Crane:

Two grocery stores.

Archie Carriere:

TG&Y was more like, how could I put it? Today's what?

John Crane:

Like a Steinmart or something?

Archie Carriere:

Dollar General kind of stuff. All kind of commodities, bulk.

John Crane:

Like a-

Archie Carriere:

Toys.

John Crane:

They call it a five and dime or something.

Archie Carriere:

Yeah, exactly. It's like a five and dime. The old-fashioned five and dime.

John Crane:

So you had a five and dime next to the grocery store and they were right there in that same street. Are those buildings unchanged from that?

Archie Carriere:

They extended them. Actually, I'm not sure because I haven't actually been inside them in so many years, et cetera, but they built two close. If you're facing the buildings they've added to the left to where Nuvolari's (sic Fazzio's) is at.

John Crane:

Okay.

Archie Carriere:

Where the daiquiri shop, that's added. That wasn't part of the original structure.

John Crane:

Okay. Got it.

Archie Carriere:

There used to be a gas station right there where the curve is. That was Mr. Alshire's gas station that was right there. So again, that changed. That's actually where Nuvolari's (sic - Fazzio's) is at now.

John Crane:

Oh, right here.

Archie Carriere:

Near Winn-Dixie.

John Crane:

Okay.

Archie Carriere:

Yeah, the gas station there. They used to be, now that road is closed because it was a lift station for the city right there across from where Mr. Crovetto's brake tag, et cetera, where I call it the horrible design where you got to go past the street, make a U-turn and come back to make a right turn. Ain't figured that one out yet.

John Crane:

So where else did you get-

Archie Carriere:

Groceries and et cetera?

John Crane:

So the big ones were over on the causeway where the, one second, where the DMV is and West Marine, all that. That was where the big ones were. Was there groceries here in Mandeville?

Archie Carriere:

Yes, several.

John Crane:

What were those?

Archie Carriere:

Okay, Ms. Weisheit's, as I mentioned right down here on Madison Street, she had your typical, you could go get some cold cuts, some toiletries, some commodities and things like that. They have meat, et cetera. Besides her, you also had, as I mentioned, you had Ms. Prieto's grocery store, which is now Nuvolari's.

John Crane:

Okay.

Archie Carriere:

And to the right there was our only hardware store, which is now, I think it's a wood shop. You have Nuvolari's and you have the new clothing boutique store and then there's this building that's right there. That was the hardware store and then right across from Our Lady of the Lake was Mr. Raquet's bakery. Two of my fondest memories as a kid was Mr. Raquet's bakery. First of all, we got out of mass, wanted to run over here and see what kind of pie we could get in Pratt's Dairy. There was a time in Mandeville Pratt's dairy, and I remember it so vividly, it would actually deliver milk just like something you would see on TV.

He had a route, he would put the wire basket there with the milk and you put your empties in the wire basket and they would come and pick up the milk. That's how we got milk. Mr. Raquet's bakery, my cousin, like my dad had me running. He would go run, deliver. He would ride with Mr. Raquet to go deliver bread. People would actually call the order bread, a fresh pie, " Mr Raquet, Can you do this? We have such and such."

John Crane:

Mr. Raquet was your cousin?

Archie Carriere:

No sir. No, no. He was the business owner.

John Crane:

Oh, the business owner

Archie Carriere:

The bakery across from our Lady of the Lake Church that's now a restaurant.

John Crane:

Right, right. Sweet Olive I think is his current thing. So you would go in there, it would be open seven days a week. And was it open all day long or just-

Archie Carriere:

Mr. Raquet's bakery?

John Crane:

Yeah.

Archie Carriere:

I'm not sure what his hours were, because usually about three o'clock, I'm pretty sure he had closed.

John Crane:

He was done. Because I know a lot of bakers get up like two, three in the morning because they have to have their bread. It takes them, because they have to cook fresh every day. And I suspect that's what he was like too probably. So by two o'clock in the afternoon he's probably done.

Archie Carriere:

And then after Mr. Raquet's, well of course out here now where Saia's is at, that's where Ms. Senac was at, and Ms. Fisher, the bakery Krummels?, that was Ms. Fisher. And they lived here in Mandeville and Ms. Senac, which had the drug store, the Rexall drug store. So we had a drug store right there in the bakery.

John Crane:

Where Saia's is?

Archie Carriere:

It's closer toward, I guess toward the Lacombe side, that strip building. It would be that cleaners that's there now, Mr. Chen now, that was added onto that building just like some of Saia's is in addition to that building. But the original building was the bakery, Mr. Fisher in a bakery and Mr. Senac in a drugstore.

John Crane:

Interesting, interesting. Wow. So you mentioned Band's-

Archie Carriere:

Ms. Band.

John Crane:

Was that similar to Ms. Weisheit's place?

Archie Carriere:

Yes.

John Crane:

So they would've cold cuts and you could pick up probably milk and stuff like that?

Archie Carriere:

Yes sir, definitely.

John Crane:

Which one did your family, did you patronize one or another or just where you happened to be?

Archie Carriere:

Just wherever we happened to be. And it was not like it was a competitive thing. I might go to Ms. Weisheit's, or today I might go to Ms. Bands. We also had ... (traffic noise) This is the only downside of this, the kids.

John Crane:

Yeah.

Archie Carriere:

But anyway, we had Ms. Bands, we had Ms. Prieto, we had Ms. Weisheit's and we had Mr. Jenkins who opened up right now where the Rusty Pelican is because dad had to tear that building down, where the Rusty Pelican is. That was actually another market that was right there.

John Crane:

Okay. And what was the name of that market?

Archie Carriere:

That was Mr. Jenkins. We called it Mr. Jenkins supermarket or Superette. He too, he had the meat counter, et cetera and all that kind of stuff.

John Crane:

Yeah. It's amazing that all these ... When would you say those places shut down? I know Ms. Bands actually was here till just a few years ago.

Archie Carriere:

Yes sir.

John Crane:

But when the rest of them, were they gone by the 1970s?

Archie Carriere:

Or I would say by the 70s.

John Crane:

In the 70s and 80s, they were pretty much gone. Tell me about storms in Mandeville. So you were here, what was the first storm that you remember?

Archie Carriere:

Very first storm would've to go back to the 50s. So we would've to think of Ella, Betsy. Betsy was really bad.

John Crane:

Betsy was '65?

Archie Carriere:

I'm not quite sure, '63 or '65. But I know my dad, he went and volunteered because my uncle was an Air Force to help clean up the coast and the Air Force base and stuff. So Betsy, nothing did what Katrina did. Nothing can compare to what we suffered with Katrina.

John Crane:

So none of the damage that you had before Katrina was anywhere on that scale?

Archie Carriere:

That's correct.

John Crane:

What, mostly trees down and things?

Archie Carriere:

Mostly trees. There was a typical flooding that would occur, but not the flooding that you see now. And this is the challenge that city leadership I think faces, one of the greatest challenges is how do you manage the growth and the desire of others to grow? This is tough. And the biggest challenge is going to be how do you handle this infrastructure? I don't care who you get with consulting. It is going to be a challenge. We have never ever flooded as frequently as we do now.

John Crane:

So your house here at 432 Jackson, do you get water in your yard now?

Archie Carriere:

No, sir. We've been blessed that even with Katrina, and I came home, because I was volunteering with the Red Cross, taking care of my mom and dad. And we stayed at William Pitcher Junior High school, which was something beyond belief, a horror story that I could go on for days. You'll see just how crazy people can get. It came all the way up to Madison Street. This was dry. The backyard, because our lot tapers down into the bayou like Miss Charlotte's, et cetera, it came up to the footing on the deck in the back.

John Crane:

Okay.

Archie Carriere:

But this has never flooded. This is like a little natural plateau. If you look at how the land-

John Crane:

Right.

Archie Carriere:

And then you go down there. I can remember that we actually had beavers down there. Literally, I could go as a kid and see the beavers building a little dam. There was a gentleman named Nick Dash, he shot a bear down the street. The bear was coming after his honey. And I'll never forget, my dad said, "Go see Mr. Nick. He shot a bear down there." Sounded like something out of Petticoat Junction or something.

John Crane:

Interesting. What year was that? Do you have any idea?

Archie Carriere:

I'd say that had to be in the 50s.

John Crane:

Okay. So what happened with Katrina? You evacuated, you didn't stay in your home?

Archie Carriere:

No, no. What happened with Katrina, because my cousin was in law enforcement here with Mandeville, bless her heart. She's recently deceased. That's Officer Watson. Beverly Watson. That's the street.

John Crane:

Yeah. They had a street named after her.

Archie Carriere:

Yes sir. Mom and dad, one of the reasons why I came back, because I was living in North Carolina. I called myself retiring. I had friends at the University of Clemson and I moved there. But dad and mom got to the point where they really couldn't manage things. And because I was single at the time and I moved home to be primary caretaker, my brother and sister have left and started lives elsewhere. I wanted to be here and I can understand that their lives went in other directions. But this is home and this is where I came to help take care of them. The storm, volunteering with the Red Cross.

Well, the evacuation centers, when you have that 72 hour window, because this is part of my exposure, working for the state and then working at the hospital to know the protocols for major scene disaster preparedness, we went to William Pitcher Junior High School. It had about 400 and something people. It was chaos. There was one policeman, I now understood how he felt. People were fighting and arguing over space to sit, a mattress. There was no heat. It was a mess. Thank God that the National Guard came and there were some other first responders and we were able to go to the church. Because there was a

church right now from St. Tammany that had stores of goods and we were working with the Red Cross. So we were actually going out in the hurricane, the Red Cross and some soldiers with the National Guard to get food when we got breaks in the storm to bring, to come feed all these people.

So when you have all these people coming to a shelter, there's got to be some kind of accountability of tracking. And that's where the Red Cross was there. And he knew me and I said, "Sure, I'm going to help." Oh boy. It was wild. It was absolutely wild. Had several elderly people that I was responsible for taking care of. And it was a unique experience. We fed the people. Of course there was an intake, do you have your medicine? Well if you have insulin and stuff like that, we got to keep it refrigerated. Well, where are we going to refrigerate it if we don't have power? So we were fortunate enough to get some generators hooked up where we could put people's medicine and stuff in it. So we stayed there for about four days I think it was.

The height of the storm, they actually had a live news crew there. And the storm got so violent that they got scared because they said the whole truck is rocking. And then all of a sudden gushes of water would come in under the door and we would try to push the water out to keep the water out. Sanitary conditions, people were losing it. There was nowhere to flush toilets. We were bringing giant trash cans to catch water, to try to flush the toilets. A flashlight was a premium, but we made it through it. And once the storm subsided, I came back home. I just couldn't believe the destruction at our house.

John Crane:

Was this house damaged at all?

Archie Carriere:

This house didn't exist.

John Crane:

Oh.

Archie Carriere:

Our other home was on the other end of Mandeville, as I was mentioning there on at the end of the, what's now Officer Beverly Watson's Drive. Because that's right where my mom's dad, mom wanted to live on this end of town-

John Crane:

So Beverly Watson was one of your aunts on your mother's side?

Archie Carriere:

Cousin, first cousin.

John Crane:

Cousin on your mother's side?

Archie Carriere:

Yeah, her mom and my mom were sisters.

John Crane:

Got it. Okay. So this house didn't exist?

Archie Carriere:

That's correct.

John Crane:

When was this house? Oh, I see you got hardy board.

Archie Carriere:

That's okay.

John Crane:

Oh man.

Archie Carriere:

That's okay.

John Crane:

I apologize.

Archie Carriere:

No problem, John. So this house came about because the house that was on the end of Officer Beverly Washington, former Avenue D, was utterly destroyed, utterly. And it was bigger than this house. Much bigger, much more elegant and stuff. Chandeliers, dual fireplace, everything. I lost everything. Military stuff. We were fortunate. And the response of people was really overwhelming. And it showed you how kind and how people can really be kind, where people with adversity. The storm did a lot of cleanup. It looked like there were different ... As we toured around, it was almost like little mini tornadoes because if you look at the debris field, you could see a circular motion. But wait, that motion over there, about a half a mile away is the other way. It's counterclockwise. So there were little dips of wind coming down and that's what caused it most. Like I said, the damage from the trees, which got into people's houses, which had turn the rain. There's the mold. And then now you're done.

John Crane:

So this house was not here. Was there another house on this site at that time?

Archie Carriere:

No sir. Just pure woods.

John Crane:

So this was just an empty lot. That house was the original.

Archie Carriere:

That was the original land.

John Crane:

But that was the original cleaners and everything.

Archie Carriere:

Right.

John Crane:

Was that house damaged, was the cleaner-

Archie Carriere:

Nothing.

John Crane:

Nothing. So at what point ... But this was family land?

Archie Carriere:

Yes, my dad bought it.

John Crane:

Your dad. So did you build this house or did they build a house?

Archie Carriere:

We did. We built it. Our family built it because my mother was still alive, but my dad had perished. So my mother was left after Katrina. She and my dad always had a dream of living over here. And she got sad that we kind of put the house up and daddy never got to see here and live in it.

John Crane:

So what year did your father pass?

Archie Carriere:

'06.

John Crane:

66?

Archie Carriere:

No, 2006.

John Crane:

2006.

Archie Carriere:

Yes sir.

John Crane:

So right after Katrina?

Archie Carriere:

Yes sir.

John Crane:

And your mom, is she still living?

Archie Carriere:

No, sir. She passed also.

John Crane:

So when did she pass? Do you know?

Archie Carriere:

When did she pass? Mother's must of been dead about what, four, three years now? Four years.

John Crane:

Okay. So right before COVID really?

Archie Carriere:

Yes, it was definitely before COVID, I would say would at least four, five years now.

John Crane:

So are they both buried in Mandeville?

Archie Carriere:

Sure. They're in the mausoleum.

John Crane:

In the mausoleum.

Archie Carriere:

Yes sir. And all my other family, there's various grave sites around. Sometimes and I try to go out there, particularly the typical things where we change the flowers, et cetera, make sure we keep the graves clean and paint the other ones that have tombs that are not in the mausoleum, make sure those are taken care of. The sad part about it, my sister and I were talking. What happens? Who's going to take care of them when we're gone?

PART 3 OF 4 ENDS [01:30:04]

John Crane:

Yeah.

Archie Carriere:

I try to make sure my kids know, but they live elsewhere.

John Crane:

Yeah. How many children do you have?

Archie Carriere:

I have three.

John Crane:

Three children. They're not in Mandeville? They-

Archie Carriere:

No, sir.

John Crane:

Where do they live?

Archie Carriere:

My daughter lives in Houston. My son lives in Dallas, and my other son, he lives in New Orleans.

John Crane:

So what type of life have they made for themselves? What do they-

Archie Carriere:

Great. I'm really, really, really blessed. And again, it goes back to education. My kids graduated from college. My grandkids graduated from college. This is about quality of life and what you want. What do you want? Like I said, success is not measured in degrees or letters behind the person's name, but they have character.

John Crane:

Right. Unfortunately-

Archie Carriere:

Your actions are going to define you.

John Crane:

Right. Unfortunately, when you do get a degree though, it helps you open doors that might not be open to you otherwise. I agree with you. It doesn't make you a better person, but it sure can open doors that are slammed in your face.

Archie Carriere:

Yeah. I remember when, Shell, my daughter, she was dating a pro football player. I didn't particularly care for that relationship, so I'm glad that one went south. But she works for AT&T. She's been with AT&T for about 20-something years. She works in AT&T Cybersecurity. I told her she's on the mothership because I can't even get nowhere near your building. My son, he works for a securities firm, and my other son is a manager at a Walmart.

John Crane:

Okay. Fascinating. That's-

Archie Carriere:

My son was the athlete. My grandkids are athletes. My son played college basketball until we always knew you're one injury away. Tore his Achilles.

John Crane:

That was it.

Archie Carriere:

That's why you went to school. I don't care if you are 6'8" tall.

John Crane:

I think, unfortunately, sports, for some people, have prevented them from doing what they need to do. It's such a small number of people that actually can make a living in sports.

Archie Carriere:

Absolutely.

John Crane:

if they got thousands of kids who would dream about being-

Archie Carriere:

What saddens me, Mr. John, is sports is supposed to be a participatory thing. It's supposed to be a camaraderie thing. Families and parents, in particular, get wrapped up in their children's lives and their sports. There's some point in time in every game, I don't care how bad the child is, he should get a chance to get out on the field.

John Crane:

Yep, I agree.

Archie Carriere:

I mean what is it for? Are you really going to get paid? I don't know about that.

John Crane:

Yeah. Is it really that important?

Archie Carriere:

But they just get so absorbed, and we're so competitive. Sure, I like to compete, too, but at the end of the day ... I love Mandeville. Now you got to see why I say the things I say.

John Crane:

Yeah.

Archie Carriere:

I want to, and hopefully, I say it'll continue to grow and be as wonderful a quality of life as it is now and then some.

John Crane:

When you look forward, what do you think some of the major problems we face are, and what do you think some of the directions that this community should look at as solutions? You mentioned flooding as a concern.

Archie Carriere:

Okay. I would say infrastructure would be at the head of my list because the infrastructure has to be planned to allow for the growth to effectively occur. You don't go build a house and then start ... think about things and evaluate recommendations, infrastructure services. I think that we are very fortunate, and I always give a shout out to our first responders, Mandeville Police Department, the Mandeville Fire Department. They're my heroes. I want to make sure because my cousins and my family have been in those roles. They're very special people, and they need all the gratitude and help that they can get.

I think one of the things that's making it attractive for talent or with young people, because we, as I look at the community, we're becoming an older community. I mean we don't have little kids. You don't see any little kids playing here on the street and stuff like that. So that's one of the things that I hope will lure the youth here, besides the other opportunities that are now burgeoning around us in the parish.

You hear they big industrial moves. I mean you look at the I-12. Well, that's a nightmare there. It's getting better. The parish has some major, major growth issues to take care of, but I think Mandeville is going to continue to blossom. It's because the people. It's the people. Of course, leadership is important, but it's the people. It's the quality of people, from what I've experienced and what I've heard others say.

John Crane:

Well, there seems to be a genuine desire among people to have a community that functions.

Archie Carriere:

Yes.

John Crane:

But I kind of agree with you. I lived in Florida for 11 years, and they do something different there. They make the developer pay an impact fee, and they get their money up front. Before you build a house, you pay the impacts fee, and that means you have money to build streets, schools. Florida, they got all that. Here, anybody with 10 acres can put in a 20-person subdivision, and all of a sudden, your traffic goes to hell overnight. What happened?

Archie Carriere:

Exactly.

John Crane:

Well, you just put-

Archie Carriere:

Exactly. I'd hope that people who have these aspirations understand it's not that we are saying we don't want you. It's just that the terms and conditions that you want to be here is going to affect us.

John Crane:

The interesting thing in Florida was that people always complain, but the reality is if everybody pays the same thing, it doesn't really matter. If one guy pays it and another guy doesn't pay it, that's different. But if everybody's paying it, then it just becomes the price of poker. When you get your bank loan, that's it.

Archie Carriere:

But I do think that, and I do hope and wish, that there are other professionals, particularly minority professionals, that will come back here, et cetera, because I think it's pretty much the African-American population is going to continue to diminish.

John Crane:

Do you see hope for that? Do you feel like this is a welcoming community, that people could move in here and be accepted and have a good life and things-

Archie Carriere:

I do. I truly do.

John Crane:

So you feel like it's here. It's just a question of what would draw them back here?

Archie Carriere:

Well, see, that's the question that I struggle trying to fathom. What can they do to say to these young professionals who really want to live their true American dream the way we trying to live it, what do we have? This is another thing about the hospital and watching this renaissance and what's happening. You have this wonderful facility that's provided all these resources. It's been such an economic engine, and it's trying to come back with the aid of people like NAMI.

There's other entities out there. But healthcare, well, our nearest major healthcare providers, where are they? We see Ochsner blossoming around in Mandeville. I'm grateful for those services to be here because it truly does enhance the life experience. But who's coming?

John Crane:

So we're kind of getting to the end of the time that I allocated it.

Archie Carriere:

Yes, sir. Yes, sir. Yes, sir.

John Crane:

I imagine you're worn out. What would you like to have recollected about yourself? What are the things that you wish your grandchildren would know that maybe they haven't thought about or you haven't gotten a chance to tell them about or they may have forgotten because they were too young? What are some of the things that you would like them to-

Archie Carriere:

Remember?

John Crane:

... remember about you or remember about your experience?

Archie Carriere:

That they are the recipients of a family that cared and that wanted people to be proud of to be around and associate with, that had generosity and compassion, that made a difference. It doesn't necessarily mean that we're rocket scientists or anything like that, but we're a good people, truly a good people.

John Crane:

Is there anything else that you would like to add? as I mentioned to you on the phone, if you've got some recollections, unfortunately, two hours cannot encompass a family's experience. I mean it's been wonderful that little pieces have popped up here and there.

Archie Carriere:

Yes, sir.

John Crane:

Maybe we've gotten a little bit of a picture of who you are and what you've done, but I know there's always more.

Archie Carriere:

Yes, sir.

John Crane:

But is there anything else that you would like to say at this point?

Archie Carriere:

No, other than I'm grateful that you took the opportunity to talk to me/ hopefully, that this is received well. I put my heart into my conversation with you. As you can see, I love Mandeville. I didn't, at one time, think I would want to come back myself. But I said, "No. It's like no place like home. No place like home." Wizard of Oz, no place like home.

But again, thank you. Just let me know when you have it finished or whatever, if you want me to hear it or what have you. I appreciate-

John Crane:

What I've done, and I'll do this for you as well, I've got flash drives, and I'll go home and record it. I'm a little bit concerned because you have such a light voice, that we may have with the traffic-

Archie Carriere:

I'm sorry.

John Crane:

No, no. That's okay. But I'm hoping that we will get it.

Archie Carriere:

If you have any-

John Crane:

If we didn't get a good enough take, I may come back-

Archie Carriere:

Certainly. Yes, sir.

John Crane:

... because I found your story really interesting and compelling. I think you've opened up a lot of pieces. Your recollections are different from other people's recollections, and I think it's really important. So what I'll do is, in the next day or two, I'll get a flash drive to you because, quite frankly, I think you and your family deserve to have this.

Archie Carriere:

Well, thank you.

John Crane:

It should be part of your legacy that you can pass to your kids or whatever. So I'll try to get that done as soon as I can and get that over to you.

Archie Carriere:

It's been quite a pleasure, Mr. John. I appreciate you. [inaudible 01:40:29]-

John Crane:

Yeah, just John.

Archie Carriere:

Okay. You see that's that old school.

John Crane:

I know.

Archie Carriere:

My kids will say the same thing. It's sincere.

John Crane:

Yeah. But I've always been John and that all that works for me. Well, thank you so much for this. I really appreciate you taking this almost two hours.

Archie Carriere:

Oh, my pleasure. It was actually enjoyable to me because I am a history buff, and I do share these experiences with my children, so they'll know none of this existed. Over there, that used to be where the chickens were. There was a rooster over there because I'd have to go pick the eggs. That was just a huge lot.

John Crane:

So your-

Archie Carriere:

That's my cousin's house there.

John Crane:

Your cousin's house?

Archie Carriere:

Yeah.

John Crane:

That's not the house that's there now or is that the house?

Archie Carriere:

No. Okay. See the house where our state flag is?

John Crane:

Okay.

Archie Carriere:

That was my cousin on my dad's side. Okay. Now, let's see here. On the other side of this house was also cousins. This was where, the little black SUV, that was just the vacant lot where all the chickens were, see, because this was actually a community where turkeys, chickens ... My grandfather had a horse. So if you go back-

John Crane:

So you had a horse on this property as well.

Archie Carriere:

Yeah, my grandfather did. My grandfather did a lot of work. He was the town's blacksmith back in the 1800s.

John Crane:

Oh, really?

Archie Carriere:

Yeah.

John Crane:

Really?

Archie Carriere:

Oh, yeah. That's the barn. We used to be over there smelling like horse. We had old wagons, the anvil, the bellows, all that kind of stuff.

John Crane:

Do you still have any of that or is it all gone?

Archie Carriere:

No. See, this is what history means. I only could wish. I could only wish. His anvil and, like I said, the bellows and all the stuff he had to be a blacksmith and the different tools.

John Crane:

How did he train to be a blacksmith? Did he just learn at-

Archie Carriere:

I'm not sure. I'm not sure because I think he passed when I probably was about maybe five or six.

John Crane:

This was your dad's dad or your-

Archie Carriere:

Yes, sir.

John Crane:

Okay. Wow. I mean, again, that's a whole piece that we haven't even touched on.

Archie Carriere:

Yeah. The old stories. He used to have a horse and buggy and stuff, and his horse used to get out and go in the lake front. Everybody was scared of Nip. Nip had a reputation.

John Crane:

That was the name of the horse was Nip?

Archie Carriere:

Yeah. Mr. Simmie's horse was Brownie.

John Crane:

Oh, really?

Archie Carriere:

Yeah. You have to ask Mr. Simmie when you see him, "How was Brownie?" "You must have talked to little Archie."

John Crane:

He didn't tell me about that.

Archie Carriere:

Yeah. My grandfather on my mom's side, he had a horse. Mr. Simmie loved to [inaudible 01:42:47]. He's a beautiful guy.

John Crane:

Huh? Interesting.

Archie Carriere:

Mandeville had horses. Nip was so smart. My grandmother would tell me. This is now Ruby's, they had actually where you could hook a horse up to the post. I remember this.

John Crane:

Oh, in front of Ruby's where they had a hitching post?

Archie Carriere:

Yeah. To put the horses, to tie the horse up because this was dirt. This was no blacktop streets. He'd come home. Nip knew his way home.

John Crane:

Nip knew his way home?

Archie Carriere:

Nip knew his way home. He'd hit his head on the door, and I'd go running to the door, "Grandma, Grandma, he's out there." She'd open the door, and she'd have that look. "Come on in here. Get off that horse."

John Crane:

Oh, he would bring him home?

Archie Carriere:

Yes.

John Crane:

Oh, really?

Archie Carriere:

Horse knew his way how to bring him home.

John Crane:

Oh, wow. That's-

Archie Carriere:

It was funny things. That was the times and stuff.

John Crane:

Huh? Isn't that interesting?

Archie Carriere:

I was scared to death of Nip. Nip's head-

John Crane:

Did he bite you?

Archie Carriere:

His head was as big as I was. This was a horse-horse, not no little ... No, this is a horse-horse. I was afraid to-

John Crane:

So you're a four or five-year-

Archie Carriere:

I'm not a hunter. I don't fish. Nothing like that.

John Crane:

Let me ask you. I promise I'll leave you alone, too.

Archie Carriere:

Oh, no. I'm enjoying it.

John Crane:

What is your very earliest memory that you have?

Archie Carriere:

I think I would say I was three or four years old. That's kind of remarkable.

John Crane:

What would that memory have been?

Archie Carriere:

It would have been right over there in Madison Street we had a little shotgun house, outside toilet and stuff because-

John Crane:

Outside toilet?

Archie Carriere:

Mm-hmm. This was where my grandmother's house was, where the cleaners was. So while Daddy was working with his brother in the cleaners, he was also working on building a house on the other end of Mandeville. So that was just our temporary home until Daddy finished building the house on the other end of Mandeville at the end of [inaudible 01:44:39].

John Crane:

Where was it? On Madison?

Archie Carriere:

On Madison Street. Okay. You see where the giant oak tree? I used to play in that oak tree.

John Crane:

Okay.

Archie Carriere:

None of those houses were there. This was woods.

John Crane:

So it was-

Archie Carriere:

Right across Madison. Right there on Madison Street.

John Crane:

On that corner??

Archie Carriere:

I'd say about maybe a lot or two from the corner.

John Crane:

Going up?

Archie Carriere:

Yes, sir.

John Crane:

Okay.

Archie Carriere:

There used to be, believe it or not, where the apartments are on Madison Street ... I'm not sure, but I think someone said that used to be Al Hirt's brother lived there.

John Crane:

Really?

Archie Carriere:

He had a swimming pool and stuff because I remember my dad going over there and bringing clothes for him. Well, since then, the property's changed, et cetera. But if you continue up Madison Street on the left, the huge house and property there, that was another family out in New Orleans because my uncles and them who played music, they always come over here and played for them or you'd be playing at the Dew Drop or somewhere like that. This goes back to, again, to the '50s.

John Crane:

Interesting. So they were playing. Wow. All that was on Madison?

Archie Carriere:

Yeah.

John Crane:

If you'd been sitting here or sitting in your dad's business, this was essentially all woods?

Archie Carriere:

Correct.

John Crane:

There was no houses across the street on Jackson?

Archie Carriere:

Correct. That's correct. The only houses were that one, this one right here, and this one.

John Crane:

Okay. That brick house up there?

Archie Carriere:

Yes, sir. And then those apartments have been here for a very, very long time. But this where Ms. Charlotte lives, this was woods because this was woods. And then on the other side where Ms. Whatyoucallit, she just recently passed, and they sold that house. That was actually Mr. Dawson's house, and they sold that. So, damn. People are gone. There's nobody around now.

John Crane:

The house over here where the big property on Madison?

Archie Carriere:

Yes, sir.

John Crane:

The one that got it looks it's damaged, I saw they had a sign to elevate it or something. Whose house is that? Who was that?

Archie Carriere:

I'm not sure because Ms. Weisheit's Grocery was just beyond that on Madison. They're elevating this house. It's on the other side of Lamarque Street. You're going up Madison. You cross Lamarque. So I'm not sure who lived there.

John Crane:

Who had that.

Archie Carriere:

That house is old. I know on Lamarque Street you might see, we sometimes called them special angels. But there are some special needs people who walk around the streets of Mandeville. One of them by Ferguson's Tuggy because Tuggy knows me. I know him since he's a child. You know Tuggy?

John Crane:

Is that who-

Archie Carriere:

He's a guy who rides around on a bicycle. He's kind of old.

John Crane:

They call him Peewee?

Archie Carriere:

Peewee.

John Crane:

Okay.

Archie Carriere:

I know Peewee very, very-

John Crane:

But you call him Tuggy?

Archie Carriere:

Yeah. It was just a old name we had when he was little, but they called him Peewee now.

John Crane:

But he grew up in that red house, I think. Didn't he?

Archie Carriere:

Mm-hmm.

John Crane:

Yep.

Archie Carriere:

Yep. And his father.

John Crane:

Tell me about Lamarque Street just real quick.

Archie Carriere:

Sure.

John Crane:

As I understand it, it was Black and white, kind of mixed. Was that your experience growing up as well?

Archie Carriere:

Yes, sir.

John Crane:

It was very mixed?

Archie Carriere:

In the sense that I would say from Madison Street south toward the lake would be predominantly white.

John Crane:

Was?

Archie Carriere:

Predominantly just white.

John Crane:

It was mostly white?

Archie Carriere:

Yes, just white.

John Crane:

Madison going toward the lake?

Archie Carriere:

Toward the lake. From Madison going toward the highway was when you had the larger population of Blacks.

John Crane:

Right. But somebody, maybe it was Mr. Fairley that told me that at the end of Jefferson Place there was a bar room called The Hole or something like that.

Archie Carriere:

Yeah.

John Crane:

There was actually some Black folks that lived back in there as well. Spectrum.

Archie Carriere:

Yeah, they got fiber, Mike and them. Mike's an engineer. They're really, really, really nice guy. I was happy for them to get the property. They've done a lot with it.

John Crane:

Next door?

Archie Carriere:

Mm-hmm.

John Crane:

Were you surprised that they kept part of the building?

Archie Carriere:

I think they had to because of it being historical, because the age of it, and I'm glad of that. A lot of the properties, and another thing that I'm glad about, it seems is that some of this blighted property is getting addressed. It needs to be addressed.

John Crane:

Yeah. Well-

Archie Carriere:

I'm not trying to throw bricks or stuff like that, but-

John Crane:

Well, I guess my only hope is that we don't put a lot line to lot line house on every ... become like Madisonville. I like the smaller homes and a little bit of green space around them, people sitting on the front porch.

Archie Carriere:

That's the other thing, environmental impact. The environmental impact, you become too densely populated. That's the thing. That's why I worry about with the ... I don't know. I think it's going to be much, much, much more discussion to occur before they do something about that property.

John Crane:

About?

Archie Carriere:

The property of Pre-Stress. It's like it just keeps sitting there waiting to be addressed.

John Crane:

Well, I just wonder at some point somebody's going to do an environmental study, a phase three. They're probably going to find some stuff that they have to deal with, and it's going to be expensive, but-

Archie Carriere:

I mean if you truly get to the science of it all, this was a construction plant and now with today's technology and are aware of this, of carcinogenic, mutant genetics, and the rest of that stuff. What's underneath that ground?

John Crane:

It's there. It's there. Yeah. I mean it is nobody's fault. It's just what was there.

Archie Carriere:

Sign of the times.

John Crane:

But you got to deal with it.

Archie Carriere:

That type of remediation, et cetera, it gets expensive. I don't know what to say what the answer is. If it can be just left as a green space, a park or [inaudible 01:50:07] or something like that, but to industrialize it or community-ize it and put all these buildings and structures, I don't think is a good idea.

John Crane:

I mean they've got that problem in New Orleans with that area-

Archie Carriere:

Oh, wow. Your city.

John Crane:

... that people built houses on and then they get cancer. How much did that contribute to that?

Archie Carriere:

We don't never know.

John Crane:

Yeah.

Archie Carriere:

That's why the studies are ongoing, and it's still yet the effects are not known.

John Crane:

Correct. Correct. I'm a relative recent import to Mandeville, but I've enjoyed it. It's been a nice community to live in. I enjoy a little bit of the touch of New Orleans culture here I don't think you get in Covington. I don't think you get-

Archie Carriere:

This has a little bit more of its own unique identity-

John Crane:

I think Mandeville-

Archie Carriere:

Even from Slidell, we're different. I mean I hate to say it. Yes, I'm biased to Mandeville. I mean I think our community, I'm not going to choose to we're superior. I just say that we have extraordinarily high quality of life.

John Crane:

Well, I think this was the only piece of property on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain where the land came and touched the water. Everybody else has a mile, two miles of salt marsh. So this had to be a unique place from Native American time.

Archie Carriere:

Oh, yes, definitely.

John Crane:

What's underneath the ground here, we haven't even touched that. What that heritage is and what those people have done, we've mostly lost that, I think.

Archie Carriere:

I think so, too. I really do.

John Crane:

That's sad for that to slip by. There are a few people, I think, in Lacombe. They've still got some Native American people-

Archie Carriere:

A lot. A lot.

John Crane:

... that are trying to remember.

Archie Carriere:

Because that was supposed to be founded by Father Pierre La Rouquette-

John Crane:

Correct.

Archie Carriere:

... who was the missionary who came and the people ... That's why the school got the name, Chahta-Ima. Chahta-Ima means he who is like the Choctaw.

John Crane:

He who is like the Choctaw. Chahta-Ima?

Archie Carriere:

That's what it means.

John Crane:

Did he found that school?

Archie Carriere:

I'm not sure on that part of it, but I do know as a missionary and the Native Americans, et cetera. And then other people, settlers came over. There was a time even here in Mandeville, and this is when Rest Awhile ... Remember I was telling you about that hotel? They would actually have people who would get

on boats, and they would come over here. This would be like their, this was literally what they said, their retreat. This is their way.

These were the upper echelon people of New Orleans who wanted something off from the city but not too far from the city. And then they came over here and et cetera. Actually, I think there was even gambling in the old hotel.

John Crane:

As well.

Archie Carriere:

This is right next to Mr. Williams. Mr. Williams was funny because he had Mr. Williams' Drug Store, which is now where Barley Oaks is. Mr. Williams, their residence was on top and the drug store was at the bottom. I always wanted to go there to get a fountain drink because my dad did his clothes. I could come in, and he'd make me a fountain drink. He had a lift because Ms. Williams, I think, had some health issues, and that was the first time I saw motorized chair that would go up.

John Crane:

Go up the stairs?

Archie Carriere:

She'd said, "You want to come get on my lap? I'll take you up there." So I'd go get on her lap. She'd go up the stairs, and I'd go run back downstairs. My daddy said, "Come on, boy. We got to go." Those were the days. The shoe store was right there. The little shoe store.

John Crane:

The shoe store on-

Archie Carriere:

Right further down from where Barley Oaks is now. There was a little shoe store-

John Crane:

But still on the lakefront?

Archie Carriere:

Yeah. Which I guess what's that? Jefferson? I forgot the name of the street.

John Crane:

Claiborne.

Archie Carriere:

Yeah. Whatever. You know what I'm talking about.

John Crane:

Yeah, yeah.

Archie Carriere:

But right there. They had that. Mr. Raquet's's bakery. Like I said, Mr. Chitter's garage, the Spaniards. The pub was actually a store. It was right into this-

John Crane:

Is the pub the last of the store buildings that are around?

Archie Carriere:

I think so. I think so.

John Crane:

I guess Bands, I guess is still there.

Archie Carriere:

Bands. Yes, sir. I do know that the Moore family, they are the family, Mrs. Moore, literally were the people that fed all those employees from Pre-Stress. oh the good old lovebug time. That was a place, too, that was a big old historical place. She fed those people at Pre Stress. Those guys knew.

John Crane:

I'm afraid we may be losing it with that-

Archie Carriere:

Oh, I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

John Crane:

That generator, or whatever that is, cut in.

Archie Carriere:

But anyway, but it's been quite an honor and privilege. I appreciate it.

John Crane:

Yeah, I appreciate you taking the time. Like I said, I'll try to get something back to you.

Archie Carriere:

Sure.

John Crane:

Hopefully, it-

Archie Carriere:

The quality may be ... I'm sorry.

John Crane:

No, no. It's not your fault. It's what I'm trying to do. But we'll do this. I hope you'll consider, if you have some extra time or something, getting involved with the Old Mandeville Historic Association.

Archie Carriere:

I would love to, sir.

John Crane:

Because one of the things that I think is true is that history is only what is preserved and remembered. You need to have diversity in these organizations because people don't normally think about it, and it goes out of their mind. So-

Archie Carriere:

I would look forward to one day, and I thought about this. We see different places do things similar. We have the editorials on TV like The Mandeville That Was or This Is That.

John Crane:

Correct.

Archie Carriere:

Those types of events where a person would literally do a narrative or take to these buildings, "This is where Such-and-such was."

John Crane:

One of the guys in our group is very interested in locations, and I'm going to tell him about you. He may contact you.

Archie Carriere:

Sure.

John Crane:

He would like to just put somebody in his car and go around and say, "This was Carriere Cleaners. This was Weisheit's-

Archie Carriere:

Grocery.

John Crane:

... Grocery Store. Just different things.

Archie Carriere:

I would be happy to do that with him.

John Crane:

Because what he's done is he's collected a bunch of maps, including the Tobin Maps, which are the insurance maps, and I think he's got in the teens, like 1926. He could look at different buildings, and sometimes they could tell what building it would be. I didn't know this but on Jefferson Street where the Mandeville Police Investigation Department is right now-

Archie Carriere:

Yes. That used to be City Hall.

John Crane:

But even before that, it was a school.

Archie Carriere:

It was a school.

John Crane:

But nobody knew that.

Archie Carriere:

I did. Yeah.

John Crane:

They had that thing on top. There was a bell in there. Well, I think the bell is gone, but they said the mechanism is still there. So I don't know what happened to the bell. But people forget that. It's an odd building. But if you look at it and you look up north, you'll see that's a school building. But who's going to remember that?

Well, thank you very much, Mr. Carriere.

Archie Carriere:

Thank you. I appreciate it.

John Crane:

I really appreciate it.

Archie Carriere:

My pleasure.

John Crane:

This has been a real-

Archie Carriere:

I look forward to hearing from you. I saw you walking. I'd be happy to give you a ride.

John Crane:

No, no, no. I just live around the corner. I live on Lamarque Street right in the 300 block.

Archie Carriere:

Okay.

John Crane:

So yeah.

Archie Carriere:

I'll actually be at tonight I think they have a group that's going to be performing.

John Crane:

At the Dew Drop?

Archie Carriere:

Yes, sir.

John Crane:

Okay. We used to go to a lot of them. We haven't been recently. It's embarrassing to say, but I think they've actually ... Their success has become a problem. I mean not a personal problem, it's just you go in there, it's so packed. But they do have wonderful music.

Archie Carriere:

And there's no air conditioning.

John Crane:

Well, I don't mind the air conditioning. It's just the packed ... You have to get there well before 6:00 if you want a seat on the inside. And then on the outside, it's much more relaxed, but also there's a lot of talking. You may be sitting next to somebody who's talking about their grandmother's hemorrhoids or something. I don't know what's going on.

Archie Carriere:

I hear you. Yeah. Yeah.

John Crane:

So anyway, whatever.

Archie Carriere:

Yes, sir.

John Crane:

Well, listen, have a great day, and I really appreciate it.

Archie Carriere:

Yes, sir. My pleasure.

John Crane:

I'm going to go ahead and cut this thing off.

Archie Carriere:

Okay. Anytime you have any questions about our dialogue or what have you, feel free to reach out. You mentioned, but I lost it, you may not have the ...

John Crane:

Yeah. Let me-

ENDS [01:58:38]