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Client	Suzanne Bonefas
Ref #	Elvis's Audubon Neighbors
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Speaker 1: We'd like to thank you, first of all, for being here. Just to start the interview, could you please state your name for the camera?

Larry: I'm Larry Busby.

Suzanne: I'm Suzanne Busby.

Speaker 1: What was your address on Audubon?

Larry: Our address was 1019 Audubon Drive.

Speaker 1: Are there any particular memories that this house evokes for you?

Larry: There are quite a few actually. Yes, there are. I was eight or nine years old when Elvis and Gladys and Vernon moved into this house. We were one house across the street and up so we were pretty close, in pretty close proximity to the Presley house. I have a younger brother and a younger sister and they don't remember too much about the activities going on and around the house, but I remember pretty vividly a lot of things that happened here for the short period of time that the Presleys lived here.

[00:01:00]

Suzanne: I grew up in Memphis. I'm from Memphis. I was about twelve or thirteen about the same time that Elvis became famous. My connection with Elvis was that my second cousin was his employer prior to him becoming famous at Crown Electric. They owned Crown Electric, Gladys and Tip Tipler.

Speaker 2: Could you tell us maybe a few of your stories that you have about Elvis?

[00:02:00]

Larry: Well, I'll tell you. Back in the late 50s, it was pretty much free reign with kids. It's obviously totally different today. We would leave the house and after school and in the summer, you'd get on your bike and you could pretty much go anywhere. You'd hook up with your friends. We were always kind of fascinated by Elvis. We didn't really understand the enormity of his popularity when you're seven, eight or nine years old. We figured it out pretty quickly when we saw how many cars were up and down the street and how many people were gathered in front of his house waiting on the autograph sessions and so on and so forth.

[00:03:00] After a few months when you couldn't really get up and down Audubon Drive because of the traffic problems, I was out on the sidewalk one afternoon. I think it was on a Saturday or Sunday. All these people were just bumper to bumper up and down Audubon Drive. They said, "What are we going to do? Where can we park?" I said, "Well, why don't you pull up in my driveway?" He said, "Well, how much is it?" I said, "I don't know. A dollar." He pulled up in the driveway and the guy behind him said, "Well, can we park there, too?" Well, before you know it, I've got eight or nine people parked up in my driveway and the front yard of my house and I'm collecting dollars and they're getting out of their car, walking across the street. This went on for a couple of days until

my dad came home one afternoon and he couldn't get in his own driveway. He said, "Larry, we're not going to be able to do this anymore. We have to get in our own driveway." I did make a couple of quick cash deals.

Speaker 1: The nine-year-old entrepreneur.

[00:04:00]

Larry: Exactly. We'd ride our bikes up and down the street and we'd always see Elvis coming and going. He had a number of girlfriends. There was always something interesting going on. He was either getting on his motorcycle, riding up and down the street with Anita Wood. I remember one day there was a helicopter that landed in the vacant field next to this house. It was a vacant lot for years and years before they built the house that's presently there. A helicopter comes down. Well, a helicopter in the neighborhood landing in a vacant lot next to Elvis' house? Here comes Elvis and one of his girlfriends. They get in the helicopter and take off. He was always into cars, motorcycles, anything with wheels, go carts, anything. He was always looking for some kind of ... I think he probably would have made a great race car driver. He was fascinated by speed.

[00:05:00]

Then one other time that I vividly remember was one of the neighbors ... We were out riding our bikes. It was hot. It was summer. Gladys was out, his mom was out in the front yard and I don't know what she was doing. I don't know if she was getting the mail or what she was doing. We just stopped on our bikes and she said, "You guys are hot, aren't you?" I said, "It's really hot." She said, "Well, do you want to go swim?" I said, "Yeah." We'd heard about the pool but we never saw it. "Well, yeah, we'd love to." "Okay, you come back and go swimming." She said, "Are you hungry?" I said, "Yeah. We're hungry." You know, kids are always hungry. Of course, Elvis always had peanut butter around and I love peanut butter. She made us a peanut butter and jelly sandwich and we sat out of this room right here and had a peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

[00:06:00]

She would not let us go in the pool for fifteen minutes because if you do, you'll get cramps. Remember that? You all don't remember that. You're young but the old wives' tale was if you went swimming right after you ate, it would cause cramps. Well, it doesn't but that's what they thought then. We sat down on the porch and talked to her. She was in and out. Then after about fifteen minutes, she said, "Y'all can go swim." We felt a little uncomfortable. We went swimming for maybe ten or fifteen minutes and then got out and got on our bikes and took off.

Speaker 1: That's great. Awesome.

Larry: Those are the things that I remember vividly. I remember people all the time coming around. I spent a lot of time in this house after Elvis moved because I became friends with the people that bought this house, the Moores and the Stewarts and the people that had children my age. Then I was in and out of the house all the time. Actually, when

[00:07:00] Elvis lived here, that was the only time that I ever remember being in the house.

Speaker 2: Were you able to say, "I met Elvis' mom" when those people moved in? Were you-

Larry: Yeah, I probably said that. It didn't make that much of an impression on me. I'm more impressed by it now than I was when I was nine.

Speaker 1: Do you remember you and your family loving Elvis' music at that time?

Larry: My dad was a huge Elvis fan. He loved Elvis up to the time ... In fact, when he died at St. Francis Hospital, we took a tape of Hound Dog when he was semi-conscious in his bed. He was eighty-four years old. He was within a few hours of passing away. We played Hound Dog on a tape and he actually got a smile on his face. He loved Elvis Presley.

[00:08:00]

I remember one other story and I wasn't there but it was told to me by my dad. A bunch of the neighbors had gotten really concerned about the traffic problems. They just ... Obviously, if you've got all these people on the street, what are you going to do? A few of the neighbors were gathered on a Sunday afternoon out in front of Chris Meyers' house, which is right directly across the street and Elvis walked over and introduced himself. He said, "Gentlemen, I am so sorry about all this traffic and all this turmoil that it has caused in the neighborhood." He said, "I never thought that this would happen." This was the pinnacle. They bought their first house after living in so many different places and he just thought it would be a normal house and a normal life. Well, obviously, he was really wrong about that. He said, "I want to tell y'all something. I'm sorry about everything, but I want you to know that I'm going to be moving. I've bought a little place out in the country." He had bought Graceland. He said, "I'm going to only be here for another few months." Sure enough, the moving vans moved up one morning and he was gone.

[00:09:00]

Speaker 1: Interesting. Well, thank you. We really appreciate you guys.

Larry: Thank y'all. I'm glad to be here.

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