

Order

Client	Suzanne Bonefas
Ref#	Elvis's Audubon Neighbors
Order#	TC0210421526

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Speaker 1: First, hello, and Lance I want to thank you so much for being here. If you could just

please state your name for the camera.

Lance: My name is Lance Minor.

Speaker 1: Okay, and what was your address here on Audubon?

Lance: 1145 Audubon Drive.

Speaker 1: Are there any particular memories that you have or feelings that are evoked from

walking in to this house?

Well, number one, this is the first time I've ever been in this house. Lance:

Speaker 1: Okay. Okay.

[00:02:00]

Lance: The closest I've ever been is driving or walking past it, going past it on all sports of

> vehicles when I was riding bicycles and go-carts and things, because I lived at the other end of the street on the other side of the street. Made you eight doors down, but the memories I have, and I was very young when he was here, I was born in 1949. Our

[00:01:00] family moved here when I was, I think, five or six years old. Maybe five years old. I was

here from maybe 1954. When he lived here I'm guessing I was six, seven, eight, maybe years old, something like that. I don't have very much personal recollection, but the one

recollection ... Two incidences.

One is, personally, we played ... A lot of boys may age and around my age that were on the street, and we had our football, and baseball, and basketball games at the lower end of the street, a few doors down. At the upper end of the street, they were about three doors from Elvis's house, just towards Park Avenue and the [Doggerel's 00:01:42] front yard, which was a nice, flat yard with no trees. I guess a lot of the houses didn't have many trees then, it was harder. I fathom that now, but we'd have some football games there. I remember one day when I was very young, a group of us were playing football with some of the older guys and I remember Elvis walking up, because it was the first

and only time I think I ever saw him on the street myself.

He walked up and he had a football. He had a white football, white kind of a plastic football with black stripes on it. The kind you would get at a dime store that were ... Most of us thought the really good footballs were the brown, leather ones that we all wanted, but he had this white football with black stripes on it. He came out and I don't remember how he was dressed, but he wanted to come and just hang out, throw the football, or whatever. We thought that was kind of neat that he would be interested in coming out with a group of little kids like us. Anyway, I don't recall whether we played football or whether he joined our game or whether we just had him throw the football

with us or whatever, but that's my only recollection.

[00:03:00] My dad was in the insurance business and he and one of his insurance partners called

LanceMinot Page 2 of 5 on Elvis one day. My mother and dad had told me this story, and the way his story goes, as best my wife and I can recall, is that my dad made an appointment ... My dad and his partner made an appointment to come by and see him. Back then, insurance agents would call on people and come to their homes and talk to them and explain to them what the products were and if they wanted to buy any. My dad made an appointment, came here and came at the appointed time to the house, and my recollection of what he said is that he came in and was pretty quickly let into the home and brought into the room where there was a pool table. Some of Elvis's friends or cronies or somebody was shooting pool in the back. I'm guessing in one of the larger rooms in the back.

[00:04:00]

My dad was asked to have a seat and that Elvis doesn't get up this early in the day. I'm guessing they came at nine or ten o'clock, and then he was informed that Elvis would probably not be waking up until after noon, and so you've got a little bit of a wait but you're welcome to wait, and so they waited. My dad had this recollection and told this great story about how there was this monkey, a pet monkey, that someone had in the house that was just climbing around, jumping around, and crawling up in people's laps. I don't know whether it was Elvis's monkey or some friend's monkey, but my dad thought that was rather unusual. My dad being sort of a button down, bow tie sort of guy. This day, that was his recollection. He thought that was funny.

Speaker 1:

That's funny. We've heard a lot about the amount of traffic on the street called Audubon in 1956 when he was really becoming famous, does your family remember about any of that?

Lance: [00:05:00]

I vaguely remember there being cars. I remember probably more my parents telling me that, wow, the traffic is just unbelievable, because that was most unusual back in those days. My recollection is that they said that there was actually a security guard that somebody brought in at the street where Park Avenue, where the street comes into Park Avenue to keep some order to the cars that were coming on the street back then. I think all this was after the famous Ed Sullivan episode where he was on national television and that was a big deal.

Speaker 1:

Right.

Lance:

As I recall, I vaguely remember watching that episode. I think we watched everybody that was on Ed Sullivan back in those days. My recollection was that about the time he was on Ed Sullivan there was this huge pick up in traffic coming by the house thereafter.

Speaker 1:

Right.

Lance:

Then I'm not sure how long thereafter he moved away, but he moved to Graceland. I think, as I recall, there were lots and lots of people who continued to drive by even after he'd left to move to Graceland. They wanted, obviously, to see his old house. I remember the musical notes on the fence in the front, the wrought iron fence. I didn't know that the wrought iron fence had been built after he moved in, but it was a picture out there that showed the house with him in it without a fence. I guess it was built while

he was here. We all thought it was kind of neat that there were musical notes in the

[00:06:00]

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fence. I'm told that people would come and take those musical notes ... Anyway. I do remember that.

Speaker 1: That's great. Well thank you so much. Are there any other stories that you'd like to

share?

Lance: No, other than the fact that this was just a very normal neighborhood. A lot of boys,

about my age, two and three years younger, two and three years older. A lot of those were in car pools together, so we went up and down the street by here, and it was always known as Elvis's old house. It was fond memories, but I, like I said, I've never been in it before. The rumor was, when I was ... We were real young. We used to play in

[00:07:00] these what were woods behind the house here, that were known as the Butler's Woods,

because the Butler family lived there. We built tree houses and played in the woods every day. The rumor was that he had a ... That Elvis had a pool that was the shape of a guitar. I remember one time we tried to climb the fence back there. Maybe we were too young or too small or something, and there was real thick growth back there or

something, but somehow or another we couldn't climb the fence to see over the fence if in fact that was true. I never really knew if that was true or not. I'm told that maybe

there never was a guitar shaped pool, but maybe.

Speaker 1: I've heard that rumor too.

Lance: Those were my only recollections.

Speaker 1: Well thank you so much.

Lance: Sure. It was a great neighborhood. Real wonderful place to grow up. Like I said, we had a

lot of young boys and girls about my age that we're still good friends with.

Speaker 1: That's great.

Lance: Anyway, it was a great neighborhood.

Speaker 1: Thank you for talking with us.

Lance: Sure.

[00:80:00]

Speaker 1: Thank you for having this, and I appreciate your doing it.

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