



Jim Patterson
Mayor of Chandler: 1980 – 1984
Interviewed: November 15, 2005
By: Jean Reynolds
Public History Coordinator

- JR: What is the name of your father?
JP: My dad's name is Gene Patterson, J. E. Patterson, James Eugene Patterson.
JR: Where was he from originally?
JP: He was from northwest Arkansas. He first came to Chandler in about 1933 for a little while then went back and spent some time in the CC Camp back there, then came back out to Arizona within a couple years and worked for awhile. He then joined El Paso Natural Gas and started laying natural gas pipelines across from Texas, New Mexico, Arizona over to California and also down into Mexico. Then came back here in 1945, that's when we moved back here permanently.
- JR: When you all moved back to Arizona, was he still working doing the natural gas thing or was in a different position by then?
JP: No, he had about a year, sometime in 1941, he had left El Paso Natural Gas and started doing his own business. He was actually operating equipment and digging stock ponds and for ranchers in southern New Mexico and southeast Arizona. Then he had a little feed yard in Benson for a little while and some of those things before moving on up here to Chandler.
- JR: What was it that brought him up into Chandler?
JP: He had some uncles that lived around in here, Uncle John DePriest that lived on the corner of Ray and Dobson, northwest corner, he had some other cousins in that family that were here and had been working for various people. Also there was a guy by the name of Dutch Schlesinger who had a farm tillage and leveling business and my dad had done some work for him and when he came back up here, in fact he had been working for him when El Paso Natural Gas hired him, then when he decided to come back up here, he came back as a partner with Dutch in that business and they formed that business they called, "Patterson Tillage and Leveling".
- JR: What year did they form that business?
JP: About 1946, I think.
- JR: Was that primarily his main involvement in Chandler, just through the business, was he involved in any other ways?
JP: Eventually he was involved in a number of organizations. The Sheriff's posse, which used to be a really big organization here and they had one of the renowned rodeos here in Chandler and he was involved in that group, he was involved in some other farm organizations, co-ops and so on. He was also on the Chandler Unified School District Board in the late 50's and early 60's.
- JR: How long did his business go for, is it still operating today?
JP: No, it's not today. When I came back from the service I took it over, ran it for a few years and then my brother, when I left to go on to other businesses, my brother ran that business until about four years ago. Around 2000 or 2001, something like that and he closed it up. As agriculture went away the business kind of went away.

JR: Tell me a little bit about your mother, what's her name?

JP: My mother is Ann Trapman Patterson. She was born in the Cochise stronghold in southeast Arizona and raised down there and a great deal of her family still lives down in Cochise County. She was working in the café in Benson when my Dad was with El Paso Natural Gas coming across there putting in the pipelines and setting engines for their pumping plants and the Horseshoe Café, it's still there, she was waiting tables when they got together.

JR: When did they get married?

JP: They got married in 1939.

JR: After your mom and dad got married, did your mom work at all outside the home?

JP: She worked within the business. She took care of the books and bookkeeping and running errands and parts and supplies and all those kinds of things. When they had the feed store, she took care of the feed store. Dad was hauling hay from the valley down into the Benson area for cattlemen, semi-truckloads of hay, so she was pretty much running the business and taking care of us boys. As it moved on into the other part of the business she did the same thing, she took care of the books, did the billings and all those kind of things. Up until about early 50's they finally did get a secretary/bookkeeper, the business got so big she wasn't able to do it all anymore.

JR: Did she still help with the business or did she become more of a homemaker?

JP: I don't recall, I think she was still involved to some degree. Knowing my mom she's always had her finger in there someplace, she knew what was going on.

JR: I know your mother is involved in the historical society now, was she involved in any other types of organizations or activities in Chandler after you moved here?

JP: She was, I don't remember everything, in later years she was involved in Meals on Wheels and some of the Salvation Army stuff, she was involved with a church group. I don't recall those specifics. I know she's been involved with the Chandler Museum since its inception in 1969.

JR: Where were you born?

JP: I was born in Kermit, Texas in 1941.

JR: You were just telling the kids out there that you came to Arizona when you were two, right?

JP: We were down in southwest New Mexico, my dad finished that job, than we came over into the St. David area down there. My granddad lived there in St. David, I think that's about the time they got into the feed store business in Benson, somewhere along in there.

JR: Once your family moved to Chandler and you were a little kid, where did you live, where did you grow up?

JP: When we first came to Chandler we lived on Dobson just north of Ray, right about where Seton High School is now. Another one of my dad's relatives

owned a piece of property and had a trailer house back in the back there where we lived. We lived there for awhile and then we moved over on the corner of, what is now Chandler Boulevard, it was Cleveland and McQueen then, the southeast corner, a little ten acre piece there my dad bought. We lived there for a couple years or so, then we moved down on Frye Road just west of Dobson where the main shop and yard of the business was and we lived there in one of the old Japanese barracks, the barracks had been used at Rivers, down there in the interment camp, my dad had been moving some of those buildings out of there during that time so he got one of those and kind of remodeled it a little and we lived in that until I was in the first grade. Then we moved over to the northeast corner of Galveston and Price, on a little 15-acre property there my folks bought. We lived there until I was a freshman in high school. Then we moved back over on Frye Road where the shop was in a house that they totally tore down and rebuilt. We lived there until about 1971, until I got married.

JR: Just a curiosity question, did your father dismantle the barrack building and then bring it back and rebuild it? How did they move it?

JP: They had a method of house jacks, tall jacks they could put under the side of the buildings, jack them up and back a flatbed trailer under them. Some of the barracks were so long they had to cut them in pieces, with a big chain saw, they cut them in pieces, and a number of those building got hauled out toward Apache Junction, there were some in Chandler. Lots that I was involved with went out to Apache Junction. They were structures that were probably 25' wide and varying lengths. When they got where they were going they'd use the reverse process, jack them off the truck, then pull the truck out and let them down.

JR: Was the government selling them to individuals?

JP: I think that is what was going on. I'm not sure.

JR: You have brothers, right?

JP: I have one brother a couple years younger than me. His name is Jack.

JR: Where did you attend school?

JP: I started school first grade at the old Cleveland School on Williams Field Road (now Chandler Boulevard). Most of that structure is all gone now. It's all been knocked down, a part that was new in 1951, they built another wing, it is still there. Then I went there through the 6th grade, when I went into 7th grade they were just occupying Chandler Junior High School on California and Erie. Went there for two years then went to Chandler High School, 9th thru 12th.

JR: What year did you graduate?

JP: 1959. My dad was on the school board and was handing out the diplomas.

JR: Did you have any hopes or dreams about what you wanted to do after you finished high school?

JP: At that time I thought I was a world class athlete and thought I was going to be all world and everything else, I was headed to the UofA to play football, but that didn't work out and I realized pretty quick there was a lot more work to that. Actually I thought I would be involved with agriculture in some way and went to

the UofA I majored in animal husbandry and graduated with a bachelor of science in animal husbandry, I minored in business. I thought that is what I'd be doing - something along that line because we did have farming operations and we grew various number of crops as well as the tillage and leveling business.

JR: So you got your bachelor of science from UofA? Did you go on to any other types of degrees?

JP: No other degrees. I did take some business courses at ASU some years later. I also went to some technical schools.

JR: I'm curious about the farming that your family did, what kind of crops did you grow?

JP: In high school my brother and I started 80 acres which is about ¼ mile west of Dobson on Frye, and in fact a majority of that piece of property is undeveloped in there [today]. We farmed that 80 acres and grew grain, barley, maze, cotton and alfalfa. I did, as part of an FFA project and also I was interested, I built a little thoroughbred herd of Hereford cattle. I had gotten started with those with another farmer in the area, Rancher Gunnar Thude. I kept acquiring some of those, raising young ones and saving those. In fact, that whole ranch up at Springerville that Gunnar owned with that line of Hereford cattle was purchased by John Wayne some years later. That little herd I had we eventually took to Arkansas and put on dad's ranch back there. Also the farming we had in Maricopa, we had a couple sections of land down there that we farmed, one was one Dutch Schlesinger had, another one my dad was partners on and another one my dad had they farmed cotton, alfalfa and grain down there.

JR: Describe for me the area where you were growing up, as far as what you remember about it from your childhood and some of the people that were ranching or farming in the area.

JP: In early years from 1st grade to 9th grade was basically over there on Price Road, Price and Galveston, all dirt roads at that point and it was all farming in the area, we were about 3 miles from town, Williams Field Road was about the only east/west paved road so as kids we would ride our bicycles and go over to Williams Field Road to come into town to go to the show, at the Rowena. It cost about a nickel or a dime and if we had a quarter we would go to the Parkway Theater. There was a big canal that ran along the north side of Williams Field Road that was lined with big cottonwood trees so as we rode along and when it was hot we would stop in the shade of those trees. In that whole area down there, there were like 12 boys and only two or three girls, Georgia Allen, who was a couple years older, Stena Thude, now Murrey, a couple years older, Alma Cowen lived there, her father worked for my dad, she was about three or four years older, and then there was I guess Ruby Overstreet, she was my age that lived south on Price Road and her father worked for Stena's father, which would be now kind of in the southwest corner of what is now Thude Park, that is where the Overstreets lived. Other people over on Chandler Boulevard, about half way between Price and Dobson, the Tom Anderson family lived over there, Art Price, the gentleman who wrote the original charter for Chandler lived further south of Williams Field Road and west of Price in the middle of the field, where the mall

is today, next to the mall. His old house is still there. To the north, on the northwest corner of Price and Ray was Gunnar Thude, just north of there was his old place, his son, Eldon Thude lived there.

JR: Do you have a memory that stands out from your childhood of growing up in that area?

JP: I was always involved with animals and when the sheep would come down from the mountains in the October time frame and begin to lamb and there were always leppies, or little lambs that either the mother had died or the mother wouldn't accept. Roy Dobson was really involved with the sheep, Gunnar was too, but Roy was more involved right around where we were, he lived north of Ray of Dobson, just north of where Seton High School is now and there is still a bunch of oleanders and I think the old home place has been turned into a church now. We used to get those little lambs from Roy and we'd feed them with a bottle and raise them. When we'd get them raised, then we could sell them back to them. It was kind of a project. The other thing was, at that time when the sheep were down the herders always stayed in the field and they had teepees they lived in out there, we used to, either by myself or with somebody else, we'd go down to where those herders were and they always had a pot with stew and tortillas and they would let us eat with them. There were Mexican families that lived around in the area that actually made tortillas and we'd go there once in awhile and they would let us eat. We'd come home and wouldn't be hungry and my mother would be very unhappy.

My dad was a real believer in "you had to work", so from the time I was about 10 years old I worked on the farm or around the machinery or whatever and I learned how to weld at a very early age and drive a tractor and all kinds of things, I thought at the time that is was pretty horrible, most of the kids growing up were able to go to town and we had to work. It's been a great lesson for me, you know how to work, work hard, and be proud of it.

JR: Once you finished college, is that when you got involved with your father's business?

JP: When I graduated from the UofA, I also had been in the ROTC program, so I went into the service, in the Army armored division. I spent two years in the service, then I came back and that's when I got involved in the business. Again, it was a heck of an opportunity. My dad took off and said, "Here, you run it". It seemed to be a tough thing at the time but it was a great lesson. He was always somewhere around that I could get advice from him but pretty much I was able to run the whole show.

JR: How long did you manage the business?

JP: I did that from spring of 1966 until spring, 1973.

JR: Did you go into a different business?

JP: I went to work for Empire Machinery Company, the caterpillar dealer here in Arizona. I was with them for 11 years. When I went there we formed, what we called a "property management division" and I took care of all their farms and

- ranches and all the buildings across the state, Flagstaff, Kingman, Tuscon, Casa Grande, the store in Mesa, I was responsible for all those things. It was a management position.
- JR: Once you completed that position and moved on to your next thing, what did you do?
- JP: My father-in-law was owner of Empire Machinery and his belief was if you could do the job then you could do more. Anyway he never did take a job away. He would just give you another one. Then I took on the responsibility, we had territory in Mexico so I was the Mexican connection. I was overseeing that territory in Mexico which required trips down in the various parts of Mexico and Mexico City and that area was down south of Douglas, there was a mine down there, an old mine that had been opening up, and then an area of Cananayia, which was an existing operating mine. That was the two big markets in our territory down there. We did sell some agricultural type machinery down into various parts of Mexico as well. Some of the people had interests in both locations.
- JR: Is that the job you had when you first started getting involved in local politics?
- JP: I was with Empire, I guess when I first got involved I was doing pretty much strictly property management stuff because I ran and was elected to the council in 1976. We had moved Patterson Tillage and Leveling from out here on Fry Road to a piece of property that I had bought from Roosevelt Water Conservation district which is on the south end of the airport. I flew at the time, I had one of the only approvals by the FAA to have, what you call a “through the fence” operation where I could keep my airplane on my property but taxi through the fence and use the city airport. I think there are a few of those around now but not too many. That’s another thing I did with Empire, I flew to a lot of the properties in difference locations. That was one of the reasons for running for the council, to promote the airport for employment reasons and so on.
- JR: You were married in 1971? What is your wife’s name?
- JP: Jinx Whiteman Patterson.
- JR: Is she a Chandler native?
- JP: No, she was born in Pendleton, Oregon. She was raised in Pendleton, came to the University of Arizona, she is a year younger than I am. I did not know her at the UofA, I met her some years later, but she was down there most of the time I was there.
- JR: Did you meet in Chandler?
- JP: Actually we met in Phoenix. A couple I had known for a long time and she had known for a long time but still didn’t know each other introduced us.
- JR: Do you have children?
- JP: We have three boys.
- JR: Let’s talk a little bit about your political involvement in Chandler starting with 1976 when you ran for council and got elected. How is it that you got involved in local politics?

JP: I had been involved in a lot of different organizations, farm organizations, construction organizations and of course I knew a number of the people, like Raul Naverette, he had been a baseball coach of mine when I was younger, Kenny Thomas, of course I'd known forever, we'd been involved in the locker plant and his brother, Dave, in the food store. Because of the Chandler Airport, I felt it had tremendous opportunity for Chandler so that was something I was very interested in. Some of those folks encouraged me to run, to get involved, so that is what happened.

JR: What was the issue with the airport?

JP: They really didn't have anyone who was involved in aviation, who was involved in city government and because I had been able to travel around a great deal, as I neglected to say earlier, my mother and dad were involved with Flying Farmers and they had gone all over the United States and other places and I had done that as a youngster traveling with them. Then just in my school involvement and traveling places I could see how important airports were to small communities. I just felt that we needed a real emphasis to improve the Chandler Airport and create a better business employment atmosphere. I advocated that a great deal and I was advocating involvement in our parks for more youngsters, I'd been involved with starting Pop Warner Football when I came back from the service and had done some coaching, I was involved in high school football and baseball officiating, and so that was another issue that was near and dear to me, the parks and recreations for youngsters. Those were some of the issues.

JR: What was the airport like? Can you describe the airport prior to 1976?

JP: The airport was very small, had one runway, a short runway, by then it was paved, a narrow runway, still a lot of dirt taxi areas, the rodeo grounds was on the east side of the runway on Cooper Road. The facilities out there were virtually nothing, San Tan Crop Dusters, Bob Copeland, it was a major activity out there. Tug Watts had an operation there, he was moving most of his emphasis to the Scottsdale Airport, he was the guy who really set Scottsdale Airport on fire. Probably another reason, my dad knew him and I knew him, we saw what they were doing up there.

JR: Prior to becoming Mayor, were you involved on any boards or commissions?

JP: I don't think so. When you are elected to the council you are involved but you are not on boards and commissions. I had not been prior to being elected to council.

JR: Tell me about some of your significant memories from being on the city council.

JP: When I first came on the council, I asked questions. At that point we took office at the first meeting in April, I think. The budget wasn't adopted yet until May or June, so they were still in the throws of finalizing the budget. We had a very small conference room, the council sat around the table and anyone who was in there in the study sessions sat around the wall. There was an issue that came up about the police cars, I asked some questions about that, the then police chief, Bill Loughton, was sitting behind me I could feel the heat coming from behind me, that was a significant memory.

The other one was just the people who were on the council, Kenny and Raul, Dick Strickland, just the dynamics of the people, Jim Becker was on there, just a great

cross section and interesting stories with these guys. The camaraderie was excellent.

JR: Since one of the things you got involved was in relation to the airport, was there any movement or change to the airport during the time you were on the council?

JP: Significant. We began to really emphasize and promote the airport, we began to apply for federal money through and with ADOT and the federal highway transportation, and it takes a number of years for those things to move through the channels so it was probably six years or so before we began to reap some of those benefits, then in years after that, there was a lot more money that began to flow because of what we had done in the late 70's.

JR: Were there any other significant issues during your time, 76 – 80 on the council that stand out in your mind?

JP: Of course, the huge issue was the recall that took place in 1979. Five of the seven council members were actually recalled in March, 1979, Jim Becker and I were the only two not recalled. The others, long time community service and servants were recalled. It was devastating to be involved in it, tremendously divisive within the community, families were split and the community was horribly split. It made it, for months, extremely difficult to function as a council because you had all kinds of criticisms, allegations and all kinds of stuff that were posed against the sitting Mayor and council. Then after the election we had a recall council that had not been involved at all, they really didn't have knowledge of what they were dealing with so that it made it very difficult for the last seven months of that term.

JR: Who were the new members?

JP: I don't remember exactly, Sidney Nischon, John Fredericks, Wayne Lewis, Jerry Maxwell was the Mayor, maybe LaJean Anderson—I think she was.

JR: Who was recalled?

JP: Dick Strickland, Kenny Thomas, Raul Naverette, Phil Dueñas. I don't recall the fifth one.

JR: What was it that initiated this whole recall movement?

JP: There is a lot of background and detail to it, but it had to do with the police chief and Bill Loughton was a great guy and he had grown up in the organization, it was one of those things that Bill ran his police department like a family. No one could talk badly about his family but he ruled with an iron fist. There were people in the department who didn't agree with that, it was a city that was changing, we were growing. There were some people within the department who were out to get him and they were able to tell enough of a story and present enough information. The council supported him and the biggest mistake that we, the council made, was not speaking out. We had advice not to speak out about the position, talk about the issue, the legal people were telling us not to speak to it, and that was the dumbest, stupidest thing. You don't deal with public by not speaking. You need to tell the story. We didn't do that and we felt that we could prevail but we didn't and it was a horrible blow to the community and to some really fine people. Anyway, the new Council took over, fired the City Manager, hired an interim City Manager, basically fired the police chief because the City

- Manager had to do that, and then they eventually stripped him of his certificate and totally ruined the guy.
- JR: Was the central issue then that there was support on the Council and Mayor for the police chief and there was another group that was not supportive of the police chief?
- JP: Yes.
- JR: Were there some primary issues that were happening at the time that created a controversy?
- JP: There were and I don't recall of those details. Something to do with a fund they kept over there in the police department, again it was kind of a good old boy deal, they would put the money in a coffee can literally and they bought things like blinds for the windows, no records kept and there were allegations made that he was stealing money from the city, probably technically it wasn't stealing because all the money got spent for improvements to city facilities. But it was money that should have been recorded and should have been deposited in a certain way and wasn't, that was one of the big things. There were some issues going on, not the chief, between people who were supportive of the chief and people who were not that there were activities that shouldn't have been going on. I don't remember all the details.
- JR: Was it just a group of citizens that got together that were leading the effort in terms of the recall? Were there any particular individuals who were prominent in that?
- JP: There were, there were some people in the police department who had taken one side or the other, I think Jerry Maxell was one of the guys, I don't know, it's such a horrible memory I've tried to erase most of it. That history is out there, there are people who can fill you in better than I can, probably would even like to fill you in better than I would.
- JR: Were there any other particular issues that were significant during your time on the council?
- JP: Growth was moving and we had an economic downturn in 77-78 that caused some problems as far as city budget was concerned. The whole growth thing was beginning. You saw what was going on in Tempe and Mesa, you knew the tidal wave was coming. Before I got on the council there had been a time they tried, the Presley Company, tried to get Chandler to annex what now is called Ahwatukee. The council decided they didn't want to do that, they didn't think they could service it.

Then we had projects being brought to us that were way up in the northwest part of Chandler right next to Tempe, there was a big gap between what was the core of Chandler and the development piece up on Price Road at the canal and we were having to grapple with extending services and how we did that and having developers do the water and sewer.

We were having transportation problems, we didn't have any roads basically, Alma School Road was paved a little ways maybe ½ mile south of Chandler Boulevard but it was dirt the rest of the way down south. It was a narrow

concrete road north to Mesa, Dobson was a concrete road north all the way up to Mesa, Williams Field Road was a narrow concrete road from out about 56th then turned to dirt and concrete all the way back to Williams Field. McQueen was a dirt road, Gilbert Road was paved. We just didn't have any roads and that was another issue.

JR: So you had growth occurring and people moving in and these roads that were really not built for the new traffic.

JP: Most were not paved, they were dirt roads.

JR: When did you serve as Mayor?

JP: From 1980 – 1984.

JR: Why did you want to be Mayor?

JP: After the recall I knew there was no way that I was going to serve with that council and be controlled with that philosophy and so I made the decision that I was going to run for Mayor. If I got elected that would be great. We would also try to elect some council members that had a belief and philosophy that were commensurate with mine and with some of the long range views of the community. And if I didn't get elected, that was fine. I wasn't going to serve with that philosophy.

JR: What was Chandler's population and major industries when you became Mayor?

JP: Chandler was a little less than 30,000 when I became Mayor. Major industry was Rogers at Dobson and Williams Field Road, southwest corner. Agriculture was still very big. Tourism was big and still big today. The housing market was coming. When I ran, I told the people we would improve 120 lane miles of road, that we would create more parks, we would do a land plan that was something we could build on for the future of Chandler, continue what had been started with the airport, employment and that area.

JR: Did you get to accomplish all those goals you had?

JP: Yes, we did. In fact we did a major land plan, finished that in 1983, that's basically the plan they have lived with. Even the south Chandler plan that was done, that was before Ocotillo. We accomplished that before I was out of office and we actually designed and had the improvement districts for more than 120 lane miles of roads, we had built Alma School Road, we had improved Arizona Avenue through Chandler, from Knox down into about Frye with ADOT. We had a number of other road projects.

We also had worked a new agreement with the Gila River Indians. When I first came to office we were within about 90 days of a moratorium on our sewer capacity, so we worked out a deal with the Gila Indians to expand our treatment plant down on Long Butte; and [we] had already worked out a deal with the Bogles and Dobsons and Lockheads and Shamrock Dairy and so on to donate 40 acres down there off Price Road south of Queen Creek where the new sewer treatment plant is now. [We] had already contracted to build the new sewer treatment plant, which they broke ground on about the time I left office.

JR: I'm curious about annexation. Were there any annexation issues going on during your time on Council or [as] Mayor?

JP: Yes, when I first came on the council in '76 there were big annexation wars going between Tempe and Chandler. We had three new council members that were elected here that year and three new council members that were elected in Tempe. Because the old council members were not able to get along with one another at least they had the foresight to put together a new negotiating group, three new council members from each city. We worked out the boundary between Tempe and Chandler, which I always described as a jack-o-lantern tooth out through there at least we got it done. There were efforts by Tempe to annex all the way to the Gila Indian border there were law suits, some that were threatened, some that were filed. At that time in the state's history you could strip annex, you could have places that were five feet wide and you could go for miles. Gilbert actually did that and one night they annexed 55 square miles.

JR: You talked about some of the changes that happened in Chandler as far as the transportation and stuff like that, but were there any other important changes that happened in Chandler while you were involved politically?

JP: I think the master plan of the community was a major change. Dr. Chandler had done one in the 1920's, but there was a modern day new plan looking to the future and we really knew growth was here. From 1980 – 1984 the city grew from a little less than 30,000 to 64,000 people. That was huge to deal with. We didn't have the staff, we didn't have the money, we didn't have anything. That step was huge. The other plans for water and wastewater, we established the gray water use during that time frame. We had a major joint use agreement with the schools, for parks and schools together, if they were going to site a school we wanted to site a park and we worked with them very closely to do that.

JR: What year was that?

JP: 1982-83.

JR: Was that the first time that had been established?

JP: Yes, because you had parks being built one place and a school another.

JP: We built a new swimming pool down at Arrowhead, which the only other pool we had was at the high school after they closed the JC pool out on Frye and McQueen. That was the only pool in town, so Arrowhead was the next pool, which was major. We had done a lot of research, went all over the place to research that pool and how to do it. I think we did a design build, which was new.

As Mayor, at least once a month I'd have breakfast or lunch with the Mayor of Tempe and Mayor of Mesa at the same time. We all talked together and we all worked together and supported one another. Governor Babbit was in office and we were trying to do economic development and we had the Chamber very involved; the Chamber was extremely involved in economic development, they were real leaders and very helpful in reaching out to businesses and industry.

We were able to attract Intel in 1981, which made a huge step for us. It opened up the west Chandler area and brought a number of other industries in, Gould, Norplex, etc. that followed them. It changed the whole complexion of our community as far as employment was concerned. When Hughes wanted to come

from California we all worked together to help Mesa get them into the east valley. Again, it helped all of us. We couldn't do it in Chandler but they had the airport facilities out there that they could accommodate. Those were great working relationship. We weren't worried about me or thee, we were worried about us in the southeast valley. That's when the southeast valley nomenclature came into being. With Chuck Walheim and the Tribune, he titled it the Southeast Valley.

JR: I'm curious about Intel; Intel being such a significant business in Chandler and has been since 1981. It has expanded its different manufacturing businesses housed here; how is it that Intel came to Chandler?

JP: Chandler had a very good work ethic, good education base, we had very dry air and land. We had water they needed, although it had to be treated and cleaned for what they needed it for. We had access to other major places, being able to get out of Phoenix to other locations. They wanted to come here, at that point Chandler had a policy that on the utilities, water and sewer, the more you use the less it cost, that didn't work, they were going broke in a hurry. We changed that to, if you used more it cost you more. It takes more facilities, more employees, more of all kinds of things to supply those utilities. Intel didn't have a problem with that, they needed the product. That was big. Also, other suppliers were coming with them, wanted to be close to them.

It also, with involving the Chamber, and knowing this from being on the other side [the business world], I knew that when we were taking a business to another location, we wanted to talk to the businessmen and the people in the community: how were things working in their community, how were the employees in their community, how was it working with local government in their community. You can get a lot more information from talking to other business people and other folks who live in the community than you can from talking to government. Government is going to give you one line, there's nothing wrong with that, but they are only going to give you one line. So Intel was extremely appreciative of that. Also we assigned kind of an ombudsman to Intel so they had a person, they didn't have to go through the door in the city hall to find out something. They liked that immensely.

Right after that Motorola had a desire to expand out of Mesa and Phoenix. They wanted to go down in the west Chandler but because our school district [boundary] line was at Price Road and Chandler School District, [and] was growing population-wise. We needed more tax base in Chandler for the schools. As you know they get most of their revenue and moneys off of bonds (and property taxes). We encouraged Motorola to go up on Alma School, north of Ray. We worked with the neighborhoods [around] there to put Motorola in there.

All of the industries coming to Chandler, we had one basic premise; they had to be a garden type industry. There had to be lots of landscaping, they had to shield their parking lots, if you'll notice, even [at] the original Intel plant they have done that. If you look at the Motorola on Alma School you couldn't even see their cars. There were hundreds of them. Those things happened, those people talked

to one another, in fact Motorola bought the second piece of property down on Price Road and I knew those guys very well. And I heard about it second hand after they had already bought the property. I was really kind of hurt because they hadn't come back and talked to me. I called them and said, "What's the deal, what happened?" They said, we didn't need to come back and talk to you, we knew how you were going to handle it, we knew what Chandler was going to do and we felt good about it and we just went ahead". That was the kind of thing that was going on that brought a lot of this major industry into Chandler. I think the Chamber is a real missing link, because you have a thousand or so members of the Chamber, they all have a deep seated interest in their community and I think they are a lot more value than they are being allowed to participate.

JR: How did Intel know about Chandler?

JP: The state had an economic development deal, Governor Babbit was very supportive in those kinds of things and we took trips to California and different [places] where we put on a little road show about Chandler and they began to know, but the state was putting on things. His philosophy was, look we get them interested in Arizona and then it's up to you cities to figure out where you land them. He was very helpful and instrumental in promoting Arizona.

JR: How is it that Intel selected Chandler as opposed to say going to the west side or north or whatever?

JP: The things I talked about earlier, we had the land, we had the facilities, we had the employment base, close to ASU, the education base, even then our education of the community was higher level than other places and they were looking for those kinds of things.

JR: Was there a particular group of people from Chandler that kind of advocated for Intel to come to Chandler?

JP: The chamber, myself, we had a group that was promoting and traveling and looking for opportunities.

JR: Was there competition for Intel?

JP: Yes, I don't remember where. I think Oregon certainly was, I think they already a presence in Milwaukee, Oregon at that time. I don't recall who else was in the mix at that time either.

JR: When they first came in they purchased land from the Price family?

JP: That's correct.

JR: Did they get a good deal on the land?

JP: They got a marvelous deal on the land at today's prices. I don't remember what they paid but it was probably about \$3,500 an acre for the 80 acres they bought down there.

JR: It must have been interesting to see this manufacturing plant and it still being kind of rural all around it.

JP: It was and the other thing was we had already started construction on some of the roads at that point but we had plans laid out that we were absolutely 1000 percent committed to completing. Williams Field Road was one of those so they liked that aspect as well that we were moving forward with our transportation base (infrastructure).

JR: So bringing in some of this industry must have helped to push the pace a little bit in terms of that infrastructure development.

JP: Certainly, it drove that, it drove more need for housing and a number of things that were taking place. We had also made a commitment very early on that we were not going to be a bedroom community, we were going to be a community where you could work here, live here, play here, go to school here. Basically we would hope that we would have jobs and activities for everybody that lived here. That's pretty idealistic to think that is going to happen in a metropolitan area that's going to be exact like that but Chandler has done very well. You look at the numbers of people migrating out of Chandler to work, migrating into Chandler to work, people who live here and they are pretty good.

JR: What do you think would be your top two or three major accomplishments during your time as Mayor?

JP: A major accomplishment was putting the city back together, putting the working relationship of the council back together even though you had different factions and trying to salve over some of the wounds in the community.

The master plan for the community was a major thing. Even the city center plan. Some of the buildings we're in right now were all part and parcel of that city center plan.

The transportation, it was major because some of the roads we built were also the reason for some of the other industries to come later, because we had Alma School Road completed, Price Road was completed; a numbers of those major infrastructures were in place, so they didn't have to worry about it like they do today, where they go build a project and then the road comes along, and maybe a few years later so everybody has to suffer.

The working relationship with the schools and parks joint utilization program. Also the swimming pool for community and school use. The putting together the early steps of the performing arts center was a major thing, Jerry Brooks came along and they finalized that and got it built. But we had that in the works.

Working out the expansion with the Gila River Indians and rekindling that relationship with our Native American brothers to the south was major and getting the Bogles and Dobsons to donate that 40 acres down there so we could build a sewer treatment plant. That opened up all of southwest Chandler and allowed for Ocotillo and a number of other things to happen down there. Those are some of the things, and of course the airport, we were getting money and beginning to do improvements at the airport.

JR: Coming out of a time when there was a recall and there was this huge leap in growth, what kind of traits did it take to be a leader while you were mayor?

JP: I don't think those traits are any different than any other time, I think you work like hell, make sure you are very informed of what's going on, I think you keep close tabs on what is happening and having staff give briefings to the entire Council, not to a piece of the Council, but the entire Council so the entire Council knows what is going on. Communicating with the Council is extremely important.

I don't think a week went by that I didn't talk to every single Council member. As Mayor, that is one of your major responsibilities and you are not going to agree on everything but at least you need to know. I think you also need to be very straight forward and upfront with not only your Council members, but your community. You need to tell them where you stand and what the issue is and where you think it ought to be. I think there is a time that you need to be a statesman and I think is one of the problems of politicians today, you have very few people who want to be statesmen, I think they want to wet their finger and stick it in the air and see which way the winds blowing. I think just being natural. Just because you have the moniker that calls you Mayor doesn't make you different than you were or in anything else. You are no different than any of those other folks out there, you just happen to have a position. That position I think is one that I honored greatly. The position of Mayor or the council members, it isn't the people that are in them, it's that position that is important. I think that is what the public believes and I think the Mayor and council need to conduct themselves in that manner. I think all those kind of things I tried to do and tried to encourage our council members to do. Be honest with the public, that's a major thing.

JR: How have you seen the city change since you've been here, since 1945?

JP: Obviously it has changed from an agrarian community to a metropolitan community. Growth is an understatement, we have had some really good quality people, great farmers, they were the kind of farmers that weren't just interested in selling their land, property owners who wanted to see some real quality stuff grow out of their land, and they did that with their crops. They wanted to make sure that once they really realized it was going to be an urban community that they wanted some real quality things to grow out of their land. They expressed that and I think our plan provided for that and I think the city government and staffs over the years have pretty much stayed with that plan and because of it, Chandler is a fantastic community and is fulfilling all those things set out in the basic plan. Being able to live here, work here, play here and have a very nice feel of community. We knew that it was not going to be a small town but we knew that if we created these crossroads and areas where people could come together that they would identify with one another, may not know each others name, but would identify with another that they belong here. I think it happened and is happening.

JR: What do you feel has made Chandler the city that it is today?

JP: I think I just answered that.

JR: Is there anything specifically that stands out in your mind, a major characteristic of Chandler that has made it into this kind of place you are talking about?

JP: I think the characteristic is certainly Dr. Chandler. That's one of the other things people don't know enough of the history of where they are. That is sometimes one of the things that is troubling to me to see that leaders and so on in the community, I'm not just talking about political leaders, don't know enough of the history of the community.

I think what Dr. Chandler set out to do here in the early 1900's and with his plan, what he had built here and planned for, also the very uniqueness of Chandler with its downtown plaza park, no one else has that in the valley. If they had it, they tore it up. Most of them didn't have one as large as we do in the A. J. Chandler Park. I think that's another major element that you have, that old history and that area of coming together, and I know we're working like crazy on redevelopment in the downtown area, refurbished and redeveloped. I'm sure we are going to accomplish that. That major characteristic, one always needs to know from where they came in order to make really good decisions on where you are going. You have to blend that with the changes that are going on. I think that's a major characteristic of Chandler and its basics.

Someone asked me just last night, we used to have the four C's in Arizona, and Chandler had the five C's. I think Chandler has developed where it is still a low density area and we have the opportunity to maintain that lower density. We have more open space, some yards, activity centers, and there will be less and less places in the future where people can get outside and enjoy themselves. Chandler is doing a good job at that and we need to continue that and in the development of our downtown, across the county communities have recognized that they have not left enough open space. We have an opportunity to leave that open space. Dr. Chandler did that with the A. J. Chandler Park. Again, that's history but it's also now and the future. We need to have more people that are involved to really study and understand the history.

JR: If you are to look ahead to 2012, our city's centennial year, what do you think Chandler will be like?

JP: Barring any major economic downturn, Chandler certainly residentially will be built out by then with the land we have within our borders. I think you'll see a very good start on our downtown redevelopment. We will be in a stage of maturity of our life and our community. We've been going through the adolescence and growth ages, moving into where we are now. We'll be reaching that stage of maturity and working through those issues that communities have to deal with as they are in the mature stage of the community.

JR: Do you think there will be anything new here?

JP: I hope so. I hope we continue to reach out and think about the future and think about the potential. I see things that we should be looking for today. I see Chandler being a major location for an aquarium type project. We don't have one in the valley. It's a great thing for the community, to draw people to a community. I don't know whether we'll get it back again, but some kind of a major sport complex, hopefully we could, maybe where we could get spring training baseball and those kinds of things. Soccer is certainly a very growing athletic endeavor and Chandler could be involved in something like that. There are areas of industry in the medical world that certainly could be in Chandler.

Again, it's very interesting to go back and read Dr. Chandler's narrative of when he was selling land here in 1912 - 1918, if you read today, it's amazing people are talking about these disaster relief things coming here because they don't have the floods.

They are coming here because they don't have the hurricanes, tornados, all the snow and inclement weather and so on, he had all that. If you read what he had in his narrative, that he was sending out to others about why Chandler was a great, wonderful place to live and work, it's right there. It's not new. Someone did it back in the early part of the 19th century.

JR: What do you think will be gone in 2012?

JP: All the open land. All the farm land will be gone

JR: Do you think we'll have any cows left?

JP: There might be a dairy or two left in the community but I doubt it, they are moving fast. We've only got about ½ dozen dairies left in our borders and I know there's one or two of those planning to leave very shortly.

JR: How should Chandler's history be preserved?

JP: Obviously, we are taking the step. With your position, public historian, we need a larger department and more employees in that particular area that is definitely focusing reaching out, acquiring some of that history that's still out there. I think that working with the Chandler's Historical Society and the Museum, these oral histories are invaluable. The few pieces of old history we have we just don't have enough resources in money or people, manpower, to really get those together.

I am in difference with what the City is doing with the parks currently. I think you need to name parks after history (people). I don't think just calling them some weird name or logical name, states history. I think people like to know history of where they are, that's the way you develop roots and a relationship, it's with history and a feeling of belonging is with history. I think we are missing a huge possibility there. The school [district] does it with their schools, we did do it with our parks [naming after people], but we're not doing it with our parks now. I think there are certain uses of certain historic things, but basically it is the people who build the community, it's not some tumbleweed or something that builds the community. I think you need to remember those folks because they are what made the community what it is and what it will be.

Certainly the new museum planned for and planned expansion will allow us to have more exhibits and more exposure and we have to do a huge job of outreach into the communities, the schools and other service organizations so we take the history out to folks, not require them to come into one central location. I guess that's what I would see how we need to preserve Chandler's history and build Chandler's history.

JR: Do you think preserving buildings is important?

JP: Certainly. I think there are certain buildings, not just because they are old, I don't think history is just old, I think it has to have some uniqueness or specificity of what it is or what it was or whatever. We are still building history as we go today and there are buildings that were built maybe 15 or 20 years ago that will be history and should be preserved as history as we go forward into those years as they acquire that designation. That's a step we need to take, we're taking baby steps but we really need to take a leap.

JR: Is there anything else you would like to say about being a former Mayor or about Chandler?

JP: It's been a fantastic place to grow up. It's been a great place to live and great place to raise a family. I think it will continue to be that, if we just think about what our job is and what we can do versus personal differences, political BS and manipulating, we'll be fine.