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Barbara Steiner, 2013

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Interviewer 1: It just started.

Interviewer 2: Okay. First of all, I'd like to thank you for being here. Just to start things off, could you please state your name for the camera?

Barb: My name is Barb Metz Steiner, and I lived right next door to Elvis. I was just saying my bedroom window looked right out on his driveway, so when he moved in we didn't know who he was. He had not been on television at all. My dad was getting teased all the time, and people would send us blue suede shoes, record 45's. You know, we had no idea what to expect. Then he was on the Ed Sullivan show, and they would only show him from the waist up. The audience was screaming and going crazy, and we were going, "God, what's moving in next door? I have no idea." Then he moved in with his mom, and his dad, and his grandmother. He was just the cutest thing. He was adorable, and the biggest flirt you've ever seen. He loved women, and he just liked to have a good time and just play. I mean it didn't matter whether you were young and beautiful, if you were old and just needed attention; he just seemed to know that, and he just had fun with women.

[00:01:00]

He moved in, and we found out quickly what all the [hoopla 00:01:15] was about. I remember there were lots of kids on the block when he moved in, and we used to play outside all the time. He started getting a following, and in nine months time, there was a fence around the outside. We had to get the police to let us cross the street so that we could play with the neighbors on the other side of the street. There were that many people who were always standing at the gates and waiting to talk to him or hoping to see him.

Interviewer 2: You were his exact next door neighbor?

Barb: Yeah.

Interviewer 2: What was your address?

Barb: 1024. We were 1024 Audubon Drive.

Interviewer 2: Okay. You shared a few stories, but are there any other memories or stories that you'd like to share.

[00:02:00]

Barb: Yeah. I think the biggest thing about him was that he was just a great kid. He was a kid at heart, and when he could, he loved to come out and play with the neighborhood kids. He would play football with them, and one of his early cars was a Messerschmitt, which is a 3-wheel German vehicle. He would take us for rides all around the neighborhood. We'd take turns, and ... When Teddy Bear came out, you know the music, Let Me Be Your Teddy Bear? Well everybody sent him teddy bears. His dad had an old black pickup truck. Not pickup, but you know, big like the white vans. He would go every day and get the mail, and it would be sack loads and sack loads, because it was too much for the post office

to deliver. Well he had sack loads of teddy bears, so he started giving them to all the kids in the neighborhood. Then he started taking them to Le Bonheur and to the children's hospitals and handing them out. He was just always generous.

[00:03:00] It was also entertaining, because at that point he was single. One day, weekend, Natalie Wood came to stay here. She was just this tiny thing, and he loved motorcycles; he had several motorcycles. She would get on the back of that motorcycle, and she looked like a little spider. She was that tiny. She was just holding on to him. That was one. Nick Adams, I think was one of the [crosstalk 00:03:25]

Interviewer 1: Nick Adams. Anne Margaret.

Barb: Anne Margaret. That's right. That's right, she was here too. Then one time ... This is when his mom was still here, and Christine Todd was saying that his mom had the vegetable garden in the back. It was you know, the country garden, with the corn, and the beans, and the, you know, on down. Somebody sent him two burrows, and they were out there [inaudible 00:03:47]. They looked crazy.

Interviewer 1: That's funny.

Barb: [00:04:00] The other thing I remember was that his crew would had the days of course, because he was so popular, his days and nights were turned around. They would either rent movie theaters and go out at night, but sometimes they would go out back with the swimming pool, and they would get all these light bulbs and throw the light bulbs up and shoot them out. Like clay pigeons, you know, over the swimming pool. There's nobody back behind there, behind the pool area. They would do that. Those are just some of the stories.

Interviewer 2: Okay, well good. Thank you.

Barb: Thank you!

Interviewer 1: Thank you very much. That was fun.

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