

Terry

SPEAKERS

Kelli Lycke, Terry Humble, Terry's wife

Kelli Lycke

That dog's funny, huh?

Terry's wife

Yeah, we don't have no more dogs.

Kelli Lycke

You had dogs before?

Terry's wife

Oh yeah.

Kelli Lycke

What Kind of dogs did you have? what

Kelli Lycke

What kind of dogs

Terry's wife

I don't know. We have one we like a lot is We gave it for the kids

Terry's wife

because I have two my twin daughters.

Terry's wife

They artistas.

Kelli Lycke

Oh,

Terry's wife

and we sell a lot of enchiladas and things you know to have five hundred dollars I think is what they charge it for something I don't know,

Kelli Lycke

I'll have fun.

Terry's wife

We have a lot of enchiladas to sell

Terry's wife

the basement. stuff stuck over there down the basement now.

Terry Humble

that we're captured and only half of them came back. So that's a tremendous amount of people that were lost in baton. So

Kelli Lycke

yeah. And especially. So they were all in sort of the same unit. Yeah. A couple a couple of units

Terry Humble

with the National Guard. But yeah, that'll be a good deal Saturday.

Kelli Lycke

Yeah, I'm looking forward to it and

Terry Humble

looks like it starts about 11 o'clock with a parade. And it sounds like some

Kelli Lycke

people are coming in Sookie said that her uncle and her cousins are coming in from out of town in Albuquerque and I heard they're the there's going to be one of the oldest veterans, it's going to be coming in from California.

Terry Humble

Yeah, what are the veterans? Yeah.

Kelli Lycke

So great. Well, you're gonna recognize these questions because you helped me to develop them a couple of months ago. Okay. But if you would, for me, the first thing I need you to do is a complete sentence. My name is

Terry Humble

Yes, my name is Terrence humble. And I was born in Santa Rita New Mexico.

Kelli Lycke

Can you tell me your connection to Santa Rita?

Terry Humble

Well, as I mentioned, I was born there and raised there until I was 18 when I went into the service and when I came back and started working at the Santa Rita open pit, and I've been connected with Santa Rita ever since and interested in its history.

Kelli Lycke

What part of Santa Rita are you from?

Terry Humble

I was born right there in the hospital on the island and I grew up on Iron Hill.

Kelli Lycke

Tell me about Iron Hill.

Terry Humble

Well, all of the places in Santa Rita had designations; there was absolutely no street names. Not a single one in Santa Rita, but each area was had a designation such as the ballpark. Booth Hill, Iron Hill, San Rita Hill, in note, and then over into the East San Rita. If they were called Real quaint names like El Espinazo del Diablo, el barrio de la Iglesia, el barrio, the canyon, and all but all of the areas had I lived on Iron Hill, and it had got that name because there was so much of an iron deposit around. I can remember if we wanted to throw a rock at somebody, all we had to do is pick up a rock and it was heavy and made out of iron. Actually was, you know,

Kelli Lycke

the rocks were made out of iron?

Terry Humble

Yes, they were. They were that's why it was called Iron Hill.

Kelli Lycke

That's wild. So how do you remember the town? Or what do you remember about the town?

Terry Humble

Lots and lots of things. You got to remember I spent my first 18 years there so I can remember all of the houses and the people. The bowling alley and the pool hall in the company store. The shoe shops. It was a completely self contained town had everything that you needed to to live in Santa Rita, so it would take a lot a long time to tell you what I remember

Kelli Lycke

everything. Yes. How about this? What did people do to get together?

Terry Humble

Well, in those days, I don't remember any functions where the whole town, turned out for it. But individually, it was quite common for people to sit out on the porch and the neighbors drop by and talk about things. That was, you know, much more prevalent than it is today.

Kelli Lycke

I notice everybody here still has porches. Yep.

Terry Humble

Still saying this. Yeah, we still do. This is a Santa Rita to house.

Kelli Lycke

It's a beautiful house. Yeah. Thank you. Do you know what part of Santa Rita this house came from?

Terry Humble

Yes, I do. It was down in East Santa Rita. A lot of times called Mexican town. Because the Hispanics lived in East Santa Rita. It was the last house built in Santa Rita. There was a big explosion in 1954 that killed five men. One of the widows used her insurance money to build this house. The company would allow people to build a house on company property and pay 50 cents a month ground rent. And Mrs. Pedraza had this house built. And she later remarried. And her and her husband moved the house here. And so we bought it. Beautiful.

Kelli Lycke

When did you buy it?

Terry Humble

We bought it in 1969. So we've had it for 50 some odd years

Terry's wife

Of when. I haven't met a girl six kids. And we ate what my lots of girls.

Terry Humble

Our youngest daughter was just a few days before we bought this.

Kelli Lycke

Oh cool. So she had a new home to come to. Yeah.

Terry Humble

Excellent. Yeah. Is France Francis's house may be a sentry. I'm not sure.

Kelli Lycke

I'm not sure either. i She hasn't told me

Terry Humble

I know some of them are right there next to her from Santa Rita. There's a lot of Santa Rita houses here and buried probably 50 or 60.

Kelli Lycke

And Santa Clara also has a lot of sentry.

Terry Humble

Every town has a bunch. I think Bayard has the most we've got maybe more than 60 and then Santa Clara has quite a number. Hurley has 30 or 40 Silver City probably has 50

Kelli Lycke

Oh, wow.

Terry Humble

But they're scattered. All right. So I think we've got Santa Rita houses from as far south as Columbus on the Mexican border all the way up almost to Socorro and then over in Hatch and Array on

Kelli Lycke

the on the when you see a Santa Rita house. Do you know it?

Terry Humble

Some cases? Yes. You can't. You can't help but no it many times they have been changed so much. That you wouldn't have any idea. But oh, yeah. Many, many of them. You can drive right by and say wow, that's a Santa Rita to house.

Kelli Lycke

For you what's special about having the salary to house?

Terry Humble

Well, just the connection. I mean, my goodness, if the walls could talk. Yeah.

Kelli Lycke

Cool. how would you describe your connection to the other people from Santa Rita?

Terry Humble

Well, everybody seems like they're very well connected. There was always a lot of prejudice but the Anglos in the in the in the Chicanos both got together with the ones that are from Santa Rita, just get along extra well. And since the Born and space group started back in the 1970s, why we've had a lot of reunions to where the people have gotten together. And so we've just got a close connection. If you see somebody that you know, from Santa Rita, or, you know, you immediately start talking or waving waving at somebody. It's very close. And

Kelli Lycke

you think that those reunions have helped maintain that closeness. Feel that closeness?

Terry Humble

Definitely, the reunions have helped. We haven't had any in a couple of years because of the COVID.

Kelli Lycke

Do you think there will be more soon?

Terry Humble

Oh, I'm sure. I'm sure there will. Yeah. Cool. Yeah. It's hard not to, it's hard to keep the people apart.

Kelli Lycke

And how old were you when the town was evacuated? Or they they told me, they started,

Terry Humble

they started moving some of the houses out into another place when I was about 10 or 11 years old. But the big Exodus didn't begin until probably 1960. And I was already I had already left and joined the service. So when I came back from the service, that was when I realized, you know, you just took Santa Rita for granted. And here the town was, was slowly disappearing. I brought my wife to Santa Rita. And she just was appalled. Because there might be a house here and then there would be you could tell the foundations for five and then in other house, it was just terrible. My grandmother never wanted to come back to San Rita because she just she knew she should be crying when she saw it. I grew up with my with my grandparents here on Santa Rita

Kelli Lycke

Oh, you grew up with your grandparents? Yes. How do you think that you or other people cope with this loss?

Terry Humble

Well, it was awful hard. In a lot of cases. I had a friend of mine that said the only time he ever saw his father cry was when he received a letter that they had to move out of Santa Rita. He came to my friend came home from school one day, and his father was kind of leaning over this leaning over the sink and crying about it. So it was very traumatic for a lot of people. When they moved, a lot of the people moved in groups. This next street over here in Bayard, there's probably nine houses on the one street because people that did lots were empty at that time. And they were selling empty lots and so a lot of the people decided to move next door to maybe a neighbor that they had lived next to in Santa Rita.

Kelli Lycke

Pretty good coping strategy. Yes, it is. Excuse me just a minute. Oh, yeah, no problem.

Terry Humble

I've got

Terry Humble

bad allergies

Kelli Lycke

that time of year, isn't it?

Terry Humble

Those junipers Are

Kelli Lycke

you don't get allergies, man.

Kelli Lycke

I have to take a pill Every morning,

Terry's wife

You take a pill?

Terry's wife

I take a pill? Yeah. I take a pill.

Terry Humble

But a lot of houses in Santa Clarita, that's for sure. They were probably 600 houses. When they started moving about the X. The big exodus was between 1960 and 1970. And one of the last houses that went was from Olga Chavis, her mother was a die hard. They finally went up to her and said she was a sunset was old his maiden name. They said Mrs. Salse. You have been, we have let you live here for a year longer than you're supposed to. We're giving you 30 days. If you don't move your house, we're going to tear it down. And she moved it to central to Santa Clara.

Kelli Lycke

Yeah, that's it. Olga told me that she was she told me her family had fought so hard to finally be able to buy a house. And so for them, it was

Terry Humble

right here so many of these people had rented all all of their life and now they had an opportunity to buy and

Kelli Lycke

it's wonderful. Do you have any personal mementos that you have saved? Any

Terry Humble

got lots of stuff from from Santa Rita if you just if you just look around all of the newspaper articles and different things from Santa Rita. I don't see anything just exactly in particular, but I've got a few items. I can. I can bring them in. I know right where they are. Yeah. Can we take a look at? Go ahead and stop it. Oh, I'll just drop them in. Well, you can only fit about 12 on the bus so they don't take much to to get a busload.

Kelli Lycke

All right,

Kelli Lycke

so what do you bring over here?

Terry Humble

Oh, I've just got some items. There was a lady used to sell these two items. I don't know just where she got them. But they actually say Santa Rita on them. They've got Santa Rita New Mexico. It's a piggy bank. Little incense burner. Are they made from copper? Yes. That's the whole thing. Santa Rita was copper. And then these items were just little things that were made down in Hurley and given away

Kelli Lycke

and where did you buy these? Well, who do you said so they

Terry Humble

were given to me? Okay. Yeah, one of my aunts, good friends, gave them to me got lots of stuff that they people know that I'm interested in Santa Rita. So I've been given a lot of stuff. So when did you get those? Oh, my goodness. Probably 40 years ago.

Kelli Lycke

Let me see if I can get

Kelli Lycke

my phone so I can get a good picture. Do you know where I dropped my purse? Oh, thank you. Yeah,

Kelli Lycke

those are beautiful. I'm sure after you leave, I'll think of something that I had. But it's always interesting. People share different things. Family Photos. Yeah, I've

Terry Humble

got like a photo of the Kneeling Nun .

Kelli Lycke

Olga that shared with me. I've got one of those. Well, warm everybody.

Terry Humble

Everybody has fun. What do you do on there

Terry Humble

Olga shared with me bricks that she has from the old school. Oh,

Terry's wife

oh yeah,

Terry Humble

everybody has a picture of Santa Rita. I think

Terry's wife

she said she have a brick.

Terry Humble

Oh, yes. Well, I gave it to her. I got one of those. I when they tore down the Sulley school, are we still recording? We are still recording? Yeah, fine. When they tore down the Sunday school. I went up and well, we wanted to put the bricks around our house. You can see them on the edge of the windows. We bricked our house. So I took some of the nicer bricks and cleaned them up and put a card on top of Did you get a picture of the brick from Olga?

Kelli Lycke

I did get a picture of the brick from Olga, I

Terry Humble

No need to show you mine now.

Kelli Lycke

Well, hers looks a little different because she's using it as a doorstep.

Terry Humble

Well, that's what I'm using.

Kelli Lycke

So she has Yeah, show me your break. She has hers wrapped in. In cloth. It's like stitched in a little case. But I did. I think so cool to see what people kept. Are you from? You're from Tijuana.

Terry's wife

We're no I'm from Sonora. Sonora, okay. Yeah.

Terry Humble

Okay, we can talk about it. However,

Kelli Lycke

not too far then. Okay. Oh, did you make these cards?

Terry Humble

Yes. I got some of the nicer bricks and cleaned them up, put a piece of felt on the back of them. And then had a bunch of the cards made up. And I sold them at the reunions for \$2 apiece.

Kelli Lycke

That's a pretty cheap

Terry Humble

Well, I don't know You should have heard that. People squeal. They thought they were worth about 50 cents so

Kelli Lycke

No way !

Terry Humble

really! So yeah, \$2 was was a lot but I did I sold quite a few of them.

Kelli Lycke

That's what you thought to keep them Did you

Terry's wife

Well we clean it? Yeah, clean it. Sometimes with help.

Kelli Lycke

was it a lot of work to get these cleaned up?

Terry Humble

Oh yes. They came they had a lot of mortar on them. Because they were selling them for a lot of the well they sold the bricks and it was quite a bit of money if if they were already cleaned, and we bought 15,000 uncleaned so they just brought five dump truck loads, dumped them out around the yard. And then we had to we had to get out and get an air compressor and chisels and clean the mortar

Kelli Lycke

off of them. So they didn't tear down the Sunday school until 1981.

Terry Humble

The Santa Rita school.

Kelli Lycke

The Santa Rita school.

Terry Humble

Yeah, Sulley. Sulley school in Santa Rita. Yes. It was torn down in 1981. It was used up into the early 1970s. That's cool.

Kelli Lycke

What they use it for?

Terry Humble

Well for for the as a school.

Kelli Lycke

Yeah. Oh, people still go went to school there.

Terry Humble

Yes. Yes.

Kelli Lycke

Um so the other questions I have are about the shrine and the kneeling nun. Can you tell me about?

Terry Humble

You know, I don't know that much about the shrine not being because I'm not Catholic. But I know that people. What happened? It's up on the corner of 356 and 152. At Hanover, and it's several items that were taken out of the Santa Rita Catholic Church, when it was discontinued. When they were moving everything out of Santa Rita. They removed everything from the church that they could and then dumped over it with the dump trucks. So it's under the dumps now. But the Santa Rita shrine was set up that way. And then, and the day of this the day of Santa Rita, which is in May, and I don't know what day, May 17, or the 22nd whatever day is Santa Rita de St. Rita, that they had a large contingency of people that would go there to the shrine and get together and reminisce about I'm sure, pray a little bit and then reminisce about Santa Rita. But that's what I know about the shrine the kneeling nun that said, beautiful mountain that's on the other side of Santa Rita. And it's a big ol monolith of rock. And there's a what would you call it a spire right in front of it. And from the right angle, it looks exactly like the A nun with her hands under her closure. You know from the side view in her her cloak over here. And the legend is that when Santa Rita had a large convent there with nuns and whatnot, and it was during the days when the Spaniards and the Apaches were fighting, and they brought in a Spanish soldier that was very badly wounded. And a one of the nuns taken care of him fell in love, and broke her vows. So she was banished, and she went up to the mountain to pray. And a ray of lightning turned her to stone. And there she is today.

Kelli Lycke

Why do you think that she's so important to the people of Santa Rita?

Terry Humble

Well, it's just, it's something that was always there. And, you know, over, it was looking out over over all of us and taking care of us. She paid the price, and now she's taking care of us.

Kelli Lycke

Okay, a guardian or something?

Terry Humble

Yes, exactly. Yeah.

Kelli Lycke

Anything else you want to tell me about Santa Rita about your experiences growing up there? Well,

Terry Humble

just anything that you want to think to ask me why we can talk about because it was a great place to grow up. My grandmother always used to say when I left in the morning, she'd say, you know, be careful and come home for supper. You didn't care what she did or where you went? Because we were safe. The town was completely owned by Kennecott Copper Corporation at that time. And so we were safe anywhere we wanted to go.

Kelli Lycke

Do you feel proud to have grown up with the company?

Terry Humble

Oh, well, I don't know about growing up at the company. But I'm sure glad I grew up in Santa Rita. It was a great place to grow up. The 1950 census just came out. And so I'm going through that and what memories

Kelli Lycke

What are you finding?

Terry Humble

Well, all of the different peoples that lived in Santa Rita at the time, you know, I've known so many of them at that time and then since but, you know, anytime you go through something like that you see a name and it jogs the memory. It was a great place to grow up.

Kelli Lycke

Sounds like it. Okay, that's all I have for you. So, thank you so much for interviewing with me. My pleasure.