

Trip Farnsworth: Okay, what do you want me to say on this thing? My name and stuff like that?

Interviewer: Yeah, what's your name, where did you grow up.

Trip Farnsworth: Okay, you ready?

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Trip Farnsworth: Okay, my name is Trip Farnsworth, and I grew up on Audubon Drive at 1142 which is on the same side of the street as this house, and I guess it's south of here. At the time, in 19, I think it was, when did Elvis, '56, '57?

Interviewer: '56 to '57.

Trip Farnsworth: '56 to 57. When Elvis lived here, I was about five or six years old, and my sister, **Marianne**, who is two years younger than I, was – that would make her three, four years old. And I don't really remember being a very young person at that point in time.

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Much about Elvis living on Audubon at all, but I do remember a couple of things, and so I actually have met Elvis Presley personally because his – I think – and I'm not sure how this was set up, but at some point, I think his mother or he called up the families in the neighborhood and invited those with children, if they wanted to come meet Elvis.

And so, anyway, at my family said, "Well, I'm sure my children would like to come up and meet Elvis." The thing about it was, back in the '50s, it was kind of Leave It to Beaver age.

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And the rules in my house were, by X time – and it was pretty early, like 5:30, we had to be bathed and in our pajamas and ready to eat dinner at 6:00 and go to bed. We're five years old, so I think we were invited to meet Elvis in the late afternoon, so I think it was after bath time.

Anyway, all I remember was we had this housekeeper who kind of helped get us bathed and dressed and ready for supper or whatever, who also took care – helped take care of my sister, and so she and I, on my tricycle, and my sister in her nightgown and robe and

whatnot, I rode my tricycle from 1142 Audubon Drive with my sister walking behind up the street.

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And there's – you know, if you're five, there's a pretty good hill from that portion of the street up to this address, and sat in the front room. And the only thing I remember about actually meeting Elvis, you come in that front door and – it seems to me the room was configured a little bit differently but maybe longer, but that may be sort of the quirks of childhood memory when distance is greater.

But sitting beside Elvis and kind of have him bounce me and my sister on his knee, alternatively, and getting his signature in my bedtime storybook which I, unfortunately, have totally lost years ago.

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But anyway, so he seemed like a nice guy, and his folks were very nice and they were, I thought, very charming to reach out to all the people in the neighborhood and want to say, "Well, if you'd like to come meet this guy." I mean, you know, I'm sure I didn't even know who he was or why I was being taken to meet this fellow.

But, anyway, I do remember several sort of somehow, in that same time period, there was – it would seem that Elvis was at a point where his popularity was really beginning to take off, and consequently, when he moved to Audubon Drive, people would, after school or during the weekends, particularly when they were not in school, come over.

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Park in the neighborhood, cars were jamming the streets at all times and it was a real problem, and so frankly, I think the neighbors, who had been living in this quiet little neighborhood all this time, full of kids and trying to raise – a lot of young children ran around back in the '50s.

Parents turned their kids out in the afternoon after school and let them basically take care of themselves, so you had a lot of kids crossing the street and potential for some real accidents. So the families who lived here didn't particularly think that, through no

fault of his own, this problem was being created for the neighborhood, and it was a big issue about what to do with it.

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Anyway, so I remember that, but I mean my direct memories of Elvis are just that sole one. I will tell you the other thing I remember, besides the crowds and the problem it created, was Elvis – I don't know one time, sort of the movie, if you've ever seen it, with Marlon Brando called *The Wild Ones* came out, but it was about a motorcycle thing.

Elvis' friends were interested in riding motorcycles, and so not big motorcycles like you would think of today but, as I recall, they were things like motor scooters, Vespas, stuff like that, and I mean he was a pretty young guy when he lived here on Audubon Drive.

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And so, although he could afford to buy the house and he was making money recording and so on, I don't think he could buy all his friends big Harleys or similar like that, so I just recall that his friends had like these little scooters that they buzzed up and down the street with. I mean it was a pretty incongruous picture of, you know, this wild, giant, international star, and you'd think the last thing he'd want to be caught dead riding.

And later, he had lots of cars, and he did have big motorcycles and power tricycles and that sort of thing, but this was 1956, 1957, and they were riding these little scooters.

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And so what you have to imagine is six or eight guys buzzing out of Elvis' house on these little Vespas going down the street in kind of a herd. I mean it was – to think of it today, the sort of iconic image of or picture of Elvis Presley versus what the reality of it was is kind of funny.

But nevertheless, sometimes, they would be driving these scooters up and down the street, and it was kind of a nuisance really. If you can imagine somebody buzzing up and down the street trying to go as fast as they could all the time or borrowing Elvis' scooter, going down to the end of the street and coming back, and this was in front of my house.

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So, anyway, they were using these scooters one day, some of Elvis' buddies, and one of them basically came down the hill, driving fast, ran into the curb, launched himself over the handlebars and wound up in a heap, kind of scraped, skidded across the driveway. I mean it's not funny, but he was speeding and out of control and paid the price as anybody who has ever dropped any kind of bike has paid.

But I remember that I think my father was out cutting the grass and something like that, and just to give you a picture of what 1956 was like, I think, back then, he smoked a pipe, but I –

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What I remember is that my father was smoking his pipe while he was cutting the grass which just sounds so Leave It to Beaver, taking his pipe out of his mouth and admonishing this fellow, "You guys need to stop this because we've got a lot of kids in the neighborhood. They're running around all the time. You're going too fast. This is not a speedway." Just really giving the guy a lot of grief for creating a nuisance and hurting himself.

Interestingly, obviously, the guy later – then the message got through to Elvis, and they quit doing that in the neighborhood. And I thought my father was just like the coolest guy in the world. He had gotten this hoodlum on a Vespa to quit doing this.

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I thought that was pretty cool. Anyway, so I guess the point of that, really, is that Elvis as very young when he lived here, and he was just getting into the same sort of trouble that all 17, 18, 19, 20 year old guys get into but just with less expensive equipment.

That's about it. So got any questions? Want to know anything else?

Interviewer: Great.

Trip Farnsworth: Okay, thanks.

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