



Order

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

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Speaker 1: First of all, thank you for being here. Could you please state your name for the camera?

Suzanne: Suzanne Busby.

Speaker 1: We know that you have a special connection to Elvis Presley, so would you mind sharing that connection and the story attached to it?

Suzanne: I will. Elvis, before he became famous, worked as a truck driver for Crown Electric. Crown Electric was owned by Gladys and Tip Tipler who was my second last, Tipler was my second cousin. At that time and in that era, everybody went downtown to shop because there was no shopping anywhere else, and every time we left downtown, my mother and I, we would always stop by Gladys and Tip's, who were on [Pauper 00:00:51] Avenue catty-cornered across from the old Pop Tunes, which was right around [00:01:00] Lauderdale, that area, and they were on the south side of the street and we would stop by and visit with them.

[00:02:00] We went in, and about that time a young man came through with dirty jeans and a dirty t-shirt with his t-shirt rolled up on the side and Gladys, who was always effervescent said, "Oh, you need to meet the new star. He's just cut his first record. This is Elvis Presley." With that, he was a very shy, at that point in time. I'm sure he still was, but he was still very, very shy and he ducked his head and said, "Yes ma'am," and my mother met him and I met him. I was probably twelve or thirteen at the time. He collected whatever it was that he was collecting and went on out and Gladys said, "Well what did you think? What did you think?" and my mother, in a very typical fifties said, "Well if he'd cut his hair and he took a bath he'd be okay."

[00:03:00] Gladys and Tip remained friends with Elvis when he did his first concert in Memphis, which was at the old Westwood Park, she was giving tickets and we went and we were on like the first or second row and Gladys and Elvis remained friends all through his life. On her birthday, he would always send for her and send tickets when he was playing in Las Vegas and he would fly she and Tip out and they would enjoy his show and he would recognize her as it being her birthday. When Elvis died, Tip had died previously, but Gladys was invited to the funeral and Gladys would not go to his funeral because she said she always wanted to remember him just as he was, but that was how I knew Elvis probably as a twelve year old. He always was somebody who worked for my cousin versus Elvis Presley.

Speaker 1: Your husband actually was lived on Audubon, did you all make that connection early on that he ... ? Oh, you didn't?

Suzanne: No. No, only really when Rhodes started bringing up the Elvis and Audubon [Broad 00:03:38] connection did we even talk about it. It was just not something that we had ever really talked about.

Speaker 3: Wow, it's interesting.

Speaker 1: Well thank you. I'm glad you got to hear that, because earlier we had actually heard, you
[00:04:00] know, "She has a connection," and you mentioned it but I didn't ... I'm sorry about that.

Suzanne: That's okay. [Crosstalk 00:04:03] ... That's okay ...

Speaker 1: [Crosstalk 00:04:04] ...

Suzanne: I think that that's one of the things that the generation, my generation and Larry's generation, so many people have connections back to Elvis from either when he was just starting to be famous or before he was famous, because Memphis at that time was much, much smaller and a lot of people knew everybody, but that's the connection that we had.

Speaker 3: Those are great stories.

Suzanne: Thank you.

Speaker 3: [I'd like them again 00:04:38].

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